

**Okemos Board of Education
Okemos, Michigan 48864
REGULAR MEETING FEBRUARY 8, 2021**

PAGE 8835
2-8-2021

The regular meeting of the Okemos Board of Education was called to order by President Bolton at 6:45 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

I, Dean Bolton am attending this regular meeting of the Okemos Board of Education on February 8, 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 February 8, 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 February 8, 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 February 8, 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 February 8, 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 February 8, 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 February 8, 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.

MOVED by Melanie Lynn, SUPPORTED by Katie Cavanaugh that the board adjourn to Executive Session pursuant to Section 8(a) of the Open Meetings Act for the purpose of discussing contract negotiations.

Closed Session
Contract
Negotiations

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

The board adjourned to executive session at 6:56 p.m.

The board reconvened at 7:11 p.m.

Reconvened

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; and Finance Director Elizabeth Lentz

Assistant Superintendent Stacy Bailey, along with Librarians Sandy Fields and Cynthia Webster presented an update regarding equity initiatives in the district with a focus on library collections. This focus is a strategy identified to meet the goals established in the district's Equity Plan. Mrs. Bailey described the curriculum review process, while Ms. Fields and Ms. Webster described specific library offerings that promote cultural diversity and equity. The district's LMC's are continually updating their collections using a variety of diversity audits, assessments and guidance from the MDE. They also reported on collaborations with the Capital Area District Library, local bookstores and visiting authors.

Equity &
Diversity in
Curriculum

The board continued its discussion regarding the Safe Return to School Plan. Superintendent Hood described current realities including athletics and the vaccine roll out, as well as evolving from a metrics to a mitigation approach, and values to guide decision-making. Mr. Hood reviewed preliminary data from the commitment form responses.

Safe Return to
School Plan

Operations Director Mark Fargo provided an update regarding the installation of MERV13 filters and ionization systems. Due to the implementation of the emergency approval process, the district was able to expedite the bid process. Filters are currently being installed, and ionization systems are expected to be installed starting February 22nd.

Mr. Hood provided an update on the following: a proposed student schedule will be released no later than February 22nd; PPE; grant funded antigen testing for employees; staffing including substitute challenges; and possible calendar impacts. Currently, elementary students will return to in-person learning on March 8th, while secondary students will return March 15th.

Transportation Director Corrine Karpinski provided a transportation update based on the interest indicated in the commitment response form. She reported on staffing challenges, mitigation measure, and a video for students and families showing new bus procedures.

Mr. Hood outlined next steps including developing structures, schedules, density reduction, updating the calendar, and continuous monitoring.

Members discussed the following: the shift from metric to mitigation; student return dates; the emergency approval procedures allowed through board policy; scheduling between levels; review of and adjustments to the in-person programming; and effectiveness of the program.

The following individuals addressed the board regarding the Return to School plans: Tom Hopper; Burcu Tasulok; Chad DeKatch; Dayna Christians; Christina Abbott; Ashleigh Doop; Rebecca Fedrigo; Christine Skoutelas; and Kim Ward.

Citizens Address
Agenda & Non-
Agenda Items

Superintendent Hood reported on the following: equity update including an upcoming survey; Black History Month resources; and a recent mascot meeting.

Superintendent's
Report

High School Representative Catherine reported on the following: feeling of hope among student body; collaboration with CADL; upcoming early college deadline; student council and class officer elections; and senior activities.

