

Okemos Board of Education
Okemos, Michigan 48864
REGULAR MEETING APRIL 10, 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; Director Elizabeth Lentz; Director Lara Slee

MSU Assistant Professor Dr. Hanne Hoffman presented an overview of sleep research, and Superintendent Hood shared the results of the start times survey with the board and community.

Sleep & Start Times

Dr. Hoffman reviewed the following as it pertains to sleep: amount of sleep required by teenagers to be well rested and maximize learning; consequences of sustained sleep deprivation; physiological processes that occur while sleeping; importance of later school start times; benefits of additional sleep such as higher attendance, less depression, less violent behavior, better recall of material learned etc.; what research recommends; pros and cons to delaying start times such logistical, financial, athletics, and engagement with learning; and legislative advocacy to make a change state-wide.

Members inquired about the following: student mental health and related cost; what is included in the financial impact; how far along in the legislative advocacy process; how other district's implemented a change; studies regarding which subjects should be taught earlier in the day; banking sleep to recover; research to support a decrease in aggressive behaviors in well-rested students; what is considered middle school age; what is the research on elementary-age students; impact on subgroups; flip flop schedule versus delay everyone.

Superintendent Hood reviewed the tentative process, timelines, board homework, outstanding questions and data to collect, and upcoming discussions.

Representatives from Veridus, TowerPinkster and Christman provided an update regarding the 2022 bond and summer projects including secure vestibules, pressing needs at Central Montessori and high school athletic improvements. Design renderings were shared.

Bond Update

Community engagement and the next steps in the bid process were also explained.

Members discussed the following: artificial turf; bidding process; communication; communication with families; and Owner's Rep Veridus' role.

Operations Director Mark Fargo provided information regarding the purchase of a replacement truck for the Operations fleet to be funded through the General Fund. Replacement is required due to age, wear and tear. Bids have been sought and the board will vote at the next meeting.

Operations Purchas

No one addressed the board.

Citizens Address
Agenda & Non-
Agenda Items

High School Representatives reported on the following: state testing; NHS senior recognition and induction; no school on April 20 and 21st; upcoming pep assembly, AP exams and prom; beginning of the 4th quarter; senior activities and final exams.

High School
Student Report

Superintendent Hood reported on the following: Community Forum regarding the SRO position on April 11th at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom; board meeting timed agendas; OPS anniversary clarification; upcoming exec session for contract negotiations; MDE denied request to have a day forgiven and the day will need to be made up or the fine accepted.

Board Reports &
Request

Board members reported on the following: March is reading month activities; recent field trip to New York City; sensory hallways; and field trip district policies.

Consent Agenda

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

Item 1: Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of March 20, 2023;

Item 2: Approval of the Minutes of the Special Meeting of March 21, 2023;

Item 3: Approval of the Minutes of the Executive Session Meeting of March 21, 2023; Item

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

Item 5: Acknowledge receipt of the leave of absence report and approve the requested leave of absence for Michelle Beck, Special Education Teacher at Cornell Elementary for the period of May 17, 2023 through June 10, 2023 and Kim Ouelette, Special Education Teacher at OHS for the period of April 3, 2023 through June 10, 2023

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

2023-2024
Budget
Development

Finance Director Elizabeth Lentz provided information regarding the development of the 2023-2024 budget including preliminary assumptions. Updated assumptions include adjustments to: special education reimbursement; MPSERS retirement offsets; revisions to the 22-23 budget including childcare grants; and adjustments to state aid. Director Lentz also discussed the impact on the fund balance, and impending budget items such as negotiations and healthcare cost.

Meridian Cares
Event Resolution

The board discussed a resolution in support of the Meridian Cares About You Health and Safety Expo event to promote a safe and healthy community. The board will consider adopting the resolution at its next meeting.

Leave of
Absence Practice

The board discussed the current practice of bringing leave of absences to the board for approval. Currently, while not required by board policy, the board approves all leaves of absence for the OEA. The board discussed whether to continue this practice or to shift the responsibility to administration and instead have appeals brought before the board. This process will be brought forth in the negotiations process.

Public Comment

No one addressed the board.

Other Matters

Member Lynn provided a reminder regarding upcoming work sessions the board has requested.

Adjourn

President Gebara adjourned the regular meeting at 8:57 p.m.

Jayme Taylor, Secretary