

**Okemos Board of Education**  
**Okemos, Michigan 48864**  
**REGULAR MEETING JANUARY 11, 2021**

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1-11-2021

The regular meeting of the Okemos Board of Education was called to order by President Bolton at 7:05 p.m.

Call To Order

Members Present: Dean Bolton, Katie Cavanaugh, Mary Gebara, Melanie Lynn, Vincent Lyon-Callo, Andrew Phelps and Jayme Taylor

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

I, Dean Bolton am attending this regular meeting of the Okemos Board of Education on January 11, 2021 and I am participating remotely. I am physically located in Ingham County in the State of Michigan. I am able to have two-way communication for this Board meeting. Contact information was provided sufficiently in advance of this Board meeting so that members of the public could provide input to me on any business that comes before the Board.

I, Katie Cavanaugh am attending this regular meeting of the Okemos Board of Education on January 11, 2021 and I am participating remotely. I am physically located in Ingham County in the State of Michigan. I am able to have two-way communication for this Board meeting. Contact information was provided sufficiently in advance of this Board meeting so that members of the public could provide input to me on any business that comes before the Board.

I, Melanie Lynn am attending this regular meeting of the Okemos Board of Education on January 11, 2021 and I am participating remotely. I am physically located in Ingham County in the State of Michigan. I am able to have two-way communication for this Board meeting. Contact information was provided sufficiently in advance of this Board meeting so that members of the public could provide input to me on any business that comes before the Board.

I, Vincent Lyon-Callo am attending this regular meeting of the Okemos Board of Education on January 11, 2021 and I am participating remotely. I am physically located in Ingham County in the State of Michigan. I am able to have two-way communication for this Board meeting. Contact information was provided sufficiently in advance of this Board meeting so that members of the public could provide input to me on any business that comes before the Board.

I, Andy Phelps am attending this regular meeting of the Okemos Board of Education on January 11, 2021 and I am participating remotely. I am physically located in Ingham County in the State of Michigan. I am able to have two-way communication for this Board meeting. Contact information was provided sufficiently in advance of this Board meeting so that members of the public could provide input to me on any business that comes before the Board.

I, Jayme Taylor am attending this regular meeting of the Okemos Board of Education on January 11, 2021 and I am participating remotely. I am physically located in Ingham County in the State of Michigan. I am able to have two-way communication for this Board meeting. Contact information was provided sufficiently in advance of this Board meeting so that members of the public could provide input to me on any business that comes before the Board.

I, Mary Gebara am attending this regular meeting of the Okemos Board of Education on January 11, 2021 and I am participating remotely. I am physically located in Ingham County in the State of Michigan. I am able to have two-way communication for this Board meeting. Contact information was provided sufficiently in advance of this Board meeting so that members of the public could provide input to me on any business that comes before the Board.

Temporary Chair

President Bolton appointed Superintendent John Hood as temporary chair.

Temporary Secretary

Superintendent Hood appointed Rhianna Walworth as temporary secretary.

Seat New Board Members

Katie Cavanaugh, Melanie Lynn, Andrew Phelps and Jayme Taylor were seated to a four-year term of office January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2024. Notary Rhianna Walworth administered the Oath of Office.

Robert's Rules

The board determined to utilize Robert's Rules of Order for conducting the organizational meeting.

Election of President

Melanie Lynn nominated Dean Bolton as President; Mary Gebara supported the motion. No other nominations were made; nominations were closed.

Roll Call Vote

Dean Bolton	Yes	Vincent Lyon-Callo	Yes
Katie Cavanaugh	Yes	Andrew Phelps	Yes
Mary Gebara	Yes	Jayme Taylor	Yes
Melanie Lynn	Yes		

AYE: 7 NAY: 0 ABSENT: 0 **MOTION CARRIED**

Mr. Bolton assumed the chair.

Election of Vice President

Dean Bolton nominated Mary Gebara as Vice President; Katie Cavanaugh supported the motion. No other nominations were made; nominations were closed.

Roll Call Vote

Dean Bolton	Yes	Vincent Lyon-Callo	Yes
Katie Cavanaugh	Yes	Andrew Phelps	Yes
Mary Gebara	Yes	Jayme Taylor	Yes
Melanie Lynn	Yes		

AYE: 7 NAY: 0 ABSENT: 0 **MOTION CARRIED**

Election of Secretary

Mary Gebara nominated Katie Cavanaugh as Secretary; Dean Bolton supported the motion. No other nominations were made; nominations were closed.

Roll Call Vote

Dean Bolton	Yes	Vincent Lyon-Callo	Yes
Katie Cavanaugh	Yes	Andrew Phelps	Yes
Mary Gebara	Yes	Jayme Taylor	Yes
Melanie Lynn	Yes		

AYE: 7 NAY: 0 ABSENT: 0 **MOTION CARRIED**

Katie Cavanaugh nominated Melanie Lynn as Treasurer; Mary Gebara supported the motion. No other nominations were made; nominations were closed.

