

Okemos Board of Education
Okemos, Michigan 48864
REGULAR MEETING DECEMBER 14, 2020

PAGE 8820
12-14-2020

Call To Order

The regular meeting of the Okemos Board of Education was called to order by President Bolton at 7:02 p.m.

Members Present: Dean Bolton, Katie Cavanaugh, Mary Gebara, Vincent Lyon-Callo, Tonya Rodriguez and Sarah Wohlford

Members Absent: Melanie Lynn

Administrator: Superintendent John Hood; Assistant Superintendent Stacy Bailey; Finance Director Elizabeth Lentz

President Dean Bolton, Superintendent Hood and members of the board recognized Members Tonya Rodriguez and Sarah Wohlford for their dedication and service as a member of the Okemos Board of Education.

Recognition

Technology Director Tom Isom and Assistant Superintendent Stacy Bailey presented an update including a demonstration of streaming technology the district is testing. Mr. Isom provided an overview of the camera, video and microphone system the district has been reviewing, as well as described timelines, installation process and needed training. A portion of the project could be funded through the district's technology bond as a part of already planned sound system upgrades, while the remaining would be through Covid grant sources. A recommendation and bids will be brought back to the board in January.

Presentation:
Technology

Member inquired about: lapel microphones; background noise; funding; and teacher feedback.

The board continued its discussion regarding the Safe Return to School Plan. Superintendent Hood provided an overview of factors that guide decision making and reiterated that the plan is always evolving. Past and current realities were described; as well as instructional models. Mr. Hood presented obstacles due to the current reality which include timelines; limitations with the Powerschool scheduling process; impacts to 9-12th grade level specifically; model B no longer an option at high school; positivity rates, and indicators that are moving further from the metric targets. Mr. Hood described next steps, ongoing planning, and additional information will be brought back in January.

Safe Return to
School Plan

Members discussed the flexibility of the plan, and treating grade levels differently.

Assistant Superintendent Bailey provided an update to the Board and community regarding updates and revisions to the District's Extended Learning plan. The district continues to be 100% online including special needs populations which were previously in-person. A summary of the two-way interaction rates and averages was given, as well as results from a recent social-emotional screener. Results were broken down by levels and subgroups. A process for addressing the factors indicated will be implemented. Mrs. Bailey also reported on upcoming professional development for staff.

Extended
Learning Plan

Members inquired about a further breakdown of the screener results by grade; and social-emotional health upon returning to school.

The following individuals addressed the board: Nathan Mahn and Wei Li concerning return to school planning.

PAGE 8821
Citizens Address
Agenda & Non-
Agenda Items

Superintendent Hood reported on the following: board meetings after January 1st; recent board orientation; equity work including MSU collaboration and Chief/Chieftains name activities; Covid dashboard on the web; upcoming building & site sinking fund and millage discussions; and recognized the career of retiring Operations Director Steve Lathrop.

Superintendent
Report

High School Representative Catherine reported on the following: upcoming winter break; spirit week; Covid vaccine; and no homework policy during winter break.

High School
Report

President Bolton acknowledge correspondence from the following: Yingxin Zhou and Jason Xu regarding the return to school planning; Yingxin Zhou regarding the superintendent’s evaluation; Allison Cironi, Jamie Ianni and the OHS volleyball team with a thank you; Allie Kind, Alex Beal, Annie Barker, Olivia Terry, Emily Wang, Nikita Kale, Amelia McDonald, Oliver Dougherty, Samyuktha, Julia Chamberlain, Michaela Voit, Caitlin Peffers, Christian Pereira, Niki Rudolph, Ada Lapham, Emilia McConnell, Amelia Rudolph, Lucy Van Hof, and Maya Pegler-Gordon concerning the Chiefs name and mascot.

Board Reports
& Request

Member Cavanaugh reported on the anniversary of the Sandy Hook shooting; and OEF Apple Awards available as presents for staff.

