

Okemos Board of Education
Okemos, Michigan 48864
REGULAR MEETING MAY 23, 2022

The regular meeting of the Okemos Board of Education was called to order by President Gebara at 7:06 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 Stephen Keskes; Assistant Superintendent Stacy Bailey; DEI Director Lara Slee; and Finance Director Elizabeth Lentz

Superintendent Hood and the Board recognized and expressed appreciation to the 2021-2022 Okemos High School Student Representatives to the School Board. Recognition:
Student Reps

Jason Russell from Secure Education Consultants provided information regarding their approach to supporting high quality school security. SEC specializes in threat assessment, physical safety, training, and policies to enhance safety and security. Assessments will be conducted at each building; looking for improvements that can be implemented. In addition, they will serve as an advisor to the district and will provide a report to the district with recommendations. Security
Assessments

Members inquired about the following: community engagement; timelines; scope of services; determining what's appropriate within a community; reviewing policies and procedures; and funding sources.

Superintendent Hood and the team from TowerPinkster and Christman presented additional information for consideration in regard to a potential November 2022 bond proposal. Mr. Hood reviewed the goals of the presentation and the direction needed from the board. Administration is recommending three new buildings be built – Cornell Elementary, Kinawa and Chippewa Middle School, as well as upgrades to all facilities, fine arts, athletics, security, technology and furniture. Proposed Bond
Recommendation

Mr. Hood also provided an overview of the most recent survey results and explained that while one survey was informal and sent out by the district, another was done by a third-party, Denno Research, which pulled a scientific sample of resident voters. Mr. Hood reviewed the steering committee's approach to their work and the development of their proposal, as well as a reminder of what was included in their scope of work. A financial overview of the base projects was provided as well as the difference in cost depending on where the new Cornell building is located. Future Master Planning, including Okemos Public Montessori at Central, additional athletic improvements, the Senior Center, Early Childhood Center and Wardcliff building was described.

Members discussed the following: cost to retrofit CMS to house elementary students; cost to transport elementary students to CMS; timeframes; cost of short-term solutions; reduction of square footage to Kinawa and CMS to redistribute the cost; students devices; master plan timelines and product; Senior Center location; future uses of Kinawa; student capacity at each elementary building; additional survey data; investment cost depending on location of ECC; four versus five elementary buildings; renovating versus rebuilding; and TowerPinkster and Christman's business arrangement as it pertains to the bond; what do we mean by greenspace; and Okemos Public Montessori.

The following individuals addressed the board regarding the proposed bond: Chris

Potterpin, Dean Kanitz, Rhonda Bueche, Fred Hawley, June Hicks, Sue Hallman, Liz Luyendyk, Simon Belisle, Emily Katz, Chris Silker, Eric Juenke, Emily Waller, Candace Boldrey, Winson Peng, Peter Potterpin, Beth Buiocchi, Dan Peabody, Stephanie Oles, and Mike Krumm.

Student
Representative
Report

High School Student Representative Nupur reported on the following OHS activities: senior activities, graduation, senior yard signs, recent cleanup day, upcoming final exams, and no school on Memorial Day.

Board Reports &
Request

President Gebara acknowledged correspondence from the following: Thomas Hamann, Brian and Janet Markham Winson Peng, Mark Burzych, Kim Burzych, Luna Qi, Simon Belisle, Mary Beth Graebert, June Hicks, Carolyn Sebestyen, Steve Zepf, Laura Belisle, Hui Liu, Erin Kanitz, Holly Higgins, Kristen Cetin, Sarah Waun, Marisa DeGroff, Emily Peabody, Regan Kania, Susan Masten, Jen Harnick, Gracie DeLadurantaye, Kendra Hixson, Breanne Mason, Andrea Tousignant, Lindsey Klug, Julie Taiber, Sinem Mollaoglu, Eric Juenke, Rafael Auras, Michelle Eschelback, Betsy Montgomery, Corinne Dyksen, Christian Houle, Candace Boldrey, Irene Garvale, Christina Carlson, Ed Hartwick, Katie Shahinian, Scott and Judy Wager, Jane Maisch, Shanti Virupannavar, Laura Beard, Carol Hildebrand, Rose Stewart, Kay Biddle, Jamie Bills and Diane Wilson concerning Cornell Elementary; Kim Burchman, John Lambert, Katie Sharp-Simmers, Elizabeth Buiocchi, Amanda and Brad Goll, Vanessa Stephens and Amanda Bussa regarding the proposed 2022 bond; Pauline Ashton regarding a student discipline situation; Jennifer Soria regarding police officer at Kinawa; Sunmee Han concerning racism; Lingling Wu concerning the high school pool; Ruba Alhareeri regarding school start times; Jean Zwier requesting the meeting Zoom link; Donna Lasinski thanking the board for their advocacy efforts; Jane Manfredi supporting Dr. Slee and DEI initiatives; and Christine Batora regarding the Butterfly Garden Ribbon Cutting Ceremony.

