

Okemos Board of Education
Okemos, Michigan 48864
REGULAR MEETING FEBRUARY 26, 2024

PAGE 9075
2-12-2024

The regular meeting of the Okemos Board of Education was called to order by Vice President Cavanaugh at 7:00 p.m.

Call To Order

Members Present: Tom Buffett, Katie Cavanaugh, Shulawn Doxie, Melanie Lynn, Andrew Phelps and Jayme Taylor

Members Absent: Mary Gebara

Administrators: Superintendent John Hood; Assistant Superintendent Stacy Bailey; Finance Director Elizabeth Lentz; HR Director Mario Martinez; DEI Director Lara Slee

Woof Pack Coordinator Melissa Samluk, along with two junior handlers provided an update regarding the Woof Pack program including what junior handlers (Independent Study students) have been learning, introduced the two newest dogs (Bolt and Charlie), Senior Center initiatives, the calendar fundraiser, and plans for next year.

Woof Pack Update

Duties of a student handler were reported including training, visits, maintenance and care. Current projects were also reviewed and include expectation posters, annual calendar fundraiser, bookmarks, outreach, homecoming parades and district events, visiting other local districts and universities. Future plans were described and include adding two or three new dogs being added in the fall, and upcoming collaboration with the Senior Center.

Members inquired about everyday examples of student interaction, and the impact on staff well-being.

CMS Montessori Teacher Matt Prinz provided information regarding a trip to Washington DC proposed for May 12th through May 15, 2025. Fundraiser and scholarship opportunities to help subsidize for families in need were described.

Student Trip

Members inquired as to how many students are participating, how many have been subsidized, whether multiple bids were pursued, and what the 7th graders are doing during this time.

Operations Director Brian Lieber presented information regarding a roof repair project to be funded through the Sinking Fund, as well as insurance.

Roof Replacement

It was explained that the roof suffered damage from the fall 2023 tornado, in addition to being at end of life. Since the gym will remain as a part of the new CMS building, the roof in the section will need replaced. Bids were sought and next steps reviewed.

Members inquired about possible FEMA funding.

Media & Technology Director Tom Isom provided information regarding the replacement of student and staff devices to be funded by the 2022 bond. Director Isom reviewed the process used to make the selection including receiving student input and feedback. The REMC bid includes bags, warranties, docking stations, service, replacement parts and spare devices.

Student & Staff Device Purchase

Members inquired about the buy-back program, and the need for replacement in 5 years.

No one addressed the board.

Citizens Address Agenda & Non-Agenda Items

High School Student Representatives reported on the following: upcoming music festivals and spaghetti dinner fundraiser on March 8th; Okemos Outreach can drive fundraiser; Key Club book drive; Haven House donation drive; upcoming NHS blood drive; MSUFCU annual art show; Spanish student field trip; athletics update including tryouts; and Black History Month activities.

Superintendent Hood reported on the following: upcoming safety and security presentation; upcoming policy negotiations; recreational field update; recent parent council meeting;

Superintendent's
Report

Member Phelps commented on the direction of the rec field approach.

Vice President Cavanaugh acknowledged correspondence from the following: Mark Polsdofer concerning the proposed Hiawatha carline design; Adora Singo regarding school start times; Corey Quintus regarding Wardcliff fields; Ian Kim regarding the OHS carline; and Macey Gazley regarding school improvement.

Board Reports &
Request

Members reported on the following: commended basketball athletes; possible use of data service; and the recent parent council meeting specifically the several cultural events around the district.

MOVED by Jayme Taylor, SUPPORTED by Tom Buffett 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 February 12, 2024; Item 2: Approval of the Minutes of the Executive Session Meeting of February 12, 2024; Item 3: Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 15, 2024; and Item 4: Approval of the Minutes of the Executive Session Meeting of February 15, 2024.

Consent Agenda

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

MOVED by Shulawn Doxie, SUPPORTED by Melanie Lynn that the board select Sharon Lee as the Region 7 candidate of its choice to complete the election ballot for members of the 2024 board of directors of the Michigan Association of School Boards.

MASB Board
Election

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

MOVED Tom Buffett, SUPPORTED by Andy Phelps that the board authorize spending for the District Wide Security upgrades not to exceed \$1,326,660.24 with the contract for security cameras and access controls to be awarded to People Driven Technology and the structured cabling contract to be awarded to ProTech. This project is to be funded through the 2022 bond.

Technology
Purchase

Roll Call Vote

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

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

There was no public comment.

Public Comment

The board engaged in a work session for the purpose of developing the 2024-2025 budget. During the work session the board discussed the following: timelines; the Governor's proposed budget including universal PreK; the impact of grant funding on budget development; budget priorities and next steps in the budget process.

This portion of the meeting was open, but not televised.

There were no other matters.

Vice President Cavanaugh adjourned the regular meeting at 10:17 p.m.

Other Matters

Adjourn

Andy Phelps, Secretary

Montessori SOC