MOVED by Tonya Rodriguez, SUPPORTED by Sarah Wohlford that the board approve items 1 through 4 for immediate implementation and appropriate action.
Item 1: Approval of the minutes of the Regular Meeting of November 23, 2020;
Item 2: Approval of the minutes of the Special Meeting of December 1, 2020;
Item 3: Approval of the minutes of the Executive Session Meeting of December 1, 2020;
Item 4: Acknowledge receipt of the November financial statement and approve payment of bills for November.

Consent Agenda

Roll Call Vote

Dean Bolton	Yes	Vincent Lyon-Callo	Yes
Katie Cavanaugh	Yes	Tonya Rodriguez	Yes
Mary Gebara	Yes	Sarah Wohlford	Yes
Melanie Lynn	---		

AYE: 6 NAY: 0 ABSENT: 1 **MOTION CARRIED**

MOVED by Tonya Rodriguez, SUPPORTED by Mary Gebara that the board waive the reading and adopt the resolution for collection of summer property tax as appropriate from Alaiedon Township, Meridian Township, and the City of Lansing and to negotiate a reasonable expense for such collection of the district’s tax levy.

Tax Collection

Roll Call Vote

Dean Bolton	Yes	Vincent Lyon-Callo	Yes
Katie Cavanaugh	Yes	Tonya Rodriguez	Yes
Mary Gebara	Yes	Sarah Wohlford	Yes
Melanie Lynn	---		

AYE: 6 NAY: 0 ABSENT: 1 **MOTION CARRIED**

MOVED by Sarah Wohlford, SUPPORTED by Mary Gebara that the board approve the amended 2020-2021 Budget.

Roll Call Vote

Dean Bolton	Yes	Vincent Lyon-Callo	Yes
Katie Cavanaugh	Yes	Tonya Rodriguez	Yes
Mary Gebara	Yes	Sarah Wohlford	Yes
Melanie Lynn	---		

AYE: 6 NAY: 0 ABSENT: 1 **MOTION CARRIED**

MOVED by Sarah Wohlford, SUPPORTED by Tonya Rodriguez that the board accept the summary report of the December, 2020 Superintendent Evaluation as presented to the community.

Superintendent
Evaluation

Roll Call Vote

Dean Bolton	Yes	Vincent Lyon-Callo	Yes
Katie Cavanaugh	Yes	Tonya Rodriguez	Yes
Mary Gebara	Yes	Sarah Wohlford	Yes
Melanie Lynn	---		

AYE: 6 NAY: 0 ABSENT: 1 **MOTION CARRIED**

MOVED by Sarah Wohlford, SUPPORTED by Tonya Rodriguez that the board amend the contract of Superintendent John Hood to include the contractual step increase for July 1, 2021.

Amend Supt.
Contract

Roll Call Vote

Dean Bolton	Yes	Vincent Lyon-Callo	Yes
Katie Cavanaugh	Yes	Tonya Rodriguez	Yes
Mary Gebara	Yes	Sarah Wohlford	Yes
Melanie Lynn	---		

AYE: 6 NAY: 0 ABSENT: 1 **MOTION CARRIED**

MOVED by Tonya Rodriguez, SUPPORTED by Katie Cavanaugh that the board approve the district's Extended Learning Plan as required by law.

Reconfirm
Extended
Learning Plan

Roll Call Vote

Dean Bolton	Yes	Vincent Lyon-Callo	Yes
Katie Cavanaugh	Yes	Tonya Rodriguez	Yes
Mary Gebara	Yes	Sarah Wohlford	Yes
Melanie Lynn	---		

AYE: 6 NAY: 0 ABSENT: 1 **MOTION CARRIED**

There was no public comment.

Public Comment

A reminder that the January 11th meeting includes a semi-organizational meeting. An upcoming work schedule regarding superintendent goals will be scheduled once new board members are seated.

Other Matters

President Bolton adjourned the regular meeting at 9:13 p.m.

Adjourn