

**Okemos Board of Education**  
**Okemos, Michigan 48864**  
**REGULAR MEETING JUNE 13, 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 Stephen Keskes; Assistant Superintendent Stacy Bailey; DEI Director Lara Slee; and Finance Director Elizabeth Lentz

Assistant Superintendent Stacy Bailey presented an update on recent assessment data, including past trends, other data points for consideration and what actions may result from the data as a result. Mrs. Bailey first reviewed the Michigan Integrated Continuous Improvement Process (MICIP). Benchmark data is collected using Fastbridge for math, reading and social-emotional learning. Data per grade level and subgroups was shared along with strategies and training to address each goal. Growth opportunity gaps were identified. It was forecasted that system-wide changes to the structures and systems may be necessary and will be comprehensively reviewed in the next year. It was noted that the district can no longer intervene its way out of the growth opportunity gaps. Next steps were outlined including a new benchmark assessment tool, a board work session regarding data and assessments, professional learning, targeted summer and after-school programs. End of Year Assessment Data

Members inquired about the following: growth gaps and trend data; board work session; standardized testing philosophical approach; how the district shares data and tells our story.

No one addressed the board.

Citizens Address  
Agenda & Non-  
Agenda Items

Superintendent Hood reported on the following: Expressed condolences to the friends, family and teachers of Eli Fleetwood; recent BoardBook training and upcoming implementation of the BoardBook platform; congratulated the Haslett Community Robotics Team; invitation to the OHS Orchestra to perform at the Michigan Music Conference; congratulations to Transportation Director Corrinne Karpinski for earning MSBO certification; congratulated all staff for the accomplishment of the 2021-2022 school year; recent building security assessments; initiative to increase communication with community members; upcoming Protect The Pack event; showed pictures of what the new logo will look like on the football fields and basketball courts.

Superintendent's  
Report

President Gebara acknowledged correspondence from the following: Emily Katz, Sinem Mollaoglu, Kristen Cetin, Eric Juenke, Charles Kotz, John and Carol Reilly, Erin Kanitz, Mary Beth Graebert, Carolyn Sebestyen, Candace Boldrey, Emily Peabody, Dan Peabody, Rhonda Bueche, Jennifer Harsch, Barbara and Roger Folland regarding the proposed 2022 bond; Sarah Lehr requesting a board meeting video; Mikayla Temple requesting an interview; Mary Beth Graebert regarding student safety; Christine Batora regarding the Butterfly Garden Ribbon Cutting Ceremony; High School Teachers concerning principal candidates; Melissa Samluk regarding her visit to Oxford High School; Christena Sinila with an invite to a Cornell Elementary Ukraine fundraiser; Steve Vagnozzi regarding school start times; and Cathy Schroeder praising Cornell Elementary staff.

Board Reports &  
Request

Members discussed the following: a letter regarding student safety intended for legislators; advocacy work; upcoming Protect The pack Event; recent Butterfly Garden Ribbon

Cutting Ceremony; recent graduation ceremony; and an OEF update.

MOVED Andy Phelps, SUPPORTED by Melanie Lynn that board approve item 1 through 5 for immediate implementation and appropriate action.

Item 1: Approval of the minutes of the Regular Meeting of May 23, 2022;

Item 2: Approval of the minutes of the Special Meeting of May 31, 2022;

Item 3: Approval of the minutes of the Executive Session Meeting of May 31, 2022;

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

Item 5: Approve the request for a Leave of Absence for Meredith Roe, Speech & Language Pathologist for the 2022-2023 school year; and Sarah Sweeter, Speech & Language Pathologist for the district for the period of September 30, 2022 through January 3, 2023.

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

MOVED Melanie Lynn, SUPPORTED by Andy Phelps that board waive the reading and certify collection of summer tax levy for Okemos Public Schools in the amount specified by the tax levy provided by the Ingham Intermediate School District and negotiation of the fee for collection of the tax levy.

Certify Summer  
Tax

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 Jayme Taylor, SUPPORTED by Melanie Lynn that board approve the employment of Kaitlyn Chen, 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher at Kinawa at Step 6, Division II; of the teacher salary schedule, effective August 18, 2022 in accordance with sections 1230 (2) and 1230 a (2) of the Revised School Code conditioned upon receipt of acceptable criminal history checks and criminal records checks.

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

Finance Director Elizabeth Lentz provided information regarding the development of the 2022-2023 budget including administrative budget priorities, as well as discuss an upcoming 21-22 budget revision.

Director Lentz described revisions to the 2021-2022 budget including state aid grants, special education revenue, mascot-related expenses, Covid relief funding, and utilities. The projected impact to the general fund is a positive \$274,073. The carryforward impact on 22-23 was explained.

2022-2023 proposed budget assumptions were described and include additional staffing, high school textbooks, building substitutes, and childcare stabilization grants. The projected most likely impact to the general fund is a positive \$1,202,531 before impending budget discussions such as negotiations.

The board discussed their ranking and justification for identifying certain priorities. Priorities were segmented into levels based on needs, nice to have and wants. Level one needs included items such as an additional middle school counselor, reduction of athletic fees, a special education coach etc. The board agreed to add all level one items to the 22-23 budget. Level

two items include additional administrative assistant support, additional social workers, an additional special education teacher, increased supply budgets and even further reductions to athletic fees. The board agreed to add all level two items to the 22-23 budget.

Members discussed the following: target budget to use for priorities; one-time expenses; Cornell short-term solution funding; administrative assistant support for the media and tech department; mental health funding available; addressing areas of need through additional social workers, SSA's and special education teachers.

DEI Director Lara Slee provided an update regarding students' preferred (chosen) names in PowerSchool, the equity plan revision process, and mental health initiatives for the 2022-23 school year. Dr. Slee provided an update on current DEI projects including students' preferred name process and procedures, as well as next steps. The status of the equity plan re-write was shared and includes core teams with more student representation, an ongoing annual review with an extensive review every three years. Mental health initiatives were reviewed and include an Enhancing Expanding Emotional Health (E3) grant that was recently awarded to the district. The grant is a partnership with Child and Family Charities to provide a mental health provider for the district. The TRAILS Program, and NME Neurosequential Model for Educators training the trainer program was also described.

DEI Update

Members inquired about the following: how long the E3 grant last; how will the district promote the services; possible liability for the district; learning opportunities for the community; how do community members volunteer for core teams; tangible equity strategies such as school start times and the effect on student well-being.

Assistant Superintendent Stacy Bailey presented information regarding furniture purchases to be funded through the 2019 Technology, Security, Transportation, Capital Outlay, and Facilities bond. The proposal is for furniture replacement for the Library Media Centers at several buildings. Bids will be brought to the board at their next meeting.

Furniture Purchases

Assistant Superintendent Stacy Bailey presented the new textbook recommendations for 2022-2023. It is not assumed that funds will be available in the general fund to purchase textbooks. She also described a new textbook proposal review tool that assesses for bias and diversity among other characteristics. The recommendations include: Lit/Comp 10; English 10; Precalculus; Algebra II; Forensics; Chemistry; Physical Science; AP World History & Geography; Child Development; Principles of Engineering; German III; Begingergarten ELA; and 5-8 Social Studies.

Textbook Proposals

There was no public comment.

Public Comment

The board used a form to indicate their summer availability. There will be a special meeting of the board July 11<sup>th</sup>; additional board meeting and work session dates will be determined at the next meeting.

Other Matters

President Gebara adjourned the regular meeting at 10:44 p.m.

Adjourn