Roll Call Vote

Dean Bolton	Yes	Vincent Lyon-Callo	Yes
Katie Cavanaugh	Yes	Andrew Phelps	Yes
Mary Gebara	Yes	Jayne Taylor	Yes
Melanie Lynn	Yes		

AYE: 7 NAY: 0 ABSENT: 0 **MOTION CARRIED**

President Bolton appointed Jayme Taylor as Parliamentarian.

Appointment of  
Parliamentarian

MOVED by Mary Gebara, SUPPORTED by Melanie Lynn that the board confirm the dates for regular meetings of the board of education for the remainder of the 2020-2021 school year to generally be the second and fourth Monday of each month, adjusted for Mondays with no school; the time of each meeting to begin at 7:00 p.m., with no new discussion after 10:00 p.m.; and the place of meetings to be either through the Zoom platform while allowed, or the Community Conference Room at Central School.

Regular Meeting  
Dates

Roll Call Vote

Dean Bolton	Yes	Vincent Lyon-Callo	Yes
Katie Cavanaugh	Yes	Andrew Phelps	Yes
Mary Gebara	Yes	Jayne Taylor	Yes
Melanie Lynn	Yes		

AYE: 7 NAY: 0 ABSENT: 0 **MOTION CARRIED**

MOVED by Katie Cavanaugh, SUPPORTED by Melanie Lynn that the board continue to manage board meetings according to its established policies, which are informed by Robert's Rules of Order.

Robert's Rules

Roll Call Vote

Dean Bolton	Yes	Vincent Lyon-Callo	Yes
Katie Cavanaugh	Yes	Andrew Phelps	Yes
Mary Gebara	Yes	Jayne Taylor	Yes
Melanie Lynn	Yes		

AYE: 7 NAY: 0 ABSENT: 0 **MOTION CARRIED**

President Bolton appointed Katie Cavanaugh, Mary Gebara and Andrew Phelps as the January-December 2021 Board Policy Committee.

Policy  
Committee

Dean Bolton will remain the representative to the Ingham County School Officers Association.

ISOA  
Representative

Mary Gebara will remain the representative to the Okemos Education Foundation.

OEF  
Representative

The board completed the organizational meeting at 7:21 p.m.

Assistant Superintendent Bailey, Counselor Hedlun Walton, Psychologist Megan Lloyd, and Social Worker Joanna Adams, will provide an overview of the work from the last year as related to the goals from the District Strategic Plan.

Presentation:  
Social Emotional  
Learning

Types of Social Emotional Learning support staff the district has available to them was

reviewed; as well their role in reducing barriers to student learning by supporting social and emotional needs. Strategies for meeting the requirements outlined in the Governor's Safe Return to School Roadmap were described and included: resources available to teachers, students and families; student support request forms; family wellness forms; and the mySAEBRS student screener. Next steps, including collaboration between levels and support staff to provide a smooth transition to students was reported.

Members inquired about the following: types of student needs; academic versus emotional requests; frequency of screener; and possible continued use post-Covid.

Assistant Superintendent Bailey and Technology Director Tom Isom provided a recommendation for the purchase of audio and video equipment at OHS, including timelines and process. Administration is recommending the purchase of 80 Jabra PanaCast MS cameras from CDW-G; as well as 80 Voice Tracker II microphones from Trox to facilitate the live streaming component of the model A instructional model. The district's current bond will cover the funding for the microphones as sound systems were already a part of the bond's scope; while the district will be able to utilize Covid grant funding for the cameras.

Technology  
Purchases

Members discussed the following: network security; future use; timelines for other grade levels; internet connectivity capabilities; Student engagement; expectations; breakout rooms; model A staffing; funding; and the discussion of tech purchases before the board hears the recommendation for the K-8 instructional model.

The board discussed whether to waive its policy for adequate information to proceed and add this as an action item later in this meeting or call a special meeting to meet timelines and have time to prepare for the return to school.

MOVED by Dean Bolton, SUPPORTED by Vincent Lyon-Callo that the board waive policy 8344.1 Adequate Information to Proceed to take action later in the meeting.

Roll Call Vote

Dean Bolton	Yes	Vincent Lyon-Callo	Yes
Katie Cavanaugh	Yes	Andrew Phelps	Yes
Mary Gebara	Yes	Jayne Taylor	Yes
Melanie Lynn	Yes		

**AYE: 7 NAY: 0 ABSENT: 0 MOTION CARRIED**

Operations Director Mark Fargo and Christman representative Rob Crowe presented information regarding summer bond projects and bids for Board review and questions, for action at the following meeting. Projects include the following: air conditioning installation at Central, CMS, Edgewood and Hiawatha; bathroom renovations at Central, Cornell and Kinawa; stage replacement at CMS and OHS; and tennis court replacement at CMS.

Bond Projects

A successful bid turnout and response allowed the district to optimize its bond funding and utilize remaining sinking funds to increase the scope of projects to be completed. These projects are scheduled to begin the summer of 2021 if not earlier.

