

Okemos Board of Education
Okemos, Michigan 48864
REGULAR MEETING SEPTEMBER 12, 2022

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9-12-22

The special meeting of the Okemos Board of Education was called to order by President Gebara at 7:00 p.m. Call To Order

Members Present: Katie Cavanaugh, Mary Gebara, Melanie Lynn, Vincent Lyon-Callo, Andrew Phelps and Jayme Taylor

Members Absent: Dean Bolton

Administrators: Superintendent John Hood; Assistant Superintendent Steve Keskes; Assistant Superintendent Stacy Bailey

Okemos High School English Teacher Amy Huntley presented information regarding a student trip proposed for October 2022 to Stratford, Ontario. The trip is a cultural experience for those students enrolled in British Literature. Student Trip

Members discussed the following: similar opportunities available to students not in the British Literature class; new AP course in African American studies.

MOVED Andy Phelps, SUPPORTED by Katie Cavanaugh that the board waive policy 8344.1 requirements and take action to expedite the approval of the student trip. Adequate Information to Proceed

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

Representatives from Okemos Public Montessori and Nokomis Cultural Heritage Center shared highlights from their 2021-22 partnership, which was sponsored by the Okemos Education Foundation. Students in grades 3 and 4 learned about the history and traditions of the Anishinaabe people of the Great Lakes region in Michigan. OPM & Nokomis Center Collaboration

The collaboration was an immersive learning experience with students and strengthened the relationship with the Nokomis Center. There were quarterly presentations with all 3rd and 4th grade students at OPM at which a variety of artifacts were studied, as well as activities including: dispelling stereotypes; Native culture, stories and different world views; Native way of life in the past; and current day connections with the past. The curriculum culminated with a docent day event for the entire building to share what they had learned.

Members discussed the following: expressed gratitude; interested in expanding to other elementary buildings; and language classes offered by Nokomis.

Superintendent Hood provided an update regarding the 2022 Bond and where the community can find information and resources related to that ballot initiative, including a new bond website; informational videos being shared; upcoming community forums on October 5th and 6th, etc. The website gives specific details including projects, costs, timeless, a frequently asked questions page, background information, and history of the proposal process. Mr. Hood also shared the ballot language and discussed a new community listserv for community members who do not have a current student.

Members inquired about the following: building renderings; and clarification of the ballot language. They also commended the quality of the new bond website.

No one addressed the board.

Citizens Address
Agenda & Non-
Agenda Items

Superintendent Hood reported on the following: Juul litigation update; enrollment update including an increase in approximately 100 students; state of Michigan MTSS award; security assessment follow up; Thrun policy service implementation; upcoming pop-up shop for Wolf apparel at OHS; and update on administrative priorities and connection with the strategic plan.

Members inquired about the following: approach to board policies; student reps; and improvement regarding school ground.

Board Reports 7
Requests

President Gebara acknowledged correspondence from the following: Kortney Whitmyer regarding a FOIA request; and Ekam Smith and Russell LaForte regarding teacher negotiations.

Members reported on the following: recent ISOA activities and upcoming legislative breakfast; our board's advocacy efforts and support of teachers; upcoming MASB legislative webinar; board will review a proposed resolution at next meeting; thanked Dr. Kemsley for his engagement; and an upcoming OEF meeting.

MOVED Katie Cavanaugh, SUPPORTED by Andy Phelps that board approve items 1 through 3 for immediate implementation and appropriate action.
Item 1: Minutes of the Special Meeting of August 17, 2022;
Item 2: Minutes of the Executive Session Meeting of August 17, 2022;
Item 3: Minutes of the Special Meeting of August 31, 2022.

Consent Agenda

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

MOVED Katie Cavanaugh, SUPPORTED by Jayme Taylor that board certify the following winter tax rates for collection on behalf of Okemos Public Schools from Meridian Township, Alaiedon Township, and the City of Lansing of 9 mills non-homestead, 3.5 mills debt, and .4925 sinking fund mills; and from Williamstown Township of 18 mills non-homestead, 7 mills debt, and .9850 sinking fund mills.

Certify Taxes

Roll Call Vote

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

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

MOVED Andy Phelps, SUPPORTED by Melanie Lynn that board approve the employment of Becky Krawczyk, School Psychologist for the District at Step 15, Division III of the teacher salary schedule, effective September 26, 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.

Employment –
Certified

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

MOVED Jayme Taylor, SUPPORTED by Katie Cavanaugh that board endorse the OHS English student trip to Stratford, Ontario, scheduled for October 20, 2022 with the understanding the students will abide by all school policies and procedures while abroad.

Student Trip

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

Andy Phelps and Jayme Taylor will serve as delegates at the MASB Delegate Assembly.

Salicia Buyes addressed the board regarding open campus for high school students.

A reminder of the September 28th Superintendent Eval Check-In at 6:00 p.m.

President Gebara adjourned the special meeting at 8:34 p.m.

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MASB Delegates

Public Comment

Other Matters

Adjourn

Jayme Taylor, Secretary