

Okemos Board of Education
Okemos, Michigan 48864
REGULAR MEETING FEBRUARY 22, 2021

The regular meeting of the Okemos Board of Education was called to order by President Bolton at 7:00 p.m.

Call To Order

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

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

I, Dean Bolton am attending this regular meeting of the Okemos Board of Education on February 22, 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 22, 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 22, 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 22, 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 22, 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 22, 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.

The board discussed the district’s participation in a closing agreement regarding the tax status of the 3% healthcare contributions to the Office of Retirement Services. Meg Hackett, Attorney from Thrun Law provided an overview of the IRS ruling regarding the ORS 3% contribution tax status. Administration is recommending that the district enter into the closing agreement. By doing so, the IRS will treat the 3% as exempt from federal and FICA taxes, which is how the district currently treats these contributions. The board is asked to consider a resolution authorizing participation.

ORS 3%
Tax Status

Members inquired about what happens if the district does not sign on to the agreement.

MOVED by Dean Bolton, SUPPORTED by Andrew Phelps that the board waive policy 8344.1 requirements and take action on the ORS 3% status due to timeline constraints.

Adequate
Information to
Proceed

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**

Assistant Superintendent Bailey and Technology Director Tom Isom presented information regarding the purchase of 150 document cameras to be funded by the Facilities/Technology/Security/Transportation and Capital Outlay Bond. These document cameras were purchased previously through the bond but did not come to the board as the purchase fell below the bid limits. The district is recommending the purchase of additional document cameras to facilitate and meet the needs of the simultaneous in-person and online learning. In most cases, the document cameras will replace the panoramic camera purchases approved in January which are more expensive.

Technology
Purchases

Members discussed a continued need for the panoramic cameras; and longevity and continued use of the document cameras.

MOVED by Andrew Phelps, SUPPORTED by Mary Gebara that the board waive policy 8344.1 requirements and take action on the technology purchases due to timeline constraints.

Adequate
Information to
Proceed

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 continued its discussion regarding the Safe Return to School Plan. Superintendent Hood described current realities including the vaccine roll out.

Safe Return to
School Plan

Several department updates were provided. Food service will continue with its current schedule for breakfast and lunch pick up. 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 the needle point and dynamic ionization systems are being built with installation complete in 4 weeks. Transportation Director Corrine Karpinski explained the time needed for each pick up and drop off, hence the one and a half hours between the a.m. and p.m. session schedules. A video regarding bus safety procedures, as well as updated route information will be shared with families later this week.

Assistant Superintendent Bailey provided an overview of each structure at each level. Elementary teachers will teach online students in the a.m. session and in-person students in the p.m. sessions. At the secondary level, in-person and online students will both be taught in the a.m. session.

Mr. Hood reviewed the following: daily schedules for each level, as well as rationale for the structures and schedules; information regarding staffing, substitute teachers and antigen testing for staff; return dates during the weeks of March 8th and 15th; student acclimation activities; calendar impacts and moving parent-teacher conferences to after spring break; upcoming professional development for staff; and classroom set up. Next steps were also described including monitoring the Covid situation, working through staffing impacts, and communication with families.

Members discussed the following: Wednesday schedule for elementary level; later start times; number of students per classroom; vaccine status for substitute teachers; enforcement of mitigation measures; specials; asynchronous time; possibility of other activities being scheduled during asynchronous time; keeping same teacher; future plans; evaluating current plan; and obtaining feedback from families.

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 K-1 benchmark assessment data. Ms. Bailey also reported on expanded summer opportunities that will be available to more students.

Extended
Learning Plan

Members discussed the following: how does the proficiency rates compare with past years; assessment versus classroom observation; other data sources; and achievement gaps among subgroups.

Nathan Mahn, Wei Li and John Lambert addressed the board regarding return to school planning.

Citizens Address
Agenda & Non-
Agenda Items

Superintendent Hood reported on the following: upcoming road work at the intersection of Mt. Hope and Okemos Road; food service hiring update; upcoming equity in hiring presentation; and an update on the hiring of an HR and Equity Director.

Superintendent's
Report

High School Representative Lauren reported on the following: half-day on Wednesday; meal service; upcoming scheduling process; WOHS Radio Show theater performance; and the skiing State finals.

High School
Student Report

President Bolton acknowledged correspondence from the following: Yingxin Zhou, Dave Wendelberger, Sarah Grillo, Mio Sato-Cruz, Melissa Erikson, Rachel Baratono, and Jamie Bills regarding the return to school planning; Geneva Vanlerberg regarding website documents; Sunmee Han regarding Lunar New Year; Kelly Bianchi regarding a micro-pantry; Pam Williams with appreciation; and Gina Farnelli regarding online board meetings.

MOVED by Mary Gebara, SUPPORTED by Katie Cavanaugh that the board approve items 1 through 7 for immediate implementation and appropriate action.

Consent Agenda

- Item 1 Approval of the minutes of the Special Meeting of February 4, 2021;
- Item 2: Approval of the minutes of the Executive Session Meeting of February 4, 2021;
- Item 3: Approval of the minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 8, 2021;
- Item 4: Approval of the minutes of the Executive Session Meeting of February 8, 2021;
- Item 5: Approval of the minutes of the Special Meeting of February 10, 2021;
- Item 6: Approval of the minutes of the Executive Session Meeting of February 10, 2021;
- Item 7: Approve the request for a Leave of Absence for Brittany Magsig, Social Worker at Kinawa for the period of May 23, 2021 through June 11, 2021.

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 select Mr. Jack Temsey as the Region 7 candidate of its choice to complete the election ballot for members of the 2019 board of directors of the Michigan Association of School Boards.

MASB Board
Of Directors

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 Andrew Phelps, SUPPORTED by Vincent Lyon-Callo 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

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		

MOVED by Mary Gebara, SUPPORTED by Jayme Taylor that the board approve the district's Extended Learning Plan as required by law.

Extended
Learning Plan

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		

MOVED by Katie Cavanaugh, SUPPORTED by Vincent Lyon-Callo that the board amend the 2020-2021 budget to include winter and spring assistant coach stipends.

Assistant
Coach
Stipends

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		

MOVED by Vincent Lyon-Callo, SUPPORTED by Mary Gebara that the board waive the reading and adopt the resolution directing the superintendent or designee to execute the closing agreement.

ORS/IRS
Closing
Agreement

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		

MOVED by Andrew Phelps, SUPPORTED by Vincent Lyon-Callo that the bid for the 150 IPEVO Dual Mode Document Cameras, not to exceed \$33,000 to be funded through the Facilities/Technology/Security/Transportation and Capital Outlay Bond, be awarded to CDW-G.

Technology
Purchases

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		

The board continued their discussion regarding the development of the 2021-2022 budget. Director Lentz provided preliminary assumptions including the governor’s budget proposal. Projections include: increase in MPSERS rate; decreased pupil foundation revenue due to decreased enrollment; enrollment stability support; possible increase to the pupil foundation allowance; and in increase in special education funding. Director Lentz also described impending budget discussions including staffing, negotiations, health insurance, enrollment and board priorities.

2021-2022
Budget
Development

Vincent Lyon-Callo inquired about the effect on the budget if we moved to a \$15 minimum wage.

No one addressed the board.

Public Comment

Dean Bolton and Mary Gebara will serve on the negotiations team.

Other Matters

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

Adjourn

Katie Cavanaugh, Secretary