Superintendent's
Report

There was no superintendent's report.

Vincent Lyon-Callo reported on communicating with community members who do not have students in the district.

President Gebara reported on a recent Cornell Family Fun Night.

Jayne Taylor reported suggested hiring a communications or PR person for the district.

Consent Agenda

MOVED Andy Phelps, SUPPORTED by Melanie Lynn that board approve item 1 through 6 for immediate implementation and appropriate action.

Item 1: Approval of the minutes of the Regular Meeting of May 9, 2022;

Item 2: Minutes Approval of the minutes of the Executive Session Meeting of May 9, 2022;

Item 3: Minutes Approval of the minutes of the Special Meeting of May 16, 2022;

Item 4: Minutes Approval of the minutes of the Special Meeting of May 17, 2022;

Item 5: Minutes Approval of the minutes of the Executive Session Meeting of May 17, 2022;

Item 6: Acknowledge receipt of the leave of absence report and approve the requested leave of absence for Claire Bellamy, Choir Director at CMS and OHS for the period of August 19th through October 17, 2022; Lindsey Price, 4th Grade Teacher at Cornell Elementary for the period of August 19, 2022 through November 14, 2022.

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

MOVED Mary Gebara, SUPPORTED by Melanie Lynn that board authorize the superintendent to prepare a bond application with the preferred location to replace Cornell Elementary School at the Current site.

Roll Call Vote

Dean Bolton	No	Vincent Lyon-Callo	Yes
Katie Cavanaugh	Yes	Andy Phelps	Yes
Mary Gebara	Yes	Jayne Taylor	No
Melanie Lynn	Yes		

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

MOVED Dean Bolton, SUPPORTED by Katie Cavanaugh that board waive the reading and adopt the resolution authorizing the superintendent to prepare and submit to Treasury a draft Preliminary Qualification Application for review and finalization for a November 2022 bond in the amount not to exceed \$275 million.

2022 Bond Application

Roll Call Vote

Dean Bolton	Yes	Vincent Lyon-Callo	Yes
Katie Cavanaugh	Yes	Andy Phelps	Yes
Mary Gebara	Yes	Jayne Taylor	Yes
Melanie Lynn	Yes		

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

MOVED Dean Bolton, SUPPORTED by Melanie Lynn that board extend the following administrator contracts through June 30, 2024. (Roll Call Vote) Nicole Beard, Principal – Hiawatha Elementary Tempie Brown, Athletic Director – Okemos High School Allison Cironi, Assistant Principal – Okemos High School Jody Noble, Principal- Chippewa Middle School Heather Pricco, Special Education Director-District Andre Ridley, Assistant Principal- Chippewa Middle School Sara Roland, Assistant Principal – Kinawa School Lauren Schefke, Principal – Bennett Woods Elementary Lara Slee, Director of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Steve Stierley, Principal – Kinawa 5-6 Kelly Sundeen, Principal – OPM at Central Elementary

Extend Administrator Contracts

Roll Call Vote

Dean Bolton	Yes	Vincent Lyon-Callo	Yes
Katie Cavanaugh	Yes	Andy Phelps	Yes
Mary Gebara	Yes	Jayne Taylor	Yes
Melanie Lynn	Yes		

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

Member Lyon-Callo Left the meeting at 10:54 p.m.

MOVED Dean Bolton, SUPPORTED by Katie Cavanaugh that board amend the contract of Assistant Superintendent Stacy Bailey and Assistant Superintendent Stephen Keskes to extend their dates of employment through June 30, 2025.

Assistant Superintendent Contracts

Roll Call Vote

Dean Bolton	Yes	Vincent Lyon-Callo	---
Katie Cavanaugh	Yes	Andy Phelps	Yes
Mary Gebara	Yes	Jayne Taylor	Yes
Melanie Lynn	Yes		

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

Discussion items were postponed until the following meeting.

Eric Juenke, Winson Peng and Stephanie Oles addressed the board regarding the proposed bond.

Public Comment

There will be a special meeting on May 31st at 5:00 p.m.

Other Matters

President Gebara adjourned the regular meeting at 11:18 p.m.

Adjourn

Jayne Taylor, Secretary