

**Okemos Board of Education
Okemos, Michigan 48864
REGULAR MEETING MARCH 14, 2022**

The regular meeting of the Okemos Board of Education was called to order by President Gebara at 6:34 p.m.

Call To Order

Members Present: Dean Bolton, Katie Cavanaugh, Mary Gebara, Vincent Lyon-Callo, and Andrew Phelps

Members Absent: Melanie Lynn and Jayme Taylor

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

President Gebara appointed Dean Bolton as temporary secretary of the meeting.

Temporary Secretary

MOVED by Andy Phelps, SUPPORTED by Katie Cavanaugh that the board adjourn to Executive Session pursuant to Section 8(a) of the Open Meetings Act for the purpose of discussing contract negotiations.

Closed Session

Roll Call Vote

Dean Bolton	Yes	Vincent Lyon-Callo	Yes
Katie Cavanaugh	Yes	Andrew Phelps	Yes
Mary Gebara	Yes	Jayme Taylor	---
Melanie Lynn	---		

AYE: 5 NAY: 0 ABSENT: 2 **MOTION CARRIED**

The board adjourned to executive session at 6:36 p.m.

Member Lynn arrived at 6:37 p.m.

The board reconvened from executive session at 7:02 p.m.

Reconvene

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

Members Absent: Jayme Taylor

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

Superintendent Hood reminded the board and community of the mascot committee's purpose, scope of work and outcomes including developing the new logo. He outlined the process the committee used including establishing criteria the logo would need to meet.

New Wolves Logo

There were approximately 100 different submissions from students and community members. Committee members pulled favorite aspects from each submission and worked with a graphic designer to compile them. It was important to the committee that the logo be a compilation, including many artist work, rather than a single artist. Okemos Alumni Gabe Viscomi was the graphic designer used in the process. He discussed considerations for the design of the logo package which includes brand building, guidelines for use and font and color requirements. Members of the mascot committee revealed the new Wolves mascot logo.

Member Lynn inquired about talking points regarding the rationale; who is responsible for the distribution; and pointed out that the board does not vote on the adoption of the logo.

Attorney Philip Clark from Thrun Law responded to questions from the board regarding proposed board policies 5146 Violation of Weapon-Free School Zone and 1119/4119 Firearms and Weapons, specifically the definition of school property. The definition, though it comes directly from the statute includes exemptions for community education, college or adult education classes.

Members discussed the following: facility rentals; senior center facility; and expressed their desire for a crystal-clear policy that is not open to any interpretation. Members agreed to remove the exclusionary language from the policies. Changes to the board policies will be made and brought to the board for first reading at their next meeting.

Nathan Mahn addressed the board regarding student violence at the high school.

Citizens Address
Agenda & Non-
Agenda Items

Joe Dzenowagi commended the board and mascot committee on their logo selection.

Superintendent Hood reported on the following: listen and learn sessions at each building and department; updated hiring timelines for the high school and Cornell principal positions; recent and upcoming Justice Leaders Collaborative professional learning; and the upcoming Collage Concert.

Superintendent's
Report

Members inquired about the listen and learn sessions and any impact to budget or board priorities.

High School Student Representatives Uma and Berelian reported on the following: recent diversity assembly; scheduling for 22-23 is underway; upcoming spring break; Academic Learning Center and usage; March is reading month activities; recent Touch of Class fundraiser; virtual Spaghetti Dinner fundraiser; athletics update; thoughts on school violence; recent can drive for Okemos Outreach; upcoming state testing and student stress level regarding it.

Student
Representative
Report

President Gebara acknowledged correspondence from the following: Lucy VanHof regarding a story for the OHS newspaper; Anna Maird regarding the 2022 bond; Jenna Malinowski regarding board meeting agendas; Amanda Dean regarding a leave of absence.

Board Reports &
Request

Member Lyon-Callo agreed with recent board correspondence regarding incorporating green and sustainable design with the bond process and planning.

MOVED by Andy Phelps SUPPORTED by Katie Cavanaugh that the board approve items 1 through 3 for immediate implementation and appropriate action.

Consent Agenda

Item 1: Approval of the minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 28, 2022;

Item 2: Approve the request for a Leave of Absence for Amanda Dean, Physical Education Teacher at Hiawatha Elementary for the 2022-2023 school year.

Item 3: Acknowledge receipt of the February financial statement and approve payment of bills for February.

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

MOVED by Katie Cavanaugh, SUPPORTED by Andy Phelps that the board waive the reading and adopt the resolution authorizing and directing the superintendent to join the lawsuit and sign the Attorney-Client Fee Contract on behalf of Okemos public Schools.

Juul Litigation

Roll Call Vote

Dean Bolton

Yes

Vincent Lyon-Callo

Yes

Katie Cavanaugh Yes Andrew Phelps Yes
Mary Gebara Yes Jayme Taylor ---
Melanie Lynn Yes

AYE: 6 NAY: 0 ABSENT: 1 MOTION CARRIED

MOVED by Dean Bolton, SUPPORTED by Katie Cavanaugh that the board award the following renovation project, funded from the district’s Building and Site Sinking Fund- Okemos High School Photo Lab: Awarded to Laux Construction, not to exceed \$160,900.

Building & Site
Sinking Fund
Project

Roll Call Vote

Dean Bolton Yes Vincent Lyon-Callo Yes
Katie Cavanaugh Yes Andrew Phelps Yes
Mary Gebara Yes Jayme Taylor ---
Melanie Lynn Yes

AYE: 6 NAY: 0 ABSENT: 1 MOTION CARRIED

MOVED by Andy Phelps, SUPPORTED by Melanie Lynn that the board waive the reading and ratify the contract between the Okemos Board of Education and the Okemos Transportation Association effective July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2026.

Transportation
Contract

Roll Call Vote

Dean Bolton Yes Vincent Lyon-Callo Yes
Katie Cavanaugh Yes Andrew Phelps Yes
Mary Gebara Yes Jayme Taylor ---
Melanie Lynn Yes

AYE: 6 NAY: 0 ABSENT: 1 MOTION CARRIED

Finance Director Elizabeth Lentz provided information regarding the development of the 2022-2023 budget. Updated assumptions were provided and include: enrollment projections; teacher division changes; teacher retirements; and non-structural budget items. The approximate impact to the general fund is a positive \$150,000 at this time. Impending budget items to be discussed or negotiated were reviewed.

2022-2023
Budget
Development

Member Lynn commented on the quality of recent board presentations.

Rob Blankenhorn addressed the board regarding the recent negotiations between the district and the Transportation Union, including the importance of bus drivers and the transportation department to students and community.

Public Comment

Members agreed to cancel the March 21st board meeting.

Other Matters

There will be a special meeting for the purpose of a bond work session for the board on April 26th.

President Gebara adjourned the regular meeting at 8:50 p.m.

Adjourn