

**Okemos Board of Education
Okemos, Michigan 48864
REGULAR MEETING JUNE 12, 2023**

The regular meeting of the Okemos Board of Education was called to order by President Gebara at 6:30 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; Director Elizabeth Lentz; Director Mario Martinez

MOVED by Andy Phelps, SUPPORTED by Shulawn Doxie that the board adjourn to Executive Session pursuant to Section 8(a) of the Open Meetings Act for the purpose of discussing contract negotiations.

Exec Session

Roll Call Vote

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

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

The board adjourned to executive session at 6:32 p.m.

The board reconvened from executive session at 7:12 p.m.

Reconvene

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 Mario Martinez; Director Lara Slee

Christman Representative Rob Crowe and Superintendent Hood provided an update and review of the "soft cost" incurred by the district to implement bond bid package #1. Mr. Crowe reviewed the GMP and what is included in that total cost as well as explained hard cost versus soft cost. Hard cost are the actual projects, while soft cost includes items such as designer expenses, contingencies, construction management fees, salaries, insurance, payment and performance bonds, permits, and dumpsters for example.

Bon Bid Package
1

Timelines were also described, and it was explained that in the future, approvals will be a one-step process and presentation.

Members inquired about the preconstruction cost goal and formula used to determine it.

Finance Director Elizabeth Lentz provided information regarding the development of the 2023-2024 budget including preliminary assumptions and priorities. New projections include textbook and license purchases, and special education funding resulting in a projected impact of \$1.8 million. Impending items such as negotiations and priorities were reviewed.

2023-2024
Budget
Development &
Priorities

Budget priorities were comprehensively reviewed and where the board and administration had consensus, these items became level one priorities to be implemented into the budget. Examples of level 1 items include but are not limited to: office clerks for Kinawa and CMS, reduced athletic participation fees, increased club funding, and additional

technology staffing. Additional discussion resulted in level 1.5 items that will not be implemented until enrollment and the budget are confirmed in the fall. Members also agreed to eliminating parking permit fees, adding communications/PR staff, and an additional decrease of 10% to athletic fees.

Superintendent Hood addressed the SRO position and using grant funds to have a full-time security person rather than an officer who would be able impact the entire district in a broader sense.

Members discussed the following: data used to evaluate budget priorities, impact on students, professional development funding for new teachers specifically, and transportation cost for local field trips.

No one addressed the board.

Superintendent Hood reported on the following: Protect The Pack Event on June 14th at Kinawa; recent groundbreaking ceremony; restroom and locker room bond planning meetings; Athletic Director hiring process and timelines; recent meeting regarding data sharing presentations; high school trophy availability; recognized Caleb Bonemer who was named the Michigan Gatorade Player of the Year for baseball; and an upcoming Jamie Vollmer presentation on October 2nd.

President Gebara acknowledged correspondence from the following: Isabel Yanyan regarding school start times; Stephanie Oles regarding the field trip to the Henry Ford Museum; and Vincent Lyon-Callo concerning the turf field.

Members reported on the following: recent OEF golf outing; turf field follow up; recent IISD board election; and upcoming policy committee meetings.

MOVED by Tom Buffett, SUPPORTED by Andy Phelps that the board approve items 1 through 4 for immediate implementation and appropriate action.
1: Approval of the minutes of the Regular Meeting of May 22, 2023;
Item 2: Approval of the minutes of the Executive Session Meeting of May 22, 2023;
Item 3: Acknowledge receipt of the May financial statement and approve payment of bills for May; and
Item 4: Acknowledge receipt of the leave of absence report and approve the requested leave of absence for Jamie Coy, 4th Grade Teacher at Cornell Elementary for the period of August 21st through November 13, 2023

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

MOVED by Andy Phelps, SUPPORTED by Melanie Lynn that the board approve the employment of Natalie Holcomb, Special Education Teacher at Hiawatha Elementary at Step 1, Division I; Erin Holt, Special Education Teacher at Cornell Elementary at Step 1, Division I; Cecil Roberts, Social Worker for the District, at Step 7, Division II; Elijah Whitman, Social Studies Teacher at OHS at Step 1, Division I; and Rebecca Wieger, Elementary ASD Teacher at Step 15, Division I of the teacher salary schedule, effective August 22, 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.

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

Citizens Address
Agenda & Non-
Agenda Items

Superintendent
Report

Board Reports &
Request

Consent Agenda

Employment –
Certified

MOVED by Jayme Taylor, SUPPORTED by Katie Cavanaugh that the board adopt the Personal Health and Sexuality Education curriculum for use by students in 4th through 6th grades; as well as appoint the following individuals to serve as co-chairs on the district's PHASE Advisory Board: Sabrina Avripas and Martha Nokken.

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

MOVED by Andy Phelps, SUPPORTED by Katie Cavanaugh that the board waive the reading and certify collection of summer tax levy for Okemos Public Schools in the amount specified by the tax levy provided by the Ingham Intermediate School District and negotiation of the fee for collection of the tax levy.

Certify Summer
Taxes

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 Shulawn Doxie, SUPPORTED by Jayme Taylor that the board waive the reading and adopt the resolution permitting Okemos Public Schools to continue membership in the Michigan High School Athletic Association for the year August 1, 2023 through July 31, 2024.

MHSAA
Membership

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

MOVED by Andy Phelps, SUPPORTED by Shulawn Doxie that the board approve the amended 2022-2023 Budget.

22-23 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**

Assistant Superintendent Bailey will present the new textbook recommendations for 2023-2024. It is not assumed that funds will be available in the general fund to purchase textbooks. The recommendations include: Lit/Comp 9, American Literature, PreCalculus, AP Calculus, Algebra I, Physical Science, Psychology, K-5 Science, and 6-8 Science. Mrs. Bailey also reviewed new science standards, a new model integrating literacy in multiple subject areas, the process for selecting new textbooks and curriculum, and teacher involvement in the process. Materials are available for review to the community in the Assistant Superintendent's office at the Administration Building.

Textbook
Recommendation
s

The board discussed the outcomes of its most recent work session regarding initial strategic priorities to inform the superintendent's work including start times. Members also discussed committing to an implementation target date, change management and planning, logistics, and forecasting for community with plenty of time. It was proposed that a start time change be implemented for fall of 2024. The impact and process for negotiations was discussed, as well as other strategic priorities, and commitment levels. An additional work session regarding priorities will be established to continue the conversation.

Work Session
Follow Up

No one addressed the board.

Superintendent Hood and board members expressed gratitude to staff, students and families for a successful 2022-2023 school year.

Other Matters

President Gebara adjourned the regular meeting at 9:36 p.m.

Adjourn

Jayne Taylor, Secretary