

**Okemos Board of Education  
Okemos, Michigan 48864  
SPECIAL MEETING MAY 16, 2022**

The special meeting of the Okemos Board of Education was called to order by President Gebara at 6:00 p.m. Call To Order

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

Members Absent: Katie Cavanaugh and Vincent Lyon-Callo

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

MOVED by Jayme Taylor SUPPORTED by Andy Phelps that the board award the purchase of the Audio Enhancements Optimum classroom system with Paging Zone amplification and Epic System, submitted by Trox/Tierney not to exceed \$1,200,000 to be funded by the Facilities/Technology/Security/Transportation/Capital Outlay bond. Technology Purchases

Roll Call Vote

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

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

MOVED by Dean Bolton SUPPORTED by Jayme Taylor that the board endorse the OHS Spanish student trip to Costa Rica from June 13 – June 22, 2023 with the understanding the students will abide by all school policies and procedures while abroad. Student Trip

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

MOVED by Dean Bolton SUPPORTED by Jayme Taylor that the waive the reading and adopt final reading of board policies 1119/4119 Firearms and Weapons; and 5146 Violation of Weapon-Free School Zone. Board Policies:  
Final Reading

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

Finance Director Elizabeth Lentz provided information regarding the development of the 2022-2023 budget including preliminary assumptions, and revisions to the 2021-2022 budget. Director Lentz reviewed revisions to the 21-22 budget including childcare programs and relief grants, state aid grants, special education revenue and transportation contract changes. She also described non-structural budget items and the carryforward impact on the 2022-2023 budget. The different legislative funding proposals were compared. Updated preliminary budget assumptions were provided and included health insurance costs, an additional classroom section, and operations equipment and vehicle purchases. The projected impact on the general fund before impending budget items is approximately a positive \$1,126,487. Impending budget discussion items were reviewed and include staffing, negotiations, board priorities and other sources of general fund revenue. 2022-2023  
Budget  
Development

The board engaged in a work session for the purpose of reviewing the Superintendent's Steering Committee's recommendation for a potential bond in November 2022. The work session followed the following format: Proposed Bond  
Work Session

- Community Reflection Breakout Rooms

- Board Discussion
- Community Comments and Feedback

Community Members had the opportunity to reflect on three guiding questions at tables with Board members, representatives from TowerPinkster, Christman and administration. Community members rotated through each question.

Vincent Lyon-Callo arrived at 7:30 p.m.

DEI Director Lara Slee presented information regarding equity considerations as they pertain to the bond incorporating the impact on Cornell students and the impact on all students. Equity considerations included student-centered access, participation, representation, and impact. Dr. Slee also provided research on what an equitable and effective learning environments look like and include.

Board members reported on and discussed the themes and summarized the discussions that took place in their breakout session. Next steps were outlined.

The following individuals addressed the board: Amy Petersburg; Kim Burzych; Mark Burzych, John Lambert; Megan Malkus; Dan Peabody; Eric Juenke; June Hicks; Christena Sinila; Kris Schoen; Winson Peng; Kristen Cetin; Simon Belisle; James Gorman; Thomas Gorman; Ryan Ehardt; Steve Zepf; and Brett DeGroff.

Citizens Address  
Agenda & Non-  
Agenda Items

President Gebara adjourned the special meeting at 11:00 p.m.

Adjourn

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Jayne Taylor, Secretary