

**Okemos Board of Education
Okemos, Michigan 48864
REGULAR MEETING MAY 9, 2022**

The regular meeting of the Okemos Board of Education was called to order by President Gebara at 6:30 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

MOVED by Melanie Lynn 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 a personnel matter. Closed Session

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

The board adjourned to executive session at 6:34 p.m.

Vincent Lyon-Callo arrived at approximately 6:55 p.m.

The board reconvened from executive session at 7:04 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; Assistant Superintendent Stephen Keskes; Assistant Superintendent Stacy Bailey; DEI Director Lara Slee; and Finance Director Elizabeth Lentz

MOVED by Andy Phelps SUPPORTED by Jayme Taylor that the board authorize the employment of contractor #861097 through the district's third-party employer. Employment

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**

Superintendent Hood and President Gebara presented a certificate of appreciation to the Faith Lutheran Church for their service to Okemos Public Schools and the Okemos community through the Covid Test-To-Stay Clinic. Recognition

Superintendent Hood and the team from TowerPinkster and Christman presented an update on the steering committee's work on a potential November, 2022 bond, including a recommendation. The steering committee's membership, role and responsibilities were shared. Community engagement activities including listening sessions, community forums, surveys, the district website, and regular board updates helped to inform the committee's Proposed Bond Recommendation

recommendation. The proposals connection to the strategic plan, and key drivers were explained. Key drivers included configurations, high FCI buildings, enrollment, and the ability to maintain the current millage rate. Recent survey data was reviewed, as well as the approach taken to arrive at the recommendation. Norms, “big rock” criteria, and guiding principles were provided. A reminder of what bond funds can and cannot be used for was given.

The committee’s recommendation was presented and includes the following in the first phase: maintains four elementary schools; provides for three replacement buildings for Cornell Elementary, Kinawa and Chippewa Middle School, as well as other medium and smaller projects and improvements at all buildings and departments throughout the district. Future master plan priorities were identified such as environmental learning opportunities and adequate space.

Additional information regarding Cornell Elementary’s replacement was provided. Cornell Elementary was identified by the committee as the highest priority and need. The why behind this ranking was explained as well as information regarding the cost to renovate versus rebuild. CMS was identified as the 2nd highest priority and Kinawa third. The bond can support the rebuild of Kinawa and Chippewa because of plans to have a shared auditorium.

Examples of smaller projects were provided, such as secure vestibules, additional classrooms at Hiawatha, replacement of student devices, furniture replacement, fine arts storage and space, athletic facility needs, Senior Center space needs, High School cafeteria expansion and bus purchases.

Additional information regarding the high school pool situation was given, as well as a financial overview by major projects.

Details concerning the location of the new Cornell building were provided, as well as an overview of the districting areas and the district’s goal to maintain these areas. Twice the steering committee vetted the assessment and the criteria used to evaluate the location, and twice the committee’s recommendation is to build a new Cornell Elementary building on Powell Road. Swing space challenges including timelines and cost impacts were reviewed. Additional infrastructure needs at the Powell Road location were explained. Options and examples of uses for the current Cornell building were given, as well as the district’s commitment to all unused buildings including Wardcliff.

Future master planning priorities include the Montessori program and Central Elementary building, athletics and fine arts, Senior Center and childcare facilities, as well as Wardcliff. Next steps and timelines were provided. There will be a Q & A session specifically regarding Cornell on May 12th at 6:00 p.m. via Zoom.

Members discussed the following: thanked steering committee for time and effort; four versus five elementary schools; adding on to Cornell; bus loops around the buildings, next phase time frame; tax increase in the future; green space; building a new four-unit school for the Montessori program to ease pressures on the other three; research regarding school configurations and ideal size; safety crossing Grand River Ave. and environmental impacts; neighborhood school concept; future development; funding improvement costs; and the location of the new Kinawa and CMS buildings.

OHS Teacher Karen Sanders presented information regarding a Spanish student trip to Costa Rica proposed for June 13-June 22, 2022. The trip is a cultural and language immersion experience.

High School Student Representatives Zainah and Berelian reported on the following OHS activities: early dismissal due to a smoke smell; upcoming fine arts performances; AP testing; recent performance of Tuck Everlasting; Prom and Post Prom; upcoming senior activities; commencement; and AP History's voter registration drive.

The following individuals addressed the board concerning the relocation of Cornell Elementary: Ryan Ehardt, Hiroshi Tanimoto, June Hicks, Dan Peabody, Simon Belisle, Kim Burzych, Mark Burzych, Taiquan Peng, Brett DeGross, Kristen Cetin, Yue Qi, Yao Zhang, Hui Liu, John Lambert, and Stephanie Olds.

Citizens Address
Agenda & Non-
Agenda Items

Superintendent Hood reported on the following: upcoming discussions regarding Thrun's board policy service and security evaluation; equity plan rewrite update; recent staff appreciation; and the upcoming graduation ceremony.

