

**Okemos Board of Education**  
**Okemos, Michigan 48864**  
**REGULAR MEETING OCTOBER 3, 2022**

The regular meeting of the Okemos Board of Education was called to order by President Gebara at 7:02 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 Stacy Bailey; Assistant Superintendent Steve Keskes; Director Elizabeth Lentz; Director Lara Slee

OEF Chair Sue Hallman provided an update regarding the Okemos Education Foundation including recent teacher micro grants that were awarded; mission of the OEF; and the Lee Gerard Professional Development grants. In addition to grants, the OEF supports author visits, science fairs, field trips, special projects, and DEI initiatives. The OEF recognizes excellence through the Commitment to Excellence awards. Recipients include Joanna Adams, Stacy Cook, Grace DeLadurantaye, Andy Floyd, Megan Malkus, Christine Skoutelas, Steve Stierley and Sara Roland, and Pam Williams. Special Recognition to Jim Boardway, Jan Nanzer and Doug Warren. The Dean Bolton Volunteer award to Niki Robinson and Carly Patel. Individuals will be honored at the awards banquet on November 17<sup>th</sup>. OEF Update

Director of Finance Elizabeth Lentz and Mr. Steve Piesko, CPA and principal from Maner Costerisan P.C. presented the 2021-2022 draft audit report of the district. Mr. Piesko commended the district's financial management, as well as recognized the lower than state average variance of the projected 2021-2022 budget and the actual budget. Mr. Piesko pointed out several areas of note including debt funds that have been paid off; compliance audit of the food service budget and spend down plans; fund balance; and GASB's regarding leases and online curriculum subscriptions. 2021-2022 Audit Report

Assistant Superintendent Bailey provided an update regarding the learning opportunities utilized during summer of 2022. Programs offered were elementary literacy, virtual tutoring, credit recovery, special education programs, ELL and Kids Read Now. She also described the number of students served, types of programs offered, funding sources, eligibility requirements, growth outcomes, and data points to assess the success of the program. Summer Learning Opportunities

Members discussed the following: community communication; increased enrollment in credit recovery; future funding; elementary after-school tutoring; cost for credit recovery program and eliminating barriers.

No one addressed the board.

Citizens Address  
Agenda & Non-  
Agenda Items

Superintendent Hood reported on the following: upcoming student Count Day; recent and upcoming bond presentations and Community Forums; student representatives to the school board; upcoming security presentation and recent security work; senior activities at OHS; suicide prevention awareness volleyball game; recent homecoming parade and activities; Wolf apparel sales at OHS store; upcoming legislative breakfast; Merit Scholarship reception; and upcoming budget revision process and school funding presentation. Superintendent Report

Assistant Superintendent Keskes provided an update regarding a new wellness committee

and upcoming staff surveys.

Dr. Slee provided an update regarding equity plan work teams, mental health supports, and the new E3 mental health clinic located at the high school.

Assistant Superintendent Bailey forecasted a presentation on benchmark assessments through NWEA.

President Gebara acknowledged correspondence from the following: Jami Canales, Kate Johnson, Jason Vrane and Jenny Carr regarding football; and David Randels regarding the calendar and building e-mail addresses.

Board Reports &  
Requests

Member Taylor reported on an MASB legislative update webinar she attended regarding several bills being proposed pertaining to schools and education topics.

MOVED Andy Phelps, SUPPORTED by Katie Cavanaugh that board approve items 1 through 4 for immediate implementation and appropriate action.

Consent Agenda

Item 1: Minutes of the Special Meeting of August 24, 2022;

Item 2: Minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 12, 2022;

Item 3: Minutes of the Special Meeting of September 28, 2022;

Item 4: Minutes of the Executive Session meeting of September 28, 2022.

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

MOVED Dean Bolton, SUPPORTED by Melanie Lynn that board approve the employment of Morgan Fawcett, Kindergarten Teacher at Bennett Woods Elementary at Step 1, Division I of the teacher salary schedule, effective October 4, 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: 7      NAY: 0      ABSENT: 0      **MOTION CARRIED**

The board discussed a possible resolution opposing the "Let MI Kids Learn" and "Student Opportunity Scholarship" statutory initiatives. If passed these bills would have significant impact to OPS as they allow public funds to be spent on private schools. Minor revisions were proposed, and the board will see this item for action at its next meeting.

Discussion:  
Resolution

No one addressed the board.

Public Comment

Superintendent Hood provided a reminder regarding the At large Community Listserv for district-level communication and encouraged community member to visit the bond website for frequently asked questions.

Other Matters

President Gebara adjourned the special meeting at 9:00 p.m.

Adjourn

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Jayme Taylor, Secretary