

Okemos Board of Education
Okemos, Michigan 48864
REGULAR MEETING JANUARY 9, 2023

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The regular meeting of the Okemos Board of Education was called to order by President Gebara at 6:27 p.m. Call To Order

Members Present: Tom Buffett, Katie Cavanaugh, Shulawn Doxie, Mary Gebara, Melanie Lynn, Andrew Phelps and Jayme Taylor

Administrators: Superintendent John Hood; Assistant Superintendent Stacy Bailey; Assistant Superintendent Steve Keskes; Director Elizabeth Lentz; Director Dr. Lara Slee

The organizational meeting was called to order at 6:29 p.m. Organizational Meeting

Mary Gebara appointed Superintendent John Hood as temporary chair.

Superintendent Hood appointed Rhianna Walworth as temporary secretary.

Tom Buffett, Shulawn Doxie and Mary Gebara were seated to a four-year term of office January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2026. Notary Rhianna Walworth administered the Oath of Office.

The board entered into a work session for the purpose of discussing board officer positions, as well as future preparation for organizational meetings of the board and potential ideas to memorialize the practice. Superintendent Hood reviewed norms to guide the discussion. Members discussed the following: best practice pertaining to board organization; guidelines to inform who would be a board officer; possible work session in December to proactively discuss officer positions; having a protocol versus a board policy to memorialize the process; considering board member goals and experiences; additional opportunities for member check-ins; public perception of roles; and progression of positions. Next steps were identified. Work Session:
Officer Positions

The board determined to utilize Robert's Rules of Order for conducting the organizational meeting. Robert's Rules

Melanie Lynn nominated Mary Gebara as President. No other nominations were made; nominations were closed. The board voted for Mary Gebara as President. Ms. Gebara assumed the chair. Election of President

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

Mary Gebara nominated Andy Phelps as Vice President. No other nominations were made; nominations were closed. The board voted for Andy Phelps as Vice President. Election of Vice President

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

Katie Cavanaugh nominated Jayme Taylor as Secretary. No other nominations were made; nominations were closed. The board voted for Jayme Taylor as Secretary. Election of Secretary

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

Jayme Taylor nominated Katie Cavanaugh as Treasurer. No other nominations were made; nominations were closed. The board voted for Katie Cavanaugh as Treasurer.

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

President Gebara appointed Member Tom Buffett as parliamentarian.

Appoint Parliamentarian

MOVED by Andy Phelps, SUPPORTED by Melanie Lynn that the board confirm the dates for regular meetings of the board of education for the remainder of the 2022-2023 school year 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.

Confirm Meeting Dates

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

MOVED by Jayme Taylor, SUPPORTED by Shulawn Doxie that the board continue to manage board meetings according to its established policies, which are informed by Robert's Rules of Order.

Robert's Rules of Order

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

Members Phelps, Doxie and Cavanaugh will serve as the policy committee.

Policy Committee

Member Taylor will serve as the representative to the Ingham School Officer's Association.

ISOA Rep

Members Buffett and Gebara will be the representative to the Okemos Education Foundation.

OEF rep

The board completed the organizational meeting at 7:19 p.m.

Citizens Address
Agenda & Non-
Agenda Items

No one addressed the board.

High School Student Representative reported on the following: upcoming Spaghetti Dinner fundraiser for the band, orchestra and choir programs; recent winter break; recent fine arts performance assembly for the school; upcoming mid-term exams; athletic update; upcoming diversity assembly on February 3rd; and the upcoming Okemos' Got Talent Show.

Student Report

Superintendent Hood reported on the following: welcomed new board members Buffett and Doxie; January is school board appreciation month; facility updates and recent projects; implementation of a new electronic timecard system; Covid and now flu testing is available; recent new board member orientation; cyber security and phishing testing; additional GSRP preschool classroom opportunity; AEDs and training; upcoming Philharmonic Concert Band performance at the Devos Performing Hall.

Superintendent Report

Assistant Superintendent Keskes provided a wellness challenge update.

Member Phelps inquired about the GSRP program; and Member Lynn expressed gratitude for the drawings from Cornell Elementary 4th graders.

