

**Okemos Board of Education**  
**Okemos, Michigan 48864**  
**REGULAR MEETING SEPTEMBER 13, 2021**

The Regular meeting of the Okemos Board of Education was called to order by President Bolton at 7:01 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 Stephen Keskes; Assistant Superintendent Stacy Bailey; and Finance Director Elizabeth Lentz

Administration presented information regarding Covid Relief funds the district has received, and the planning regarding the expenditure of those funds to meet student needs. The different Covid grants were explained, including federal grants, state grants, award formulas and equalization payments. A comparison among local districts was also provided. Other Covid-related grants included childcare relief and funds for summer programming. Presentation:  
Covid Relief  
Funds

Relief funds were utilized to meet Covid-related needs including environmental, safety; health; assessments and interventions; social-emotional; support for subgroups disproportionately impacted; and system support for the implementation of the Covid response. Administration sought to align spending with the district's strategic plan initiatives such as equity; social-emotional learning; organizational capacity; facilities and instruction and learning. Administration presented examples of fund usage in each of the categories. Examples include but are not limited to: professional development and training; curriculum and policy review; interventions; summer programming; staffing; software purchases; homebound services; community outreach; human resources; HVAC upgrades and ionization; PPE; furniture etc.

Members discussed the following: conditions or requirements placed on the use of Covid funds; funding delays and funding still to be received; data collection; distribution of funds across each category; professional development; social-emotional screener; funding comparison with like districts; and being a testing clinic.

Director of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Lara Slee presented an update regarding the district's equity work and updating of the district's Equity Plan. Dr. Slee outlined the scope of work and support the district can expect from the DEI Director as it pertains to students, staff, administration, families and the community. Current priorities were shared including establishing relationships; learning the community; building cultural competence; reviewing policies, procedures and practices. In addition, Dr. Slee will be developing a collaborative process for rewriting the equity plan and transitioning the mascot. Equity Update

Members discussed the following: policy and handbook review process; a discussion item regarding equity updates to the board; qualitative versus quantitative data; mental and emotional health' and alternative paths besides the traditional university route.

George Platsis addressed the board regarding equity and the equity plan.

Citizens Address  
Agenda & Non-  
Agenda Items

Superintendent Hood reported on the following: new administrative team with new perspectives, mentoring and support; Boardbook software for electronic board packets; Covid dashboard on the website; agenda planning calendar; upcoming enrollment update; and an operations and facilities update. Superintendent's  
Report

Assistant Superintendent Bailey reported on an upcoming presentation regarding state standardized test data; while Assistant Superintendent Keskes gave a hiring update on the Athletic Director position.

Members inquired about the following: Interim Athletic Director; organizational capacity opportunities and priorities; Hi-Tec contract; and custodial wages.

Board Reports &  
Request

President Bolton acknowledged correspondence from the following: Bryan Harris regarding Covid safety protocols, masking, vaccines or related procedures; Rebecca Precise regarding a board policy; Stacy Christensen, Joe Thornton, Joni Steinhaus, Jessica Warren, Liz Gauthier, Carley Ivers, Casey Langford, Rosaria Matina, Kayla Diederich, Lauri Johnson, Marie Smith, Katie Parker, Brie Wellington, Angela Hussain, Rachel Knox, Denise Nelson, Laura Seydel, Maureen Chromiak, April Kilpatrick, Erin Binkley, Kelli Crawford, Jen Baker, Brian Kushion, Kara Kurzeja, Jen Rapson, Carrie McCarthy, Michelle Zimmerman concerning facilities; and April Klaasse regarding board meetings.

Melanie Lynn reported on Ingham School Officer Association meetings.

MOVED by Mary Gebara, SUPPORTED by Andy Phelps that the board approve items 1 and 2 for immediate implementation and appropriate action:

Consent Agenda

Item 1: Approval of the minutes of the Special Meeting of August 30, 2021.

Item 2: Approval of the minutes of the Closed Session Meeting of August 30, 2021.

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

MOVED by Jayme Taylor, SUPPORTED by Mary Gebara that the board pursue Option A, a rebuild of the intersection with easements from OPS and Consumers Energy.

Road  
Construction  
Project

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

MOVED by Andy Phelps, SUPPORTED by Mary Gebara that the board certify the following winter tax rates for collection on behalf of Okemos Public Schools from Meridian Township, Alaiedon Township, and the City of Lansing of 9 mills non-homestead, 3.5 mills debt, and .4931 sinking fund; and from Williamstown Township of 18 mills non-homestead, 7 mills debt, and .9861 sinking fund.

Certify Winter  
Taxes

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 Andy Phelps that the board employ Christine Parkhurst as Food Service Director effective September 13, 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.

Food Service  
Director  
Employment

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 Stacy Bailey provided an overview of new requirements regarding professional development including establishing a district committee approved by the board of education. The committee would be responsible for vetting the professional development that would be included in the calendar as instructional days.

PD Committee

The board discussed the MASB Fall conference for the purpose of determining the representatives to the delegate assembly and who will attend. It was determined that Andy Phelps would serve as the delegate, with Jayme Taylor serving as the alternate.

MASB Delegates

There was no public comment.

Public Comment

The board sign up for Parent Council meetings.

Other Matters

President Bolton adjourned the special meeting at 9:39 p.m.

Adjourn

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Katie Cavanaugh, Secretary