High School
Student Report

President Bolton acknowledged correspondence from the following: Yingxin Zhou, Kayla Byrd-Daniels, Michael and Michelle Weiszbrod, Christopher and Samantha Davis, Jessica Warren, Jan Casey, Matt Diemer, Chris and Nicole Heathcock, Burcu Tasuluk, David Edgar, Melissa Benbow, Michelle Zimmerman, Neal Fortin, Karen Shapiro, Lindsey LaForte, Amanda Patton, Adam Hussain, Jennifer Ronan, Emily and Daniel Peabody, Cindy Meteyer, Chris and Stacy Tapscott, Eric Benbow, Steve Zimmerman, Tunga Kiyak, Alison Gjidoda, Iris Nieland, Aislinn Sapp, Davis Slater, Nathan Whitehorn, Jonathan Martindell, Kelly Bianchi, Katy Colbry, Laura Bell, Nathan Mahn, Melanie Zimmerman, June Castonguay, Erin Gutierrez, Cori Akers, Lindsey Bluhm, Tasha Rader, Lori Mazzullo, Tracy Fleming, Janelle Rawlins, Mariana Austrins, Victoria Alchin, David Pruden, Courtney Shubel, Tom Hopper, Elena Mapley, Briana Fankhauser, Leah Kelly, and Kate Fitton regarding the return to school planning; and Felicia Wu regarding filters and air quality.

Board Reports &
Requests

Member Cavanaugh reported on a recent Ingham County election coordinators meeting. Member Gebara spoke to the diversity and inclusion in the LMC's, and the hope that black history would be all our history, all the time.

MOVED by Mary Gebara, SUPPORTED by Katie Cavanaugh that the board approve items 1 through 3 for immediate implementation and appropriate action.

Item 1: Minutes of the Regular Meeting of January 25, 2021;

Item 2: Approve the requested Personal leave of absence for the 2021-2022 school year for Carmen VanAlstine, French Teacher at Chippewa Middle School & Okemos High School; and

Item 3: Acknowledge receipt of the January financial statement and approve payment of bills for January.

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 Jayme Taylor, SUPPORTED by Mary Gebara that the board approve the following recommended number of PPK-8 Public Montessori school-of-choice openings for potential enrollment: Kindergarten-2 openings; Grades 1 and 2– 0 openings; Grades 3 and 4– 0 openings; Grades 5 and 6 – 10 openings; and Grades 7 and 8 - 8 openings.

Montessori SOC

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 Andrew Phelps, SUPPORTED by Mary Gebara that the board approve the employment of Leah Smith, Special Education Teacher at Kinawa at Step 8, Division II of the teacher salary schedule, effective February 9, 2021 in accordance with sections 1230 (2) and 1230 a (2) of the Revised School Code conditioned upon receipt of acceptable criminal history checks and criminal records checks.

Employment –
Certified

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		

MOVED by Mary Gebara, SUPPORTED by Katie Cavanaugh that the board waive the reading and adopt the resolution adopting Policy 9370 Electronic Board Meeting Policy; and suspends all previously approved resolutions and policies, or parts of policies that conflict with Policy 9370.

Electronic Board
Meetings Policy

Motion was not voted on. The board decided to delay action until the February 22nd board meeting.

Board members received information on candidates seeking election to the board of directors of the Michigan Association of School Boards (MASB). The election ballot must be completed and returned by March 3, 2021. Okemos may vote on candidates from Region 7, which this year is for one three-year term. Members discussed their selection to vote for and will take action at the February 22nd meeting. Members agreed Jack Temsey would be their selection.

MASB Board
Of Directors

The board discussed assistant coach stipends due to the increased supervision and responsibility initiating Covid19 protocols as the district works to keep student athletes safe. 13 assistant coaches were cut during the 2020-2021 budget process. Many returned as volunteers. The board reviewed increased demands on coaching staff and will reconsider adding back assistant coaches for winter and spring.

Assistant Coach
Stipends

Finance Director Lentz provided an overview of the timelines associated with the development of the 2021-2022 budget, as well as an upcoming revision to the 2020-2021 budget. Members discussed a board work session for the purpose of establishing board priorities.

2021-2022
Budget
Development

Nicole Hagen and Brittany Magsig addressed the board regarding return to school planning.

There will be a special meeting on Wednesday, February 10th for the purpose of development superintendent goals.

Other Matters

President Bolton adjourned the regular meeting at 9:53 p.m.

Adjourn

Katie Cavanaugh, Secretary