

**Okemos Board of Education
Okemos, Michigan 48864
REGULAR MEETING APRIL 25, 2022**

PAGE 8922
4-25-2022

The regular meeting of the Okemos Board of Education was called to order by President Gebara at 7:03 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 Stacy Bailey; Assistant Superintendent Stephen Keskes; Finance Director Elizabeth Lentz

The board reviewed the Ingham Intermediate School District proposed 2022-2023 General Fund Budget as required by Michigan law to determine its action at the next meeting to support or not support the budget. Ingham Intermediate School District Superintendent Mr. Jason Mellema presented the budget information. Mr. Mellema provided a brief overview of the IISD's general fund budget, including project revenue, expenses, programs and services supported by the general fund, as well as new initiatives, next steps and responsibilities.

2022-2023 IISD
Budget

Superintendent Hood, Operations Director Fargo, Finance Director Lentz and representatives from Christman presented an overview the 2019 Technology, Security, Transportation, Capital Outlay, and Facilities bond and summarized projects it funded. Examples of completed projects include the addition to Bennett Woods Elementary, remodeling of restrooms, HVAC, security window film, document cameras, student and staff devices, additional buses, additional lunch tables etc. In addition, Director Mark Fargo and Assistant Superintendent Stacy Bailey provided information regarding flexible furniture purchases to be funded through the 2019 bond. This furniture will focus on learning and provide options in the classroom as well as opportunities to be creative and collaborative. Bids pertaining to the flexible furniture purchases will be brought to the board at their next meeting.

2019
Bond Update

The board also reviewed projects within the scope of the 2019 bond that were not accomplished due to the pandemic, increased cost and labor shortages. Examples of this projects include" the bus loop at Cornell, underground storage tank removal at the bus garage, instrument storage at OHS and tennis court replacement at Kinawa.

Members inquired about the following: calculating labor and construction cost in the 2022 bond proposal versus the 2019 bond; timelines for spending; summary document for the community; opportunities to reuse or move recently installed items and equipment; and electric bus purchases.

Food Service Director Emily Swirsky and Finance Director Lentz presented information regarding the assessment of the district's food service third-party contracts as directed by Superintendent Hood. Director Swirsky outlined the district's current reality featuring offerings and challenges that include free breakfast and lunches, minimal catering, contracts with academies, staffing shortage, procurement issues, training, aging equipment and space limitations. Details regarding the district's partnerships with academies was shared including the daily management, coordination and staffing. A financial analysis comparing revenue and expenses was also provided. Director Swirsky shared her vision for the future of the department and gave examples of initiatives she would like to implement. Ideas included integrating classroom learning with food, sustainable initiatives, employee

Food Service
Dept. Update

development and diversifying the menu. It is administration's recommendation that the district does not renew its third party contracts and instead put its resources to strengthening and enhancing the success of the OPS Food Service Department.

Members discussed the following: offering third party services in the future; number of meals served; free meal program continuation; scratch cooking; using spend down plan for equipment; addressing challenges; May 6th is school lunch hero day; future initiatives and including students in the process; what can we grow or produce ourselves.

Citizens Address
Agenda & Non-
Agenda Items

No one addressed the board.

Superintendent's
Report

Superintendent Hood reported on the following: upcoming teacher and staff appreciation; recent listening sessions with buildings and departments; upcoming security assessment and board presentation; upcoming discussion regarding Thrun's board policy service; equity plan rewrite and upcoming meetings; and a PBIS update.

Assistant Superintendent Bailey provided an update regarding summer learning opportunities, state assessments, gifted and talented programming, and a recent math competition made more accessible to more students.

Assistant Superintendent Keskes provided an update regarding hiring and the timelines for calendar development and negotiations.

Members inquired about the availability of summer learning opportunities and funding.

Student
Representative
Report

High School Student Representative Uma reported on the following: recent PSAT, SAT and m-Step assessments; upcoming AP testing; recent NHS induction ceremony; recent MiPhy survey; the spring musical tuck Everlasting; and upcoming fine arts performances.

Board Reports &
Request

President Gebara acknowledged correspondence from the following: Kristian Lutenske seeking to distribute information about AOTA classes; Jack Behan regarding free menstrual products; Undisclosed concerning Good Friday; An invitation to the OEA Retiree Tribute; and An invitation to Central Montessori's Butterfly Garden Ribbon Cutting Ceremony.

Members commented on the development of the calendar and including Christian holidays.

Consent Agenda

MOVED by Andy Phelps SUPPORTED by Melanie Lynn 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 April 11, 2022;

Item 2: Approval of the minutes of the Executive Session Meeting of APRIL 11, 2022;

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

Staff
Appreciation
Resolution

MOVED by Katie Cavanaugh SUPPORTED by Jayme Taylor that the board read and adopt the resolution establishing May 3, 2022 as Staff Appreciation Day in honor of the employees of the Okemos Public Schools.

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 Melanie Lynn SUPPORTED by Dean Bolton that the board employ Tracy Ojerio as Principal at Cornell Elementary School effective August 8, 2022 through June 30, 2024.

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 Melanie Lynn that the board waive the reading and adopt the resolution in support of waiving the 75% attendance requirement.

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**

Directors Fargo and Lentz will review the custodial RFP process which included a review of vendors and providing our own evening cleaning services. 15 responses to the RFP were received. The evaluation criteria used to narrow down the companies to select to interview was shared. Information regarding each finalist was provided, as well as contracting versus hiring direct OPS staff. A cost analysis of the options was given. It is administration's recommendation that the district switch to GRBS as the district's third-party cleaner and enter into a three-year contract. The board will consider action regarding this matter at their next meeting.

3rd-Party
Cleaning
Contract

Members inquired about the following: using local staff; local districts served by GRBS; the onboarding process; and specific contract language.

Finance Director Elizabeth Lentz provided information regarding the development of the 2022-2023 budget including preliminary assumptions, as well as revisions to the 2021-2022 budget. One revision to the 21-22 budget is grant funding the district was awarded for some student support positions. Childcare enrollment trends in other districts were reviewed. Most adjustments are one-time adjustments that do not continue into 22-23.

2022-2023
Budget
Development

Updated 2022-23 budget assumptions were provided and include revisions due to legislative funding proposals, increased per pupil foundation allowance, and increased substitute teacher costs. The net impact to the general fund is approximately \$1,428,747 before negotiations, insurance rate adjustments, staffing and other impending budget discussions.

The board reviewed the recommendation for School of Choice openings to be advertised through the Ingham Intermediate School District for the 2022-2023 school year. Superintendent Hood reviewed the process for determining the number of openings. The proposed openings are as follows: Beginndergarten/Kindergarten – 1 opening; 1st grade – 3 openings; 2nd grade – 1 opening; 3rd grade – 1 opening; 4th grade – 8 openings; 5th grade through 12th grade – 1 opening per grade level.

School of Choice
Openings

Katie Cavanaugh inquired about the number of 4th grade openings.

There was no public comment.

The board will receive additional dates to consider for a BoardBook training work session.

Other Matters

The April 26th special meeting for the purpose of a board work session regarding the bond was rescheduled to May 2nd at 6:30 p.m.

MOVED by Dean Bolton, 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	Jayne Taylor	Yes
Melanie Lynn	Yes		

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

The board adjourned to executive session at 9:58 p.m.

The board reconvened from executive session at 10:54 p.m.

Reconvene

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

Administrators: Superintendent John Hood; and Assistant Superintendent Stephen Keskes

President Gebara adjourned the regular meeting at 10:55 p.m.

Adjourn

Jayne Taylor, Secretary