

**Okemos Board of Education
Okemos, Michigan 48864
SPECIAL MEETING JULY 11, 2022**

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7-11-2022

The special meeting of the Okemos Board of Education was called to order by President Gebara at 6:33 p.m.

Call To Order

Members Present: Dean Bolton, Katie Cavanaugh, Mary Gebara, and Andrew Phelps

Members Absent: Melanie Lynn, Vincent Lyon-Callo, and Jayme Taylor

Administrators: Superintendent John Hood; and Finance Director Elizabeth Lentz

MOVED Andy Phelps, SUPPORTED by Katie Cavanaugh that the board adjourn to Executive Session pursuant to Section 8(c) of the Open Meetings Act for the purpose of discussing contract negotiations.

Closed Session

Roll Call Vote

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

AYE: 4 NAY: 0 ABSENT: 3 **MOTION CARRIED**

The board adjourned to executive session at 6:35 p.m.

The board reconvened at 7:29 p.m.

Reconvene

Members Present: Dean Bolton, Katie Cavanaugh, Mary Gebara, and Andrew Phelps

Members Absent: Melanie Lynn, Vincent Lyon-Callo, and Jayme Taylor

Administrators: Superintendent John Hood; and Finance Director Elizabeth Lentz

Attorney Katherine Wolf-Broaddus from Thrun Law provided information regarding Thrun's board policy service. Rather than utilizing Thrun for one-off a la carte policies, the district can subscribe to the policy manual service that will ensure compliance and remain up-to-date and current with changing legislation. The policies can be customized, integrated with the BoardBook platform, proactive, organized and are user-friendly. Attorney Wolf-Broaddus also explained the onboarding process, training, and the policy manual versus administrative guidelines. Next steps were described.

Board Policy
Service

Members inquired about the following: ability to customize to fit Okemos but remain compliant and current; implementation process; update schedule; and the redistribution of cost involved.

Superintendent Hood provided an update on the therapy dog pilot program at OHS. Mr. Hood reviewed feedback collected from students and staff regarding their experiences with CeCe the therapy dog. Costs and possible funding sources, including the donation structure was explained. The eventual plan is for the district to have one dog at each building and two at the high school. Mr. Hood thanked Grewal Law and Delta Dental for their generous donations to cover the first two dogs. It was explained that the program ties back to strategic plan and connects to student mental health initiatives.

Therapy Dog
Program Update

Members inquired about the following: application process to become a handler; fundraising opportunities and expectations.

Citizens Address
Agenda & Non-
Agenda Items

No one addressed the board.

Director Lentz provided an update regarding the program extending summer meals to all families in all districts. Factors such as staff availability and supply were discussed. Area families can currently access meals in Haslett and surrounding areas.

Director Lentz also provided an update regarding the passing of the school state aid budget and its impact on OPS. The budget includes increased foundation allowance, increased special education funding, one-time funding available via an application process for at-risk uses, mental health initiatives, and school safety.

Superintendent Hood reported on the following: school safety and staffing issues; upcoming work session on August 24th at 6:30 p.m. regarding assessment data; upcoming administrative retreat and strategic planning; resolution or policy regarding the selling of school property, specifically the Wardcliff property; and an upcoming PR firm update.

President Gebara acknowledged correspondence from the following: Cindy Meteyer regarding attendance on transcripts.

Board reports &
Request

Member Cavanaugh inquired about coaches, trigger locks provided by the district, and partnering with MSU for social work or counselor interns.

MOVED Andy Phelps, SUPPORTED by Katie Cavanaugh that board approve item 1 through 3 for immediate implementation and appropriate action.

Consent Agenda

Item 1: Minutes of the Executive Session Meeting of June 22, 2022;

Item 2: Minutes of the Regular Meeting of June 27, 2022;

Item 3: Minutes of the Executive Session Meeting of June 27, 2022.

AYE: 4 NAY: 0 ABSENT: 3 **MOTION CARRIED**

MOVED Dean Bolton, SUPPORTED by Andy Phelps that the board establish the dates of regular meetings of the board of education to generally be the second and fourth Monday of each month, adjusted for Mondays with no school; the time of each meeting to begin at 7:00 p.m., with no new discussion after 10:00 p.m.; and the place of meetings to be the Community Conference Room at Central School; and that the board direct administration to publish the date/time/location of these meetings on the district's web site.

Selection of
Regular Meeting
Dates

AYE: 4 NAY: 0 ABSENT: 3 **MOTION CARRIED**

MOVED Katie Cavanaugh, SUPPORTED by Dean Bolton that board designate the superintendent of schools or designee to post all regular or special school board meeting notices for the 2022-2023 school year in accordance with the Open Meetings Act.

