

**Okemos Board of Education
Okemos, Michigan 48864
REGULAR MEETING JUNE 26, 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: Katie Cavanaugh, Shulawn Doxie, Mary Gebara, Melanie Lynn, Andrew Phelps and Jayme Taylor

Members Absent: Tom Buffett

Administrators: Superintendent John Hood; Finance Director Elizabeth Lentz; Director Mario Martinez

Closed Session

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

Roll Call Vote

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

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

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

Reconvene

The board reconvened from executive session at 7:01 p.m.

Members Present: Katie Cavanaugh, Shulawn Doxie, Mary Gebara, Melanie Lynn, Andrew Phelps and Jayme Taylor

Members Absent: Tom Buffett

Administrators: Superintendent John Hood; Assistant Superintendent Stacy Bailey; Finance Director Elizabeth Lentz; Director Mario Martinez

Superintendent Hood, Assistant Superintendent Bailey and Dr. Lara Slee provided an overview of district benchmark assessment results, along with key initiatives that will be utilized to address students' needs during the 2023-2024 school year. A reminder of the NWEA assessment tool and the district's approach to targeted support based on student need was provided. The goals set at the beginning of the year for growth and achievement in literacy and math were reviewed. Results were disseminated and broken into subgroups. Social-emotional risk is also assessed through the mySABERS tool.

Benchmark
Assessment Data

Supportive measures and interventions were described including: programming, professional development and training, credit recovery including in-person, opportunities for advanced learning, bias identification, CRPBIS, a new tool to replace mySABERS etc. Systemic changes the district is initiating and implementing were described.

Members discussed the following: the goals and the process used to determine them; how is the expected growth determined; LETRS training participation; data trends; growth rate versus achievement rate; and timing of assessments.

No one addressed the board.

Citizens Address
Agenda & Non-
Agenda Items

Superintendent Hood reported on the following: recent Protect The Pack event; expressed gratitude to bargaining units for a good negotiations season; policy committee update; bond update; and summer work and activities.

Board Reports &
Request

President Gebara acknowledged correspondence from the following: an anonymous parent concerning a bullying incident.

Employment –
Certified

MOVED by Jayme Taylor SUPPORTED by Melanie Lynn that the board approve the employment of Casey Blanchard, Counselor at OHS at Step 3, Division II; Katie Davis, Social Worker at Hiawatha at Step 7, Division III; Mary Diedrich, Speech and Language Pathologist at Step 15, Division III; and Jason Smith, 6th Grade Teacher at Kinawa at Step 9, Division III 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: 6 NAY: 0 ABSENT: 1 **MOTION CARRIED**

Textbook
Proposals

MOVED by Andy Phelps, SUPPORTED by Shulawn Doxie that the board adopt the following new textbooks and materials for use beginning with the 2023-2024 school year: Lit/Comp 9 - Fresh Ink; American Literature - Firekeeper's Daughter; Precalculus - Precalculus with Limits; AP Calculus - Calculus for AP; Algebra I - Algebra I; Physical Science - ExploreLearning Gizmos, PearDeck & EdPuzzle Online Subscriptions; Psychology - Understanding Psychology; K-5 Science- Amplify; and 6-8 Science – OpenScieEd

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

Ratify
Transportation
Contract

MOVED by Shulawn Doxie SUPPORTED by Melanie Lynn that the board waive the reading and ratify the contract between the Okemos Board of Education and the Okemos Transportation Association effective July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2025.

Roll Call Vote

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

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

Clerical Salary
Schedule

MOVED by Andy Phelps SUPPORTED by Melanie Lynn that the board approve the Clerical/Technical Unit salary and benefits schedule as documented effective July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2025

Roll Call Vote

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

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

Ratify Custodial
& Food Service
Contract

MOVED by Jayme Taylor, SUPPORTED by Melanie Lynn that the board waive the reading and ratify the contract between the Okemos Board of Education and the Custodial/Maintenance/Food Service Units effective July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2025.