Superintendent's
Report

Vincent Lyon-Callo inquired about graduation.

Board Reports &
Request

Members reviewed the agenda to determine priorities and selected items to delay until the May 16th work session.

President Gebara acknowledged correspondence from the following: Thomas Hamann, Kim Burzych, Winson Peng, Simon Belisle, Beth Meyer, Emily Peabody, Holly Higgins, Kristen Cetin, Charles Kotz, Taiquan Peng, Dan Peabody, Kirk Lapham, Guijie Zhu, Kristin Thomas, Carolyn Sebestyen, Katie Shahinian, Jill Lambert, Susan Masten, Solmaz Alishanov, Kathy and Larry Bozyk, Diane Wilson, Marisa DeGross, Pete Potterpin, Cathy Liu, Lindsey Klug, Mary Beth Graebert, Nathan Mahn, Laura Freilich, Lindsey LaForte, Emily Caskey, Richard Knoll, Krista Haven, Jamie Yeomans, Honghong Li, Roger and Barbara Folland, John and Carol Reilly, Kate Buckland, Rick Owczarzak and Morgan Cole concerning Cornell Elementary; Carolyn Sebestyen regarding the 2022 bond steering committee membership; Laura Belisle requesting the agenda for the May 9th meeting. Thrun Attorney Martha Marcero regarding her retirement; and Lily Conklin regarding homework policies.

Vincent Lyon-Callo asked for an analysis of the equity impacts of the bond.

President Gebara reported on the Cornell community's engagement with board members.

MOVED by Dean Bolton SUPPORTED by Vincent Lyon-Callo that the board approve items 1 through 5 for immediate implementation and appropriate action.

Consent Agenda

Item 1: Approval of the minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 25, 2022;

Item 2: Approval of the minutes of the Executive Session Meeting of April 25, 2022;

Item 3: Approval of the minutes of the Special Meeting of May 2, 2022;

Item 4: Acknowledge receipt of the April financial statement and approve payment of bills for April.

Item 5: Acknowledge receipt of the leave of absence report and approve the requested leave of absence for Katy Gilchrist, Special Education Teacher at OHS for the period of May 2, 2022 through May 30, 2022.

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

MOVED by Katie Cavanaugh SUPPORTED by Jayme Taylor that the board approve the recommended openings to be advertised through the Ingham Intermediate School District for School of Choice enrollment in the Okemos Public Schools.

School of Choice
Openings

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

MOVED by Melanie Lynn SUPPORTED by Katie Cavanaugh that the board waive the reading and adopt the resolution supporting the Ingham Intermediate School District 2022-2023 general fund budget as proposed.

IISD 2022-2023
Budget

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 Andy Phelps SUPPORTED by Katie Cavanaugh that the board award the following purchases of flexible furniture to be funded by the 2019 Technology, Security, Transportation, Capital Outlay, and Facilities bond. (Roll Call)

Flexible
Furniture
Purchases

- Up to \$55,972.38 submitted by Ki for the 3D and 2D Rooms at OHS;
- Up to \$38,743.11 submitted by Wiser Contract Furnishing for the Art Room at OHS;
- Up to \$31,202.88 submitted by School Specialty for the Computer Lab at OHS;
- Up to \$46,624.68 submitted by School Specialty for 108 staff chairs.

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 Andy Phelps that the board awards and authorizes the Superintendent to enter into a 3-year, \$3,530,772 contract to Grand Rapids Building Services (GRBS).

3rd Party Cleaner
Contract

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**

Media & Technology Director Tom Isom presented information regarding the purchase of new classroom audio equipment, PA, and Bell systems for the buildings. The equipment will be funded through the 2019 Technology, Security, Transportation, Capital Outlay, and Facilities bond. Director Isom is recommending the Audio Enhancements Optimum Classroom System with Paging Zone Amplification and Epic System. The project would include a warranty, de-installation and installation. It was notes that this system is easy to relocate.

Technology
Purchases

The flexible furniture and budget discussion items will be delayed to future meetings.

Discussion Items

There was no public comment.

Public Comment

Melanie Lynn followed up regarding the equity analysis of the bond. Members requested a school funding discussion.

Closed Session

MOVED by Jayme Taylor SUPPORTED by Melanie Lynn that the board adjourn to Executive Session pursuant to Section 8(a) of the Open Meetings Act for the purpose of contract negotiations.

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**

The board adjourned to executive session at 11:12 p.m.

The board reconvened from executive session at 11:59 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; Assistant Superintendent Stephen Keskes; and Finance Director Elizabeth Lentz

President Gebara adjourned the regular meeting at 12:00 a.m. on Tuesday, May 10th.

Adjourn

Jayme Taylor, Secretary