President Gebara acknowledged receipt of correspondence from the following: Falak Shanta regarding a student incident; Steve Zimmerman concerning school support dogs; Joan

Board Reports & Request

Wierzba suggesting a letter to Meridian Township regarding marijuana dispensaries; Todd Heywood requesting a comment for a story for City Pulse; Rob Lisk regarding incident at OHS; and Krystal Nurse requesting comment for a story for the LSJ.

Andy Phelps expressed gratitude to the Okemos community as it pertains to the Knob Hill apartment fire; and Jayme Taylor suggested formalizing the advocacy committee and its representatives.

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

Consent Agenda

Item 1: Approval of the minutes of the Regular Meeting of December 12, 2022;

Item 2: Approval of the minutes of the Executive Session Meeting of December 12, 2022;

Item 3: Acknowledge receipt of the December financial statement and approve payment of bills for November.

Item 4: Acknowledge receipt of the leave of absence report and approve the leave of absence for Kelly Bertilrud, 3rd and 4th Grade Teacher at Central Montessori for the period of January 12th through June 9, 2023.

AYE: 7 NAY: 0 ABSENT: 0 MOTION CARRIED

MOVED by Melanie Lynn, SUPPORTED by Andy Phelps that the board award the purchase of flexible furniture for the CMS Art Room, not to exceed \$76,980.92 to Demco; and the purchase of furniture for OHS, not to exceed \$111,051.71 to Demco to be funded through the Facilities/Technology/Security/Transportation and Capital Outlay Bond.

Flexible
Furniture
Purchases

Roll Call Vote

Tom Buffett	Yes	Mary Gebara	Yes
Katie Cavanaugh	Yes	Andy Phelps	Yes
Shulawn Doxie	Yes	Jayne Taylor	Yes
Melanie Lynn	Yes		

AYE: 7 NAY: 0 ABSENT: 0 MOTION CARRIED

MOVED by Andy Phelps, SUPPORTED by Melanie Lynn that the board waive the reading and adopt the resolution to participate in the MSBO Bus Purchase Program and award the purchase of four (4) school buses not to exceed \$498,936 to the Holland Bus Company to be funded by the 2019 bond.

Bus Purchase

Roll Call Vote

Tom Buffett	Yes	Mary Gebara	Yes
Katie Cavanaugh	Yes	Andy Phelps	Yes
Shulawn Doxie	Yes	Jayne Taylor	Yes
Melanie Lynn	Yes		

AYE: 7 NAY: 0 ABSENT: 0 MOTION CARRIED

MOVED by Jayme Taylor, SUPPORTED by Andy Phelps that the board waive the reading and adopt first reading of board policy 5106 Student Gender Identity.

Board Policy:
First Reading

AYE: 7 NAY: 0 ABSENT: 0 MOTION CARRIED

The board discussed the following high school course proposals, which have been approved by the district's advisory committee: *Meteorology* (science elective); *L.I.F.E. Logic*, *Investing*, *Financial Literacy and Engineering* (elective); and *AP Environmental Science*

New Course
Proposals

(science elective). The board will vote at its next meeting on January 23rd.

No one addressed the board.

Public Comment

Member Lynn inquired as to the status of the Thrun policy conversion.

Other Matters

There will be a work session on January 25th at 6:00 p.m. for the purpose of the superintendent evaluation and goal setting.

Gratitude was expressed to the OEA and calendar committee for the work towards the 23-24 calendar development.

MOVED by Tom Buffett, SUPPORTED by Melanie Lynn that the board adjourn to Executive Session pursuant to Section 8(a) of the Open Meetings Act for the purpose of discussing contract negotiations.

Executive Session

Roll Call Vote

Tom Buffett	Yes	Mary Gebara	Yes
Katie Cavanaugh	Yes	Andy Phelps	Yes
Shulawn Doxie	Yes	Jayme Taylor	Yes
Melanie Lynn	Yes		

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

The board adjourned to executive session at 8:21 p.m.

The board reconvened at 8:53 p.m.

Reconvene

Members Present: Tom Buffett, Katie Cavanaugh, Shulawn Doxie, Mary Gebara, Melanie Lynn, Andrew Phelps and Jayme Taylor

Administrators: Superintendent John Hood; and Assistant Superintendent Steve Keskes

President Gebara adjourned the regular meeting at 8:53 p.m.

Adjourn

Jayme Taylor, Secretary