Posting Meeting
Notices

AYE: 4 NAY: 0 ABSENT: 3 **MOTION CARRIED**

MOVED Dean Bolton, SUPPORTED by Andy Phelps that board retains Thrun Law Firm, P.C. as legal counsel for the 2022-2023 school year.

Selection of
Legal Counsel

AYE: 4 NAY: 0 ABSENT: 3 **MOTION CARRIED**

MOVED Andy Phelps, SUPPORTED by Katie Cavanaugh that board retain Maner Costerisan P.C. as auditor for the 2022-2023 school year.

Selection of
Auditor

AYE: 4 NAY: 0 ABSENT: 3 **MOTION CARRIED**

7-11-22

Approval of
Depositories

MOVED Dean Bolton, SUPPORTED by Katie Cavanaugh that board designate Michigan School District Liquid Assets Fund Plus, Fifth Third Bank, and PNC Bank as depositories for school funds for the 2022-2023 school year, which includes Accounts Payable, Payroll, Debt Retirement Activity, Food Service, Student/School Activity and Building & Site Sinking Fund.

AYE: 4 NAY: 0 ABSENT: 3 **MOTION CARRIED**

Flexible
Furniture
Purchases

MOVED Andy Phelps, SUPPORTED by Katie Cavanaugh that the board award the purchase of flexible furniture to be funded by the 2019 Technology, Security, Transportation, Capital Outlay and Facilities Bond, up to \$89,834.76 submitted by Demco for the library media centers.

AYE: 4 NAY: 0 ABSENT: 3 **MOTION CARRIED**

Employment -
Certified

MOVED Dean Bolton, SUPPORTED by Katie Cavanaugh that board approve the employment of Bethany Ballard, Phys Ed and Health Teacher at Okemos High School at Step 3, Division II; Ryan Bohen, Phys Ed Teacher at Hiawatha Elementary at Step 1, Division I; Kelly Chase, Music Teacher at Cornell Elementary at Step 8, Division II; Natalie Crandell, Counselor at CMS at Step 2, Division I; Jessica Nieuwkoop, Choir Director for CMS and OHS at Step 9, Division II; and Mary Stuible, Language Arts Teacher at CMS at Step 9, Division III 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: 4 NAY: 0 ABSENT: 3 **MOTION CARRIED**

Employment –
HS Principal

MOVED Andy Phelps, SUPPORTED by Dean Bolton that board employ Mr. Dan Kemsley as Principal at Okemos High School effective July 18, 2022 through June 30, 2024.

Roll Call Vote

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

AYE: 4 NAY: 0 ABSENT: 3 **MOTION CARRIED**

Employment –
Admin

MOVED Dean Bolton, SUPPORTED by Katie Cavanaugh that board employ Mr. Joseph Schmidt as Assistant Principal at Okemos High School effective August 1, 2022 through July 30, 2024 at step 1 of the administrative salary schedule.

Roll Call Vote

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

AYE: 4 NAY: 0 ABSENT: 3 **MOTION CARRIED**

Unused Vacation
Day Payout

MOVED Katie Cavanaugh, SUPPORTED by Andy Phelps that the board authorize the payment of the superintendent's unused vacation days.

AYE: 4 NAY: 0 ABSENT: 3 **MOTION CARRIED**

MOVED by Dean Bolton, SUPPORTED by Katie Cavanaugh that the board waive the reading and adopt the resolution to approve the application of preliminary qualification of bonds for filing with the Michigan Department of Treasury.

Roll Call Vote

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

AYE: 4 NAY: 0 ABSENT: 3 **MOTION CARRIED**

MOVED by Katie Cavanaugh, SUPPORTED by Andy Phelps that the board waive the reading and adopt the resolution to direct the superintendent to authorize the execution of the easements with Consumers Energy for the project at the Mt. Hope & Okemos intersection.

Consumers
Energy Easement

Roll Call Vote

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

AYE: 4 NAY: 0 ABSENT: 3 **MOTION CARRIED**

MOVED by Dean Bolton, SUPPORTED by Katie Cavanaugh that the board waive the reading and adopt the resolution to authorize establishment of certain components of the 2022-2023 school calendar.

2022-2023
Calendar

Roll Call Vote

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

AYE: 4 NAY: 0 ABSENT: 3 **MOTION CARRIED**

There was no public comment.

Public Comment

The board designated Board Representatives to the following organizations for 2022-2023: Policy Committee – remains Members Cavanaugh, Gebara and Phelps; ISOA – remains Member Lynn; and OEF – remains Member Gebara.

Other Matters

A superintendent evaluation check-in meeting was scheduled for August 17th at 6:00 p.m.

A Board Work Session regarding the new assessment tool was scheduled for August 24th at 6:30 p.m.

President Gebara adjourned the special meeting at 8:57 p.m.

Adjourn

Jayne Taylor, Secretary