

**Okemos Board of Education**  
**Okemos, Michigan 48864**  
**REGULAR MEETING NOVEMBER 14, 2022**

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The regular meeting of the Okemos Board of Education was called to order by President Gebara at 7:00 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 Dr. Lara Slee

DEI Director Lara Slee, as well as Dr. Calabrese from Child & Family Charities, presented information regarding the district's new mental health initiative which places a mental health provider and office at the High School. Who the provider can see, types of services offered, types of consent, parent involvement and funding sources were reviewed. E3 Mental Health Initiative

Members inquired about the following: initiating the process; advertising services, referral forms, waitlist management, other districts in the area with an E3 program, funding sources for program longevity; triaging and prioritizing student needs; and participation via referral versus initiated by the student.

High School Principal Dan Kemsley and Counselor Hedlun Walton presented a recommendation regarding the high school's graduation date. In June of 2014, the board voted to set the date of graduation as the Sunday following Memorial Day. A change in the graduation date would require board action. Dr. Kemsley and Mr. Walton reviewed the district's current practices pertaining to seniors' last days of school and the graduation ceremony and proposed a flexible model for determining the date. They presented the rationale for moving the date including the AP Testing schedule, allowing for senior planning and activities, and the difference between participating in commencement and graduating from high school. Administration is proposing that the model be flexible and commencement would never be held on Memorial Days. Mr. Kemsley noted that the model was presented to a sample of seniors who supported the change. Graduation Date Proposal

Members discussed the following: MSU Auditorium as location; why did we establish that model back in 2014; seniors who did not graduate on time; graduation alliance student receiving an Okemos diploma; and flexibility for extenuating circumstances.

High School Representatives Bryce and Xavier reported on the following: recent survey regarding additional lunch options; athletics update; upcoming mid-terms; student opinion regarding backpack policy; Freshman Connect program; upcoming counselor meetings; and recent drama performance. Student Report

Orchestra Directors Justin Valla and Megan Anderson presented information regarding the purchase of orchestra instruments to be funded through the 2019 bond including the bid process and rationale. They also explained why they are selecting Marshall Music as the supplier, as well as that most instruments would be for CMS. Instrument Purchases

Member Lynn inquired about the process for selecting instruments versus others, as well as longevity of an instrument.

DEI Director Lara Slee provided an equity update including: differentiated professional learning; YPAR projects at Kinawa Montessori; Prism Clubs K-12; targeted math support; E3 mental health initiative, academic after school support; acquisition instruction model in world language; and equity team member recruitment.

Team members representing each of the Equity Plan's Areas of focus presented examples of their work and action steps. A variety of examples were given including: recent meetings, DEI activities, communication, restorative practices and training, celebrating student identities, successes and opportunities, lesson development, indicators of success, expanding the incident reporting process and options, and refining the hiring practices.

Members discussed the following: updating the website to communicate this work; restorative practices work; equity integration with instruction and curriculum; DEI work to address learning and learning loss.

No one addressed the board.

Superintendent Hood reported on the following: expressed gratitude for the passage of the bond; provided a bond update; board member election; recent calendar development meeting; start times survey development; road and parking lot construction at Central and Admin building; electrical upgrade update; transportation update; security and safety assessment update; upcoming name change policy; new legislation requiring the posting or parental rights and involvement in their student's education.

Assistant Superintendent Bailey provided an update regarding the return of Jill Dehlin as the PHASE coordinator and training of new coordinator.

President Gebara acknowledged correspondence from the following: Ray and Pat Hammerschmidt, Ken Denau and Carolyn Sebestyen regarding the bond proposal; Michael McKenzie concerning school closings; Kathryn Haroney with the ACLU's letter on banning books; Victoria Jordan and Awab Ahmed concerning student matters.

Members reported on the following: passage of the bond; MASB Annual Conference and delay of proposed resolution; recent ISOA meeting; and upcoming OEF Banquet.

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

Item 1: Minutes of the Regular Meeting of October 17, 2022;

Item 2: Minutes of the Executive Session Meeting of October 17, 2022;

Item 3: Minutes of the Special Meeting of October 27, 2022;

Item 4: Acknowledge receipt of the leave of absence report and approve the requested leave of absence for Brittney Hall, Librarian at OHS for the period of December 5, 2022 through January 30, 2023;

Item 5: That the board acknowledge receipt of the October financial statement and approve payment of bills for October.

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

Finance Director Elizabeth Lentz presented information regarding the purchase of new interactive monitors to be funded through the 2019 bond including the bid process and rationale.

Citizens Address  
Agenda & Non-  
Agenda Items

Superintendent  
Report

Board Reports &  
Requests

Consent Agenda

Technology  
Purchases

No one addressed the board.

A reminder of the Superintendent Evaluation after the regular business of November 28th Meeting. The meeting will begin at 6:00 p.m.

Other Maters

President Gebara adjourned the regular meeting at 9:19 p.m.

Adjourn

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Jayne Taylor, Secretary