

**Okemos Board of Education
Okemos, Michigan 48864
REGULAR MEETING JULY 20, 2023**

The special meeting of the Okemos Board of Education was called to order by President Gebara at 6:45 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 Mario Martinez

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. Closed Session

Roll Call Vote

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

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

The board adjourned to executive session at 6:46 p.m.

The board reconvened from executive session at 7:13 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 Mario Martinez

Food Service Director Emily Swirsky presented information regarding the purchase of a Chrysler minivan as a dedicated vehicle for the food service department. This vehicle will allow for the transport of small items and does fit a hot box. Bids were sought for this project to be funded through the department's budget and part of its spend down plan. Food Service Purchase

Members discussed that this estimate does not include any rebates.

Director of Operations Mark Fargo presented information regarding the purchase of weight room equipment for Chippewa Middle School. Bids were sought for this project to be funded through the 2019 Technology, Security, Transportation, Capital Outlay, and Facilities bond. It was noted that Mr. Fargo worked with the designers of the current bond project to ensure the equipment will transfer to the new Chippewa building. Operations Purchase

Members discussed the frequency of equipment evaluation and the maintenance plan; how COVID has impacted the use of fitness equipment, and the list of specific equipment being purchased.

Elementary Principals presented information regarding flexible furniture purchases for Bennett Woods, Central and Cornell Elementary Schools to be funded through the 2019 bond. Bennett Woods is purchasing furniture for their collaborative pods, reading nooks, special education classrooms, art classroom, and flexible rockers and workspaces for all classrooms. Cornell's school improvement team identified needs in the kindergarten and 4th grade classrooms, and shared hallway spaces. They are recommending new flexible tables Flexible Furniture Purchases

and chairs, stools, and crescent moon tables for the shared hallway spaces. OPM is recommending furniture to promote uniformity and flexibility in the Learning Center, as well as focusing on shared spaces, including furniture that can be easily moved and reconfigured.

Citizens Address
Agenda & Non-
Agenda Items

No one addressed the board.

Superintendent
Report

Superintendent Hood reported on the following: Cornell Elementary’s overage days have been forgiven and State legislation was changed to account for acts of gun violence - it will no longer hold those days against districts. Mr. Hood expressed gratitude to Representative Brixie for her work to make that change happen; busy hiring season; bond work around the district update; district-wide clean up and clean out for outdated items; and expressed gratitude to the OEA for the collaborative negotiations process.

Board Reports &
Requests

Members reported on the following: thanked Representative Brixie for her advocacy on the district's behalf; Meridian Township inquired about possible locations for cricket fields; documenting processes and partnership agreements with the township, upcoming Okemos Athletic Boosters golf outing; and district calendar with back-to-school events.

President Gebara acknowledged correspondence from the following: Olufemi Olowolafe and Theresa Rice-Olowolafe regarding school start times; and Anonymous Community Member concerning trash on a walkway.

Consent Agenda

MOVED by Melanie Lynn, SUPPORTED by Katie Cavanaugh that the board approve items 1 through 3 for immediate implementation and appropriate action. Item 1: Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of June 12, 2023; Item 2: Approval of the Minutes of the Executive Session Meeting of June 12, 2023; and Item 3: Approval of the Minutes of the Executive Session meeting of June 26, 2023.

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

Employment –
Admin

MOVED by Andy Phelps SUPPORTED by Tom Buffett that the board employ Mr. Ken Hintze as Athletic Director at Okemos High School effective August 3rd through June 30, 2025.

Roll Call Vote

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

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

Ratify OEA
Contract

MOVED by Tom Buffett, SUPPORTED by Jayme Taylor that the board waive the reading and ratify the contract between the Okemos Board of Education and the Okemos Education Association effective July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2025.

Roll Call Vote

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

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

MOVED by Shulawn Doxie, SUPPORTED by Katie Cavanaugh that the board establish the dates of regular meetings of the board of education to generally be the second and fourth Monday of each month, adjusted for Mondays with no school; the time of each meeting to begin at 7:00 p.m., with no new discussion after 10:00 p.m.; and the place of meetings to be the Community Conference Room at Central School; and that the board direct administration to publish the date/time/location of these meetings on the district's web site.

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

Designate Person
Responsible for
Posting Meeting
Notices

MOVED by Katie Cavanaugh, SUPPORTED by Melanie Lynn that the board designate the superintendent of schools or designee to post all regular or special school board meeting notices for the 2023-2024 school year in accordance with the Open Meetings Act.

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

Select Legal
Counsel

MOVED by Katie Cavanaugh, SUPPORTED by Andy Phelps that the board retains Thrun Law Firm, P.C. as legal counsel for the 2023-2024 school year.

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

Select Auditor

MOVED by Andy Phelps, SUPPORTED by Shulawn Doxie that the board retain Maner Costerisan P.C. as auditor for the 2023-2024 school year.

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

Approval of
Depositories

MOVED by Katie Cavanaugh, SUPPORTED by Tom Buffett that the board designates Michigan School District Liquid Assets Fund Plus, Fifth Third Bank, and PNC Bank as depositories for school funds for the 2023-2024 school year, which includes Accounts Payable, Payroll, Debt Retirement Activity, Food Service, Student/School Activity and Building & Site Sinking Fund.

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

Employment –
Certified

MOVED by Jayme Taylor, SUPPORTED by Andy Phelps that the board approve the employment of Natalie Herman, English Teacher at OHS at Step 2, Division I; and Dustin Raymond, 5th Grade Teacher at Kinawa at Step 1, 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**

Discussion Items

There were no discussion items.

Public Comment

No one addressed the board.

Other Matters

There will be a work session on August 2nd regarding district priorities, strategic planning and school start times.

Board representatives for the various committees and associations remained the same.

Adjourn

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

Jayne Taylor, Secretary