The board continued its discussion regarding the Safe Return to School Plan. Superintendent Hood described current realities and reviewed the Governor's recommendation of a March 1st return to in-person learning. The district's current metrics will need to be adjusted as it does not consider a vaccine available. It is the district's intent that staff will be vaccinated before returning. Mr. Hood described next steps and timelines, as well as upcoming communication with the community. The instructional planning

Safe Return to  
School

committee will present a K-8 recommendation regarding the instructional model at the January 25<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Members discussed the following: staff interest in getting the vaccine; coordinated district-wide scheduling approach; number of people scheduled to be vaccinated versus the number of vaccines available; does it matter how much of the staff has been vaccinated; how will lunch be handles; quality of education upon return; consistency; data collection and upcoming surveys; State standards and assessment; recovering academically; and comparison to surrounding communities.

The following individuals addressed the board: Jamie Ianni concerning assistant coach stipends; Irene Okinczyc, Burcu Tasoluk, Matt Diemer, Michelle Ciabotti, Wei Li, Nathan Mahn; Jennifer Ronan, Melissa Oshea, Dana Christians, Colleen Reilly, Amy Burton, John Lambert, Deidre Wilson and Jayson Chizick concerning return to school planning. Superintendent Hood reported on the following: mascot committee update; food service hiring update; ELA curriculum update; and school board recognition.

Citizen's  
Address Agenda  
& Non-Agenda  
Items

High School Representative Catherine reported on the following: end of semester; upcoming materials pick up; weekly video announcements; and senior activities.

High School  
Report

President Bolton acknowledge correspondence from the following: Nathan Mahn, Yingxin Zhou, Stacy Tapscott, Jason Xu, Brooke Robinson, Michelle Ciabotti, Brandon Baraton, Janet Eggert, Jennifer Ronan, Justin and Kate Stojisih, Lindsay Heinzelmann, Tracy Fleming, Rachel Baraton, and Laura Shuart regarding the return to school planning; Ian Record with resources from the National Congress of American Indians; Jamie Ianni concerning athletics, budgeting process and assistant coach stipends; Allan Beegle regarding social emotional health upon returning to school; Kelly Bianchi regarding a Girl Scout troop donation; and David Pruden regarding board meeting notices.

Board Reports  
& Request

Vincent Lyon-Callo requested the superintendent follow up on a community member inquiry.

MOVED by Dean Bolton, SUPPORTED by Jayme Taylor that the board approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of December 14, 2020 as amended.

Consent Agenda  
Minutes

Roll Call Vote

Dean Bolton	Yes	Vincent Lyon-Callo	Yes
Katie Cavanaugh	Yes	Andrew Phelps	Yes
Mary Gebara	Yes	Jayme Taylor	Yes
Melanie Lynn	Yes		

AYE: 7 NAY: 0 ABSENT: 0 **MOTION CARRIED**

MOVED by Mary Gebara, SUPPORTED by Vincent Lyon-Callo that the board acknowledge receipt of the December financial statement and approve payment of bills for December.

Financial Report

Roll Call Vote

Dean Bolton	Yes	Vincent Lyon-Callo	Yes
Katie Cavanaugh	Yes	Andrew Phelps	Yes
Mary Gebara	Yes	Jayme Taylor	Yes
Melanie Lynn	Yes		

AYE: 7 NAY: 0 ABSENT: 0 **MOTION CARRIED**

MOVED by Dean Bolton, SUPPORTED by Melanie Lynn that the board approve the purchase of recommended classroom technology as discussed earlier in the meeting, not to exceed \$75,7113.60.

Roll Call Vote

Dean Bolton	Yes	Vincent Lyon-Callo	Yes
Katie Cavanaugh	Yes	Andrew Phelps	Yes
Mary Gebara	Yes	Jayne Taylor	Yes
Melanie Lynn	Yes		

AYE: 7      NAY: 0      ABSENT: 0      **MOTION CARRIED**

Superintendent Hood and Director Lentz provided an update on the status of the district building and site sinking fund and operations millage with a proposal to pursue voter approval of these funding sources in May of 2021. The district's operating millage is levied on non-homestead residences; must be voter approved; is subject to headlee rollback; and is set to expire December, 2021. This millage generates \$9.1 million for the district. The State assumes that all mills are collected and adjust State Foundation allowance accordingly, even if they are not due to the headlee roll back which caps property tax revenue increases. The district's sinking fund must be voter approved; is subject to headlee rollback; and is set to expire December, 2021. This millage generates \$1.37 million for the district. Allowable uses for sinking funds have changed and now include security improvements and technology purchases. Administration is recommending that the board seek a renewal of both of these millages, as well as a proposed bond in 2022. A renewal would not increase the number of mills being levied, just an extension of what is currently in place. Director Lentz also reviewed the district's existing debt and the timelines associated with them. A resolution calling for an election would need to be acted on by the board no later than February 8<sup>th</sup>. This will be a discussion item at the January 25<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Site Sinking  
Fund, Operating  
Millage & Bond

Members discussed the following: communication with the community; and explaining what the funds will be used for.

There was no public comment.

Public Comment

There will be a special meeting for the purpose of developing the superintendent's 2021 goals on February 10, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

Other Matters

President Bolton adjourned the regular meeting at 10:34 p.m.

Adjourn

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Katie Cavanaugh, Secretary