

Okemos Board of Education
Okemos, Michigan 48864
REGULAR MEETING JANUARY 23, 2023

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

The board recognized the following employees who have attained 24 years of service: **Jora Brummette**, Science Teacher at Chippewa Middle School; **Julie Clarizio**, Social Worker at CMS; **Denise Facione**, Science Teacher at Okemos High School; **Michelle Filipiak**, Math Teacher at CMS; **Katy Gilchrist**, Special Education Teacher at OHS; **Jennifer Holcomb**, 5th Grade Teacher at Kinawa; **Leah Kelly**, 3rd Grade Teacher at Hiawatha Elementary; **Keith Miller**, Special Education Teacher at OHS; **Melissa Samluk**, World Language Teacher at OHS; **Christena Sinila**, 4th Grade Teacher at Cornell Elementary; and **Jason Saros**, Math Teacher at OHS. 24 Years of Service Recognition

Representatives from Veridas, the district's Owners Rep provided an overview of services provided to the district including acting as a construction, design and architecture liaison, keeping projects on time and on budget, and helping to get the most out of the community's investment. Owners Rep Update

Veridas reviewed their values, introduced staff, and reported on current and prior projects. They described progress and work to date, contract protection they provide, as well as communication assistance.

Members inquired about the following: decision making responsibilities; managing construction cost; and timelines.

High School Teacher and Support Dog Program Coordinator Melissa Samluk presented an update on the implementation of the program including introducing pack members and their handlers; website and social media communication; thanked sponsors and donors; recent committee meetings and outreach activities; proposed implementation schedule; and trading cards. Support Dog Program Update

Members inquired about the procedures for handling allergies.

No one addressed board.

Citizens Address
Agenda & Non-
Agenda Items

High School Student Representative reported on the following: recent mid-term exams; 23-24 calendar; new google form for indicating absences; upcoming early release day; AP course applications; Winter Formal Dance on February 25th; Diversity Assemble on February 3rd; upcoming Okemos' Got Talent show; Spaghetti inner Fundraiser in March; start of semester 2. Student Report

Superintendent Hood reported on the following: recent Philharmonic Orchestra performance at DeVos Center; board appreciation month; HRA grant extension for nurse health team; possible school resource officer grant award and process; upcoming bond update including secure vestibules; upcoming negotiations and 23-24 calendar; club Superintendent's Report

donation to fully fund advisor stipends; district's credit rating upgraded; and upcoming policy committee meeting.

Board Reports &
Request

Members discussed the following: bond planning calendar; SRO grant timelines and process.

President Gebara acknowledged receipt of correspondence from the following: Chris Cannell regarding a student incident at Cornell; Hyejin Yoon regarding enrollment; and Steve Smith concerning a student incident at Hiawatha.

Members reported on the following: telling our story more and better; recent parent council meeting; recent OEF meeting and upcoming first annual golf outing.

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

Consent Agenda

Item 1: Approval of the minutes of the Regular Meeting of January 9, 2023;

Item 2: Approval of the Minutes of the Executive Session Meeting of January 9, 2023.

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

MOVED by Katie Cavanaugh, SUPPORTED by Melanie Lynn that the board approve the following new high school courses to be offered beginning the 2023-2024 school year: *Meteorology* (science elective); *L.I.F.E. Logic, Investing, Financial Literacy and Engineering* (elective); and *AP Environmental Science* (science elective).

Course Proposals

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

MOVED by Jayme Taylor, SUPPORTED by Melanie Lynn that the board approve the employment of Suzie Ziel, Instructional Technology Coach for the District, at Step 9, Division II of the teacher salary schedule, effective February 6, 2023 in accordance with sections 1230 (2) and 1230 a (2) of the Revised School Code conditioned upon receipt of acceptable criminal history checks and criminal records checks.

Employment –
Certified

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

The board discussed potential School of Choice openings to be advertised February 19th for the Pre-K through 8th grade Montessori program. The numbers being proposed will reflect available seats while maintaining the district's ability to accommodate resident students. The number of available spots is as follows: PPK-K – 1 spot; 1st and 2nd grade – 1 spot; 3rd and 4th grade – 2 spots; 5th and 6th grade – 10 spots; and 7th and 8th grades – 10 spots.

Montessori
School of Choice

Superintendent Hood also explained the controlled growth model and accessibility to residents versus school of choice students.

Finance Director Elizabeth Lentz presented the proposed revisions to the 2022-2023 budget for board discussion. Proposed revisions included increased enrollment, increase in student foundation allowance, and special education reimbursements. Adjustments were made due to mental health providers, grant revenues, and staffing. The proposed revisions result in a projected increase of \$1,596,016. The board will consider adopting a revised budget during their February 13th meeting.

2022-2023
Budget
Revisions

Members inquired about the following: athletic cost, increased enrollment; Montessori budget versus traditional; negotiations; and trigger language.

The board continued its discussion regarding future organizational meetings including an upcoming MASB work session on February 9th at 6:00 p.m.

No one addressed the board.

Public Comment

Mary Gebara, Andy Phelps and Jayme Taylor will serve on the negotiations team.

Other Matters

Member Lynn suggested a schedule for including each board member on the negotiations team in upcoming years.

The superintendent evaluation meeting has been rescheduled for February 6th at 6:00 p.m.

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

Adjourn

Jayme Taylor, Secretary