

Okemos Board of Education
Okemos, Michigan 48864
REGULAR MEETING MARCH 13, 2023

PAGE 8994
3-13-2023

The regular meeting of the Okemos Board of Education was called to order by President Gebara at 7:01 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; Director Elizabeth Lentz

Attorney William Shinoff from Frantz Law Group provided an update and timelines regarding the Juul litigation the district is participating in, including: the settlement, bankruptcy protection, and the formula to determine how much each district will receive. OPS is expected to receive approximately \$73129 in unrestricted funds, before attorney fees to be paid over 4 years. Juul Litigation

Members inquired about the following: is the Altria case impacted by the Juul settlement; settlement amount; attorney's fees of 35%; no out of pocket cost for the district have incurred; Thrun's recommendation; and uses for the funds.

Representatives from Veridas, TowerPinkster and Christman provided an update regarding the 2022 bond including first scope, clarification of roles, and forecasting of projects. The organizational chart with OPS, owner's rep Veridas, architect TowerPinkster and construction manager Christman was reviewed. The roles and responsibilities of the board was also reviewed. The bond program's proposed timeline and phases, as well as the role of Veridas as it pertains to district support and contract development were considered. A review of community and stakeholder engagement was provided. Current projects including secure vestibules, pressing needs and athletic needs; as well as design development of the new Kinawa and Chippewa buildings were discussed, along with the accompanying proposed project schedules. The community impact during construction phases was reviewed. The next community and board update will be on April 10th. 2022 Bond Update

Members discussed the following: website update; gratitude for the stakeholder engagement; regular updates regarding timelines; continued community engagement; Kinawa and CMS design; where Wardcliff falls in the planning; addressing Cornell's pressing needs; and disruption to Central families during construction.

High school representatives reported on the following: upcoming Touch of Class fundraiser and recent Spaghetti Dinner fundraiser; bottle drive for the Okemos Outreach program; upcoming spring break and parent-teacher conferences; commencement at the Breslin Center; scheduling process for next year; general feeling at the high school after the events of February; student and community input being sought regarding the proposed SRO position; and a spring sports update. High School Student Report

Okemos High School French teacher Melissa Samluk presented for board discussion, information regarding a student trip to France. The cultural and language experience is proposed for June 24th through July 3, 2024. Scholarships and fundraising opportunities are available. Student Trip

No one addresses the board. Citizens Address Agenda & Non-Agenda Items

Superintendent Hood reported on the following: posted Director of Human Resources position; upcoming start times presentation; upcoming discipline data presentation; OEF golf outing fundraiser; negotiations process is underway; recent Spaghetti Dinner fundraiser; and the SRO position feedback and input opportunities.

Members discussed the following: post the SRO information on the web and in school newsletters; SRO funding source; and the success of the spaghetti dinner.

Board Reports &
Request

President Gebara acknowledged receipt of correspondence from the following: Vincent Lyon-Callo concerning the proposed SRO position; and Bryan Spratt regarding proposed board policy.

Members reported on the following: Advocacy committee update; community safety event in collaboration with Meridian Township; recent ISOA meeting; senior center update.

MOVED by Andy Phelps, SUPPORTED by Katie Cavanaugh that the board approve items 1 through 3 for immediate implementation and appropriate action.

Consent Agenda

Item 1: Approval of the minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 27, 2023:

Item 2: Acknowledge receipt of the February financial statement and approve payment of bills for February;

Item 3: Acknowledge receipt of the Leave of Absence Report and approve the requested leave of absence for Elizabeth Steinmeier, PE Teacher at Central Elementary for the period of May 29th through September 11, 2023; Jennifer Eddy, Gifted & Talented Coordinator for the period of March 15 through April 26, 2023; and approve the request for a Leave of Absence for Kate Quinn, 5th Grade Teacher at Kinawa for the 2023-2024 school year.

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

MOVED by Katie Cavanaugh, SUPPORTED by Melanie Lynn that the board approve the increased cost of \$18606.03 for flexible furniture for the Art Rooms and Counseling Department.

Flexible
Furniture
Updated Cost

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

The board approved first reading of policy 5106 Gender Identity at its January 9th meeting and the policy was placed on the website for community feedback. The board received revisions at its February 27th meeting. The board reviewed an updated policy. Dr. Slee presented clarifying information in response to questions asked by board members and community members. The board agreed to return the policy to committee for additional revisions.

Board Policy

Members discussed the following: where name changes can be made; legal protection or liability; definition and intent of the use of the word disclosure; scope of counseling and removing any barriers to learning not just gender identity; wording that adds flexibility; parent/guardian versus caregivers; gender identity versus preferred pronouns; referral to anti-discrimination policy; and additional language for consistency.

Finance Director Elizabeth Lentz provided information regarding the development of the 2023-2024 budget including preliminary assumptions. Assumptions included increased foundation allowance and increased enrollment. Non-structural items from 22-23 were also accounted for. Outstanding items and impending discussions were reviewed.

2023-2024
Budget
Development

No one addressed the board.

There were no other matters.

President Gebara adjourned the regular meeting at 10:06 p.m.

Other Matters

Adjourn

Jayne Taylor, Secretary