

Okemos Board of Education
Okemos, Michigan 48864
SPECIAL MEETING MARCH 12, 2021

The special meeting of the Okemos Board of Education was called to order by President Bolton at 6:07 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 March 12, 2021 special board meeting 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.

I, Katie Cavanaugh am attending this March 12, 2021 special board meeting 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.

I, Mary Gebara am attending this March 12, 2021 special board meeting 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.

I, Melanie Lynn am attending this March 12, 2021 special board meeting 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.

I, Vincent Lyon-Callo am attending this March 12, 2021 special board meeting 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.

I, Andy Phelps am attending this March 12, 2021 special board meeting 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.

I, Jayme Taylor am attending this March 12, 2021 special board meeting 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.

The board discussed recently adopted House Bill 4048, it's requirements, possible funding impacts, and its impact on the district's Return to School plans. The board will consider maintaining the current plan, or choose to alter the Return to School Plan to meet HB 4048 requirements and receive the resources it makes available to districts in compliance.

HB 4048 &
Safe Return to
School Plan

Finance Director Lentz provided an overview of the funding mechanism in HB 4048 that appropriates federal funds for summer programs, credit recovery programs, before and after care programs etc. The bill distributes the funds based on a Title IA formula as required by federal law. This formula created significant disparity between districts who have either a high percentage of Title I or a low percentage. In recognizing the disparity, the State sought to ensure that every district receives a total of \$450 per pupil through stabilization funds. In order to receive the equalization payments, the district must offer 20 hours of in-person instruction no later than March 22nd. The district would not be eligible for approximately \$1.6 million if the requirement is not met.

Possible uses for the funds were described and include: tools to address learning loss; supplement instructional programs; mental health services; technology; summer school opportunities; supplies related to PPE and sanitization; additional staff etc. The \$1.9 Trillion American Rescue Plan recently signed by President Biden was briefly reviewed, as well as the district's projected 2021-2022 budget.

Superintendent Hood provided an overview of potential changes to the K-12 weekly schedule to include 4 hours of in-person instruction, 5 days per week. The K-4 instructional model would also change so teachers are teaching in-person and virtual students at the same time. Adjusted safety parameters were reviewed including the inability to guarantee 6 feet of social distancing if more students select to return to in-person. There is also the potential for calendar impacts. The district will offer a re-commitment window, and proposes another opt-in window in late April. The new schedules would begin March 22nd.

Considerations, pros and cons were explained if the district pursues the funding versus forgoing the relief funding. Timelines were reviewed. New commitment forms will go out Saturday and be due Monday, March 15th by 10:00 a.m. Wednesday, March 17th will be an asynchronous day, as well as March 19th for K-4 students. Superintendent Hood recommends that the board approve the updates to the Return to School Plan. Next steps were explained including communication, commitments forms and advocacy.

Representative Julie Brixie spoke to the board and community explaining the legislation, how it came to be and explained the timelines associated with it. She confirmed that the district has been following all guidelines and meeting all requirements so far.

Members inquired about the following: bus cleanings between runs; the elementary structure; staffing to help manage K-4 shift; impact on budget; spacing; and teacher support.

Janet Leslie, Nathan Whitehorn, Emily Peabody, Brianna Fankhauser, Katie Stevenson, Roya Sabet, John Lambert and Christine Skoutelas addressed the board regarding the return to in-person learning and proposed changes to the plan.

MOVED by Dean Bolton, SUPPORTED by Mary Gebara that the board approve updates to the Return to School Plan that meets the requirements established in HB 4048 as authorized by the Governor.

Citizens Address
Agenda & Non-
Agenda Items

Roll Call Vote

Dean Bolton	Yes	Vincent Lyon-Callo	No
Katie Cavanaugh	Yes	Andrew Phelps	Yes
Mary Gebara	Yes	Jayne Taylor	Yes
Melanie Lynn	Yes		

Revised
Safe Return to
School Plan

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

There were no other matters.

President Bolton adjourned the special meeting at 8:39 p.m.

Other Matters

Katie Cavanaugh, Secretary

Adjourn