

**Okemos Board of Education
Okemos, Michigan 48864
REGULAR MEETING MAY 8, 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, Andrew Phelps, and Jayme Taylor

Members Absent: Melanie Lynn

Administrators: Superintendent John Hood; Director Elizabeth Lentz

The board recognized and expressed appreciation to the 2022-2023 Okemos High School Student Representatives to the School Board. Student Rep Recognition

High School Representatives reported on the following: upcoming Orchestra performance; prom and post prom; recent AP testing and final exams; seniors last week and senior projects; OHS performance of Wizard of Oz; graduation on May 21st at the Breslin Center. Student Representative Report

OHS Teacher Trisha Funk presented information regarding a Spanish student trip to Ecuador and the Galapagos Islands. The trip is a language and cultural experience proposed for June 11th through June 18, 2024. Spanish Student Trip

Members discussed fundraising opportunities, financial assistance, and comparing costs among travel companies.

Representatives from Veridus, TowerPinkster and Christman provided an update regarding the 2022 bond and summer projects, including a review of bid package #1. Projects within the first bid package include: secure vestibules at Central Montessori, Cornell Elementary and Edgewood Early Childhood Center. It also includes pressing needs at Central Montessori and improvements to High School athletic fields. 2022 Bond Update

The process so far, timelines and next steps were reviewed. It was noted that this bid package is below budget, and there was adequate bid coverage despite the compressed turnaround time. Contractor interviews were also described.

Members inquired about the following: consideration for female or minority contractors; disparity between bidders; comparing when there is only one bid; and what is included in soft cost.

MOVED by Andy Phelps, SUPPORTED by Katie Cavanaugh that the board waive the policy 8344.1 requirements and take action on whether to approve the purchases contained in the 2022 Bond Bid Package #1. Adequate Information to Proceed

AYE: 6 NAY: 0 ABSENT: 1 **MOTION CARRIED**

No one addressed the board. Citizens Address Agenda & Non-Agenda

Assistant Superintendent Bailey reported on the following: recent Sextortion presentation for students and parents; upcoming Meridian Cares About You Expo; upcoming regional learning session with critical response training with legislators; expressed gratitude to Cheri Meier who has been the interim HR Director while the district hires a new one; Members Phelps and Cavanaugh invited to bond meeting regarding bathrooms and locker Superintendent Report

rooms; Dr. Slee and DEIAC involvement in the data presentation approach; and handbook language updates and changes.

Board Reports &
Request

President Gebara acknowledged correspondence from the following: Tendai Ngalande regarding offering a personal finance course; Jennifer Soria regarding the SRO position and special education complaint; Simon Belisle regarding the bond and construction input; and Isabel Wang regarding sleep and school start times.

Members reported on the following: recent ISOA meeting; Meridian Township Board joint meeting with local municipalities; Senior Center future; recent student performances; volunteering at the Meridian Cares About You Expo; CMS track athletes; OEF Golf Outing sponsorships available; Protect The Pack event on June 14th and sponsorship opportunities; and an advocacy committee update.

Consent Agenda

MOVED by Tom Buffett, SUPPORTED by Andy Phelps that the board approve items 1 through 4 for immediate implementation and appropriate action.
Item 1: Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 10, 2023; Item 2: Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 24, 2023; Item 3: Approval of the Minutes of the Executive Session meeting of April 24, 2023;
Item 4: Acknowledge receipt of the April financial statement and approve payment of bills for April.

AYE: 6 NAY: 0 ABSENT: 1 MOTION CARRIED

IISD 2023-2024
Budget

MOVED by Andy Phelps, SUPPORTED by Jayme Taylor that the board waive the reading and adopt the resolution supporting the Ingham Intermediate School District 2023-2024 general fund budget as proposed.

Roll Call Vote

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

AYE: 6 NAY: 0 ABSENT: 1 MOTION CARRIED

Employment

MOVED by Jayme Taylor, SUPPORTED by Shulawn Doxie that the board employ Mr. Mario Martinez as Director of Human Resources effective May 15, 2023.

Roll Call Vote

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

AYE: 6 NAY: 0 ABSENT: 1 MOTION CARRIED

23-24 School of
Choice Openings

MOVED by Katie Cavanaugh, SUPPORTED by Andy Phelps that the board approve the recommended openings to be advertised through the Ingham Intermediate School District for School of Choice enrollment in the Okemos Public Schools.

AYE: 6 NAY: 0 ABSENT: 1 MOTION CARRIED

Locker
Replacement

MOVED by Shulawn Doxie, SUPPORTED by Katie Cavanaugh that the board award the purchase of replacement lockers for OPM at Central Elementary to Symons Building

Specialties, not to exceed \$77,600 to be funded through the 2019 Technology, Security, Transportation, Capital Outlay, and Facilities bond.

AYE: 6 NAY: 0 ABSENT: 1 **MOTION CARRIED**

MOVED by Shulawn Doxie, SUPPORTED by Katie Cavanaugh that the board award the purchase of flexible furniture for Hiawatha Elementary to Demco, not to exceed \$90,00.94 to be funded by the 2019 Technology, Security, Transportation, Capital Outlay, and Facilities bond.

Flexible Furniture Purchase

AYE: 6 NAY: 0 ABSENT: 1 **MOTION CARRIED**

MOVED by Andy Phelps, SUPPORTED by Katie Cavanaugh that the board award contracts not to exceed \$4,266,025 for the trade contractors listed below and to assign those contracts to The Christman Company pursuant to the construction manager-as-constructor project delivery method: Woodhull Construction Co. Inc, Angelo Iafrate Construction Co., Trois Amis Corp. DBA Dewitt Fence Co., Anderson-Fischer & Associates, Inc., Leidal & Hart Mason Contractors, Inc., Aaron Glass Company Inc., Dobie Construction Inc., William C. Reichenbach Co., Integrity Interiors Inc., R & L Painting, LLC, Pleune Service Company, and Superior Electric of Lansing Inc.

2022 Bond Bids

Roll Call Vote

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

AYE: 6 NAY: 0 ABSENT: 1 **MOTION CARRIED**

Finance Director Elizabeth Lentz provided information regarding the development of the 2023-2024 budget including preliminary assumptions. Director Lentz Shared information from the House and Senate budget proposals and their impact on the district’s budget development, including: foundation allowance adjustments; blended pupil accounting for districts with declining enrollment; special education reimbursements; 20f funding; universal breakfast and lunch; transportation funding; school safety and mental health support funding. Enrollment projections, structural and one-time items, carryforward on the general fund and impending items was also discussed.

2023-2024 Budget Development

The board will engage in an upcoming work session regarding budget priorities.

No one addressed the board.

Public Comment

A reminder regarding the work session on May 15th at 6 p.m. regarding strategic priorities.

Other Matters

President Gebara adjourned the regular meeting at 8:35 p.m.

Adjourn

Jayme Taylor, Secretary