Roll Call Vote

Tom Buffett	---	Melanie Lynn	Yes
Katie Cavanaugh	Yes	Andrew Phelps	Yes
Mary Gebara	Yes	Jayne Taylor	Yes
Shulawn Doxie	Yes		

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

Ratify AOA
Contract

MOVED by Shulawn Doxie SUPPORTED by Melanie Lynn that the board waive the reading and ratify the contract between the Okemos Board of Education and the Association of Okemos Administrators effective July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2025.

Roll Call Vote

Tom Buffett	---	Melanie Lynn	Yes
Katie Cavanaugh	Yes	Andrew Phelps	Yes
Mary Gebara	Yes	Jayne Taylor	Yes
Shulawn Doxie	Yes		

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

Central Office
Admin

MOVED by Andy Phelps, SUPPORTED by Melanie Lynn that the board approve the changes in salary and benefits for central office administrators effective July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2025.

Roll Call Vote

Tom Buffett	---	Melanie Lynn	Yes
Katie Cavanaugh	Yes	Andrew Phelps	Yes
Mary Gebara	Yes	Jayne Taylor	Yes
Shulawn Doxie	Yes		

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

Select Staff

MOVED by Shulawn Doxie, SUPPORTED by Melanie Lynn that the board approve the select personnel salary and benefits schedule as documented effective July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2025.

Roll Call Vote

Tom Buffett	---	Melanie Lynn	Yes
Katie Cavanaugh	Yes	Andrew Phelps	Yes
Mary Gebara	Yes	Jayne Taylor	Yes
Shulawn Doxie	Yes		

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

Budget Truth &
Taxation Hearing

MOVED by Andy Phelps, SUPPORTED by Jayme Taylor that the board open the meeting to the Budget/Truth-in-Taxation Hearing to present information on the 2023-2024 general fund budget, including the total authorized millage levied for operating purposes, and receive questions and comments from the public.

Roll Call Vote

Tom Buffett	---	Melanie Lynn	Yes
Katie Cavanaugh	Yes	Andrew Phelps	Yes
Mary Gebara	Yes	Jayne Taylor	Yes
Shulawn Doxie	Yes		

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

The budget truth in taxation hearing was opened at 8:20 p.m. Director of Finance Elizabeth Lentz provided information regarding the proposed 2023-2024 budget including general fund; debt retirement; building and site sinking fund; capital projects; student/school activity fund; and food service budgets. The projected impact on the general fund balance is \$1,064,943.

It was explained that level one budget priorities have been included in this budget. Level 1.5 priorities will be implemented once enrollment is finalized. Actual negotiations expenses and negotiation assumptions were updated. Items of note were described and included the sinking fund and tennis court improvements, and the food service spend down plan.

Members inquired about the following: clarification of level 1.5 priorities and timing; parking permit fees; club funding; significant changes from last year’s budget to specific budget items; and role of grant funding.

There were no public comments.

The budget truth in taxation hearing was closed at 8:52 p.m.

MOVED by Andy Phelps SUPPORTED by Melanie Lynn that the board waive the reading and adopt the general appropriations resolution for the General Fund of \$67,554,057; Debt Retirement Fund of \$11,045,428; Building and Site Sinking Fund of \$1,835,000; Capital Projects Fund of \$105,201; Student/School Activity Fund of \$928,700 and Food Services Fund of \$2,411,269 for the 2023-2024 fiscal year.

2023-2024
Budget
Adoption

Roll Call Vote

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

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

No one addressed the board.

Public Comment

A Special Meeting were established for July 20th at 7:00 p.m. and a work session scheduled for August 2nd at 6:00 p.m. A Special Meeting on August 15th at 7 p.m. was tentatively scheduled.

Other Matters

Members discussed the superintendent’s contract that is up for renewal. Administration is proposing to use a third-party consultant service to facilitate the negotiation process and provide recommendations.

President Gebara adjourned the regular meeting at 9:08 p.m.

Adjourn

Jayme Taylor, Secretary