

**Okemos Board of Education  
Okemos, Michigan 48864  
REGULAR MEETING OCTOBER 17, 2022**

The regular meeting of the Okemos Board of Education was called to order by President Gebara at 6:30 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

MOVED Dean Bolton, SUPPORTED by Katie Cavanaugh that board adjourn to Executive Session pursuant to Section 8(k) of the Open Meetings Act for the purpose of security planning.

Closed Session:  
Security  
Planning

Roll Call Vote

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

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

The board adjourned to executive session at 6:32 p.m.

The board reconvened at 7:26 p.m.

Reconvene

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

Assistant Superintendent Stacy Bailey, building administrators, and instructional coaches provided an overview of district benchmark assessment results, along with key initiatives that will be utilized to address students' needs during the 2022-2023 school year. Mrs. Bailey reviewed the MCIP approach, MTSS, and the integration with Strategic and Equity Plan goals. Mid-year and end-of-year growth goals were shared in literacy and math. Screener data was reviewed for subgroups which include black or African American, economically disadvantaged and special education.

Presentation:  
Assessment Data

The data is used to inform instruction, as well as develop strategies and supports to close gaps. Examples of 22-23 supports were given and include: Orton Gillingham Training; training in LETRS and FAME; addition of a reading specialist; after school literacy programs; professional development; collaboration with IISD Math Consultant; curriculum resources; book studies; available grants; and OHS Math Labs. Social-emotional health data was also shared, as well as support including CR-PBIS; additional SSAs at elementary buildings; additional counselors; an additional social worker; new special educational coach and LINKS coordinator. Future supports were forecasted including targeted summer learning opportunities.

Members discussed the following: dip that occurs during the 5th and 6th grade level in reading; impact of the additional social workers and support staff; mySAEBRS data and possible other screener for social-emotional and mental health; how the time of day

impacts how well students do; and when families can expect the NWEA results for their student.

Finance Director Elizabeth Lentz provided an overview of public school funding in Michigan. A brief description regarding the following was given: school operating funds and funding sources for day-to-day expenses such as supplies, athletics, staffing, and legal fees; Proposal A which shifted operating funds from the community level to the State level; State levied property taxes and sales tax revenue; and earmarking funds for specific populations of students. Director Lentz explained how the student foundation allowance is raised, and the impact of non-homestead taxes. Building and facilities are funded at the local level (local control) via millage request, bonds, sinking and funds. The community was reminded that the district cannot pay for operational needs such as maintenance and staffing with these funding sources.

Presentation:  
School Funding

Members inquired about the following: how much foundation allowance OPS receives; community foundations; federal funding; equity in State funding; and property taxes.

High School Student Representatives reported on the following: homecoming royalty and recent homecoming activities; senior activities; additional seating in the high school cafeteria, and additional vegetarian options; fall parent-teacher conferences; athletics update; more club opportunities; early release days; No school October 21-24; upcoming Thanksgiving recess; upcoming AP exam registration deadline; and general feelings as they pertain to the start of the school year.

HS Student  
Report

No one addressed the board.

Citizens Address  
Agenda & Non-  
Agenda Items

Superintendent Hood reported on the following: upcoming senior night at Thursday's JV football game; recent Pack the Stands band event; administration and OEA restorative and upcoming calendar meetings; thanked Rabbi Bigman regarding correspondence; student enrollment update including an increase in approximately 150 students; recent security and safety assessment updates; and a bond update and recent informational meetings.

Superintendent  
Report

Assistant Superintendent Keskes reported on the following: 29 clubs being offered at OHS and splitting stipends evenly among staff.

President Gebara acknowledged correspondence from the following: Ignacio Acevedo regarding start times; Manoj Zutshi regarding gun detection technology; and Ashley Zhou regarding attending the board meeting.

Board Reports &  
Requests

Board Members reported on the following: upcoming MASB Annual Conference; recent parent council meeting; recent ISOA meeting; upcoming OEF banquet; and recent Thrun Policy training.

MOVED Andy Phelps, SUPPORTED by Melanie Lynn that board approve items 1 and 2 for immediate implementation and appropriate action.

Consent Agenda

Item 1: Minutes of the Regular Meeting of October 3, 2022

Item 2: Acknowledge receipt of the September financial statement and approve payment of bills for September.

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

MOVED Melanie Lynn, SUPPORTED by Katie Cavanaugh that board accept the audit report of Maner & Costerisan P.C. for the 2021-2022 school year.

Acceptance of  
Audit Report

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

Superintendent Hood and Director Lentz discussed the rationale to move forward with an Owner's Representative to assist with bond implementation should the voters approve the 2022 Bond proposal. An explanation of what an owner's rep does was provided. An owner's rep helps manage the bond should it be approved, works with the district's architect and construction managers, maximizes value and ultimately saves the district money by most efficiently and effectively using the bond funds. The district is deciding to utilize an owners rep for this particular bond due to its size, scope and the resources it would require of administrators and directors. The owner's rep can be paid for with bond funds. Timelines were also provided.

Discussion:  
Owners Rep

Members inquired about the following: what kind of companies and individuals would receive the RFP and do this work; difference between construction manager and owners rep; and change orders.

No one addressed the board.

Public Comment

There were no other matters.

Other Matters

President Gebara adjourned the regular meeting at 9:37 p.m.

Adjourn

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Jayne Taylor, Secretary