

Okemos Board of Education
Okemos, Michigan 48864
REGULAR MEETING SEPTEMBER 27, 2021

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9-27-2021

The Regular meeting of the Okemos Board of Education was called to order by President Bolton at 7:02 p.m.

Call To Order

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

Members Absent: Mary Gebara

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

Director of Finance Elizabeth Lentz and Mr. Steve Piesko, CPA and principal from Maner Costerisan P.C. presented the 2020-2021 draft audit report of the district. Mr. Piesko commended the district's financial management, as well as recognized the lower than state average variance of the projected 2020-2021 budget and the actual budget. Mr. Piesko pointed out several areas of note including: debt funds that have been paid off; compliance audit of the food service budget and possible spend down plans; fund balance; and upcoming GASB's regarding leases and online curriculum subscriptions.

Presentation:
Audit Report

Member Cavanaugh inquired about food service contracts with Haslett and Williamston schools and how that will affect the budget in 22-23.

Mary Gebara arrived at 7:15 p.m.

Operations Director Mark Fargo provided an update regarding cleaning and operations concerns, as well as options for consideration. Mr. Fargo addresses the 3rd-party cleaner concerns and the district's response including redistributing over time, night inspections, accountability and wage increases to attract additional workers.

Operations &
Facilities Update

The district's contract with the 3rd party expires in June 2022. Administration is recommending that the district put out an RFP for these services, specifically evening custodians. Different structures to be included in the RFP ranged from fully contractual, to a hybrid model, to fully OPS employees. Timelines and budget impacts were also shared.

Members discussed the following: difference between 3rd party cleaners; collaborating with other districts; accountability requirements within the RFP; budget impacts; and response to the RFP.

No one addressed the board.

Citizens Address
Agenda & Non-
Agenda Items

Superintendent Hood reported on the following: Covid test-to-stay clinic; 2022 bond planning; upcoming presentations on assessments and screener data, and alternate pathways to certification; enrollment update; Athletic Director hiring update; homecoming activities; recent MASA conference; and legislative advocacy regarding needed Covid response support.

Superintendent's
Report

Members inquired about advocating for additional support; using the National Guard and volunteers; and the status of the student representative to the board.

President Bolton acknowledged correspondence from the following: Bryan Harris regarding Covid safety protocols, masking, vaccines or related procedures; Hedlun Walton

Board Reports &
Request

announcing the National Merit Semi-Finalist; UNWTO Students League Team regarding an OPS student award; and Jan Casey regarding the upcoming bond.

Members reported on the following: mask usage; tents for outside eating; vaccine mandates; teacher feedback regarding the current school experience; anecdotal feedback regarding where students are academically, socially etc. bus ridership; booster shots and what does fully vaccinated mean.

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

Consent Agenda

Item 1: Approval of the minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 13, 2021.

Item 2: Approve the requested leave of absence for Tasha Rader, School Psychologist for the district for the period of March 17, 2022 through June 10, 2022.

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

MOVED by Katie Cavanaugh, SUPPORTED by Andy Phelps that the board approve electrical service upgrades to Okemos Public Montessori and Administration buildings not to exceed \$297,500 to be funded from the district’s sinking fund for the completion of 2019 air conditioning bond work.

Electrical Service
Upgrades

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 Katie Cavanaugh, SUPPORTED by Vincent Lyon-Callo that the board waive the reading and adopt final reading of board policy #4121/5121 Unlawful Discrimination, Harassment and Retaliation Against Students.

Board Policy:
Final Reading

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

MOVED by Andy Phelps, SUPPORTED by Katie Cavanaugh that the board approve the employment of Deborah Farris, ELL Teacher for the district at Division II, Step 8 of the teacher salary schedule, effective October 6, 2021; and Melissa Holem, Special Education Resource Teacher at the elementary level, at Division III, Step 8 of the teacher salary schedule, effective October 1, 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

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

MOVED by Jayme Taylor, SUPPORTED by Katie Cavanaugh that the board approve the establishment of, and the membership categories of a district professional development committee as required by law.

District PD
Committee

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

DEI Director Lara Slee presented information and a recommendation regarding the regular reporting of equity data to the board and committee, as well as sought feedback from the board. Dr. Slee explained different types of data that would be collected for example both qualitative and quantitative; as well as the sources for this data and how it connects with indicators of success.

Members inquired about the following: concurrent work; student involvement; family and community input; bullying and behavior referrals; freshman academy and studies classes.

The board discussed a recommendation from Superintendent Hood regarding the administrative priorities for the 2021-2022 school year in consideration of the new administrative team and Covid response. Mr. Hood captured Strategic Plan initiatives and critical areas of focus such as the Equity Plan and school start times, and suggested timelines to accompany each. The process and rationale were also reviewed.

Administrative
Priorities

Members discussed delaying the school start times discussion and decision.

There was no public comment.

Public Comment

There were no other matters

Other Matters

President Bolton adjourned the special meeting at 9:59 p.m.

Adjourn

Katie Cavanaugh, Secretary