

**Okemos Board of Education
Okemos, Michigan 48864
REGULAR MEETING FEBRUARY 13, 2023**

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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: 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

Superintendent Hood, along with Chief Plaga and Sherriff Wigglesworth provided information regarding the incidents impacting the district the week of February 6th including: a review of incidents at Cornell and OHS; key points of the response; and decision making. Gratitude was expressed to first responders, law enforcement, staff, and community partners. Mr. Hood also described current proactive measures and the district's approach as it pertains to safety and security. Safety and security experts Jason Russell and Dr. Margaret Coggins have been hired by the district to consult, as well as be involved in the design and planning of new buildings and renovations that are a part of the bond. Additional measures were explained as they relate to supporting the whole student from a social emotional lens. Opportunities for learning and improving policies and procedures as well as sharing that learning with other districts and ISDs were shared. A tentative process for obtaining feedback, upcoming professional development with staff, timelines, and ways the community can support the safety and security efforts were discussed.

District Incidents

Finance Director Elizabeth Lentz provided background information regarding the Delegation of Authority inspection requirements. The board is being asked to complete the annual application designating a local inspector, Meridian Township to be the primary inspector for upcoming bond projects, building and renovations. Next steps were described including the Meridian Township board will also need to take action.

Inspection
Requirements

MOVED by Andy Phelps, SUPPORTED by Katie Cavanaugh that the board waive policy 8344.1 requirements and take action on the Delegation of Authority documentation.

Adequate Informat
Proceed

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

Representative Julie Brixie addressed the board regarding the school safety task force, proposed legislation and proposed state budgets that include funding for school safety; Margaret Cook and George Poletes addressed the board regarding proposed board policy 5106.

Citizens Address
Agenda & Non-
Agenda Items

High School Student Representative reported on the following: upcoming activities the week of Valentine's Day; recent Diversity Assembly; February 7th swatting incident; athletic update; upcoming winter formal dance; upcoming spaghetti dinner fundraiser; Touch of Class fundraiser; and recent 7th grade camp.

Student Report

Superintendent Hood reported on the following: school of choice enrollment updated in the board yellow sheets; Juul litigation update; working out of each building; OHS language arts department; Meridian Township taskforce regarding the Meridian Senior Center; process to review the school resource officer position; and expressed gratitude to the central office team.

Superintendent's
Report

Members inquired about the following: timelines as they pertain to the SRO position, buildings the position will serve, and community engagement.

President Gebara acknowledged receipt of correspondence from the following: George Nagle with an invitation to an innovation event; Jill Van Hof regarding mental health support offerings and board policy; Rachel Fulton requesting a comment for her news story; Margaret Cook regarding board policies under review; Arumugam Palani requesting the testing out schedule; Candace Boldrey; Terry Lorenzen, and Jennifer Soria regarding the incident at OHS.

Members reported on the following: advocacy committee update; recent ISOA meeting; opportunity for learning from last week's events; and expressed thanks to those who offered support or assistance.

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

Consent Agenda

Item 1: Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of January 23, 2023;

Item 2: Approval of the Minutes of the Special Meeting of January 24, 2023;

Item 3: Approval of the Minutes of the Executive Session Meeting of January 24, 2023;

Item 4: Acknowledge receipt of the January financial statement and approve payment of bills for January;

Item 5: Acknowledge receipt of the leave of absence report and approve the requested leave of absence for Erika Parsons, 4th Grade Teacher at Hiawatha for the period of April 17, 2023 through June 9, 2023

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

MOVED by Shulawn Doxie, SUPPORTED by Melanie Lynn that the board approve the following recommended number of PPK-8 Public Montessori school-of-choice openings for potential enrollment: Kindergarten-2 openings; Grades 1 and 2- 0 openings; Grades 3 and 4- 1 opening; Grades 5 and 6 - 10 openings; and Grades 7 and 8 - 10 openings.

Montessori
School of Choice

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

MOVED by Tom Buffett, SUPPORTED by Katie Cavanaugh that the board approve the amended 2022-2023 budget.

2022-2023
Amended Budget

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**

MOVED by Jayme Taylor, SUPPORTED by Shulawn Doxie that the board approve the delegation of school plan review and inspections to Meridian Charter Township.

Delegation of
Authority

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

MOVED by Tom Buffett, SUPPORTED by Katie Cavanaugh that the board waive the reading and adopt the resolution to accept the bid by BOK Financial Securities, Inc.; and appoints the Huntington National Bank as the Paying Agent-Bond Registrar.

Bond Bid
Resolution

Roll Call Vote

Tom Buffett Yes
Katie Cavanaugh Yes
Shulawn Doxie Yes
Melanie Lynn Yes

Mary Gebara Yes
Andy Phelps Yes
Jayme Taylor Yes

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

Finance Director Elizabeth Lentz provided information regarding the development of the 2023-2024 budget, including preliminary assumptions. Proposed development timelines including another revision to the 22-23 budget were shared. Director Lentz reviewed the governor's proposed budget which includes increased funding for at risk and special education students, an increase to foundation allowance, universal free student lunches, and other grants related to student support services.

2023-2024
Budget
Development

Members suggested a budget priority work session for the board in the spring.

No one addressed the board.

Public Comment

Member Lynn explained the board policy review process and community engagement.

Other Matters

Member Taylor inquired about security staffing at other districts.

President Gebara adjourned the regular meeting at 8:46 p.m.

Adjourn

Jayme Taylor, Secretary