

Okemos Board of Education
Okemos, Michigan 48864
REGULAR MEETING JANUARY 10, 2022

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, Vincent Lyon-Callo, Andrew Phelps and Jayme Taylor

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

President Bolton appointed Superintendent John Hood as temporary chair. Temporary Chair

Superintendent Hood appointed Rhianna Walworth as temporary secretary. Temporary Secretary

The board determined to utilize Robert's Rules of Order for conducting the organizational meeting. Robert's Rules

Dean Bolton nominated Mary Gebara as President; No other nominations were made; nominations were closed. Election of President

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

Mary Gebara assumed the chair. Election of Vice President

Mary Gebara nominated Melanie Lynn as Vice President; No other nominations were made; nominations were closed.

AYE: 7 NAY: 0 ABSENT: 0 MOTION CARRIED

Katie Cavanaugh nominated Jayme Taylor as Secretary; Mary Gebara supported the motion. No other nominations were made; nominations were closed. Election of Secretary

AYE: 7 NAY: 0 ABSENT: 0 MOTION CARRIED

Melanie Lynn nominated Katie Cavanaugh as Treasurer; Mary Gebara supported the motion. No other nominations were made; nominations were closed. Election of Treasurer

AYE: 7 NAY: 0 ABSENT: 0 MOTION CARRIED

President Gebara appointed Andrew Phelps as Parliamentarian. Appointment of Parliamentarian

MOVED by Dean Bolton, SUPPORTED by Katie Cavanaugh that the board confirm the dates for regular meetings of the board of education for the remainder of the 2021-2022 Regular Meeting Dates

school year to generally be the second and fourth Monday of each month, adjusted for Mondays with no school; the time of each meeting to begin at 7:00 p.m., with no new discussion after 10:00 p.m.; and the place of meetings to be either through the Zoom platform while allowed, or the Community Conference Room at Central School.

AYE: 7 NAY: 0 ABSENT: 0 MOTION CARRIED

MOVED by Katie Cavanaugh, SUPPORTED by Jayme Taylor that the board continue to manage board meetings according to its established policies, which are informed by Robert's Rules of Order.

Robert's Rules

AYE: 7 NAY: 0 ABSENT: 0 MOTION CARRIED

The board completed the organizational meeting at 7:14 p.m.

Superintendent Hood provided an update for the board and community regarding the district's current Covid response and a security update. Mr. Hood reviewed the lens to guide thinking as it pertains to the district's Covid response, as well as best instructional practices, targeted approach to closures and recommendations from the health departments.

Covid & Security
Update

Assistant Superintendent Keskes outlined the data used in the Covid-related decision-making including positivity rates, attendance rates, quarantine process and procedures.

Assistant Superintendent Bailey provided reminders regarding the 2021-2022 instructional model, that no adjustments have been made to MDE and pupil accounting rules for this school year, classroom set up and technology, and dual modality challenges.

Superintendent Hood reviewed mitigation measures and safety protocols and reported on an upcoming vaccine clinic at Kinawa on January 28th. He also described prevention strategies and the district's mental health approach and supports.

DEI Director Slee reported on the district's efforts to meet mental health needs of students and staff including: additional staff such as social workers and counselors at every building; screeners and SEL curriculum; a grant the district was awarded to implement the TRAILS program; trauma-informed practices implemented; and a change to the approach to final exams.

A security update was also provided including training for staff on run, hide, fight; Meridian Township Police are now a part of the bond committee; and security needs at Edgewood are being addressed.

Members discussed the following: air filtration; quarantine procedures; transportation from Academic Learning Center; outdoor lunch; security at Edgewood; board resolution recognizing Faith Lutheran Church for their support of the district and their efforts with the test-to-stay clinic; to-go lunch possibilities; increased entry screening; vaccination rates as a data point; and at home test availability.

Operations Director Mark Fargo provided an update regarding the hiring of Peckham, Inc. as the district's new 3rd party cleaning service. Peckham will begin servicing the district January 24th. It was noted that a full bid process will be run in the spring and include comparing 3rd party vendors to hiring OPS employees.

Cleaning Update

Member Lynn inquired about the cost of contracting versus hiring ourselves.

Nicole Heathcock addressed the board regarding community engagement and interaction; Teagan Vanderklok, Rachel Hiliker and Kate Fuller addressed the board regarding the backpack ban; Jill VanHof addressed the board concerning student mental health and exams.

Superintendent Hood reported on the following: board appreciation month; mascot update will be provided at the January 24th meeting; bond update; alumni Mike Williams donation to athletics and OEF; therapy pet policy and upcoming presentation; Covid relief and childcare grants; recent policy committee meeting; hiring update and timelines.

Superintendent
Report

Members discussed the following: exams; backpack policy; student voice and advocacy.

High School Student Representatives Zainah and Berelian reported on the following: backpack policy; virtual flex; recent Be Excellent Day; Covid case count; recent student skip day and upcoming walkout; and upcoming final exams.

High School
Student Report

President Gebara acknowledge correspondence from the following: Aditi Mishra, Ambrose Meteyer Eesha Gundamraj, Jan Casey, Siye Habtemariam, Lucy VanHof, Kate Fuller, Teagan Vanderklok, Elizabeth Gregas, Erin Ruster, Angelina Boggs-Smitley, Hannah Jordan, Owen Sheffer, and Jack Brummer concerning the backpack policy; Megan Logan, Kate Stevenson, Heidi Ma, Jian Hu, and Stacy Christensen concerning Covid response; Rob Stephenson, and Jamie Yeomans regarding final exams; Jill VanHof concerning student mental health; Katy Gilchrist concerning board member interaction; Eric Gaines regarding a gun violence education program; and Anonymous regarding the mascot.

Board Reports &
Requests

Members reported on the following: student voice, interaction, and advocacy; suggested a separate security and metal detectors discussion; moving finals to before winter break; feminine hygiene products provided and available in restrooms; responding to feedback; communications with students; board work session and self-evaluation assessment through MASB; request that the TRAILS program also be implemented at the elementary level.

MOVED by Andy Phelps, SUPPORTED by Katie Cavanaugh that the board approve items 1 and 2 for immediate implementation and appropriate action.

Consent Agenda

Item 1: Minutes of the Regular Meeting of December 13, 2021; and

Item 2: Acknowledge receipt of the December financial statement and approve payment of bills for December.

AYE: 7 NAY: 0 ABSENT: 0 MOTION CARRIED

MOVED by Dean Bolton, SUPPORTED by Katie Cavanaugh that the board award the purchase of cleaning equipment, submitted by Lansing Sanitary Supply, Inc. not to exceed \$98,599.18 funded by Covid Relief Grants.

Cleaning
Equipment
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		

AYE: 7 NAY: 0 ABSENT: 0 MOTION CARRIED

MOVED by Katie Cavanaugh, SUPPORTED by Jayme Taylor that the board approve the amended 2021-2022 Budget.

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

Food Service Director Christine Parkhurst presented information regarding the purchase of food service equipment including the bid process, recommendation and timelines. The purchase is for kitchen equipment that needs replaced or upgraded and will be funded through the food service budget as part of a spend down plan.

Food Service
Purchases

A review of the procedures for purchases will be provided to the board.

Nathan Mahn addressed the board on behalf of Tim Potter regarding Dr. Aaron Payment.

Public Comment

There were no other matters.

Other Matters

President Gebara adjourned the regular meeting at 10:11 p.m.

Adjourn

Jayme Taylor, Secretary