

Okemos Board of Education
Okemos, Michigan 48864
REGULAR MEETING OCTOBER 11, 2021

The Regular meeting of the Okemos Board of Education was called to order by President Bolton at 7:04 p.m. Call To Order

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

Members Absent: Vincent Lyon-Callo

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

Vincent Lyon-Callo arrived at 7:06 p.m.

Sex Ed Supervisor Nicole McGuire presented the recommendations from the district's Parent Council for four appointments to the district's Personal Health and Sexuality Education Advisory (PHASE) Board as follows: one clergy, Rev. Neal Anderson; one healthcare professional, Martha Nokken; and two community members at large, Stephanie Nawyn and Sabrina Avripas. The board will take action on these recommendations at the November 8th board meeting. PHASE Board Members

Assistant Superintendent Stacy Bailey provided information regarding the M-Step, PSAT and SAT assessments taken by some students during the 2020-2021 school year. Mrs. Bailey reminded the board that these test were optional during the 20-21 school year. Okemos had the largest number of students in the county to take the assessments. Okemos students outperformed the State average in every subject. Limitations regarding the data were reviewed. Benchmark assessment data as well as social-emotional screener data will be shared at the next meeting. Assessment Data

Members inquired about the following: data from the 19-20 school year to compare; percentage of students who tested and how it correlates with remote vs. in-person percentages; longer term trend data; how the district is addressing gaps; and changes to curriculum as a response.

Assistant Superintendent Stephen Keskes presented information regarding alternate pathways to teacher certification and the district's approach to the new legislation. OPS best practices in hiring were outlined, and the different types of certification available were described. To help manage the teacher shortage, the State is now offering an Interim Teaching Certificate. Mr. Keskes explained the requirements for the new certificate, as well as the OPS approach for supporting these teachers. A collaborative agreement with Okemos Education Association has been drafted. Alternative Certification

Members discussed the following: exclusionary language in the collaborative agreement; why the need to differentiate between teachers with interim certificates and those with provisional or professional certificates; impact on staffing and diversifying teaching staff; and preference versus policy.

Kayla Byrd-Daniels addressed the board regarding behavioral interventions. Citizens Address Agenda & Non-Agenda Items

Superintendent Hood reported on the following: additional crossing guard; adjustment to approaching elementary volunteers; parent-teacher conferences; Covid equalization payments; enrollment update; substitute teachers; potential 2022 bond and communication Superintendent's Report

with the community; student representatives to the board; Diversity, Equity and Inclusion course being provided to all Leadership Council members through Eastern Michigan University.

Members inquired about enrollment; student representatives; the crossing guard; and the cleaning situation.

President Bolton acknowledged correspondence from the following: Debra Calder concerning board meeting materials.

Jayme Taylor reported on the recent National Merit semi-finalist reception.

Vincent Lyon-Callo suggested the board or policy committee consider a land acknowledgment policy or practice.

High School Spanish Teacher Karen Sanders presented information regarding a student trip to Costa Rica proposed for June 21st the July 1, 2022. The trip is a cultural and language immersion experience. The trip includes a vaccination requirement and is refundable if canceled due to Covid.

Student Trip

MOVED by Andy Phelps, SUPPORTED by Mary Gebara that the board approve items 1 and 2 for immediate implementation and appropriate action:
Item 1: Approval of the minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 27, 2021.
Item 2: Acknowledge receipt of the September financial statement and approve payment of bills for September.

Consent Agenda

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

MOVED by Katie Cavanaugh, SUPPORTED by Jayme Taylor that the board accept the audit report of Maner & Costerisan P.C. for the 2020-2021 school year.

Audit Report

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

MOVED by Dean Bolton, SUPPORTED by Katie Cavanaugh that the board approve the employment of Travis Farlow, Physical Education Teacher Chippewa Middle School at Division I, Step 1; and Rebecca Precise, ASD Teacher at Chippewa Middle School at Division I, Step 1 of the teacher salary schedule, effective October 11, 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**

DEI Director Lara Slee provided an equity update including Indigenous Peoples Day; national Coming Out day; the Academic Learning Center at OHS; a review of the district's late work and testing policy; and preferred names in the student management system.

DEI & Mascot
Update

Superintendent Hood shared the criteria to be used in the selection of a new mascot, as well as timelines for the process. In addition, the committee membership and student and community engagement opportunities were also explained.

Members discussed the following: encouraged the community to participate; how the process will be communicated; in-person versus Zoom meetings; and funding the Learning Center.

Lucia Sato addressed the board regarding public participation at school board meetings.
The board determined to cancel their October 18th meeting.

President Bolton adjourned the regular meeting at 9:16 p.m.

Other Matters

Katie Cavanaugh, Secretary

Adjourn