

**Okemos Board of Education  
Okemos, Michigan 48864  
REGULAR MEETING MARCH 11, 2024**

PAGE 9078  
3-11-2024

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: 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; HR Director Mario Martinez

Representatives from Veridas, TowerPinkster and Christman provided an update regarding the 2022 bond, including bid packages #3 and #4. Bid package number 4 includes secure vestibules and pressing needs for Okemos High School, Hiawatha and OPM. A design update was given for bid package number 3 which is the building of the new Chippewa Middle School, including renderings of what it would look like. Information was given regarding the bid process and award recommendations provided. The board will approve the bids at their March 18<sup>th</sup> meeting. Long-term planning, flexibility and timelines were also discussed.

Bond Update

Members inquired about parking; timelines in relation to board meeting dates; rec fields relocation; rubber gym remains; tennis courts will remain; EV charging installation; fencing off the construction areas; and summer use.

Safety and Security Director Katie Diehl provided a brief update on safety and security initiatives throughout the district. Director Diehl reviewed the following: goals; implementing recommendations from the site assessment in 2022; providing recommendations and feedback to policies, procedures and handbooks; implementing district standards when possible; training practices; acting as a support for the buildings; behavior threat assessment; her role in suicide prevention, and the partnership with SEC. Upcoming initiatives, such as, a threat assessment board policy being developed; detailed maps of each building; grants; and advocating for common language with the State. Improvements to emergency operations plans, visitor management, cameras and access controls were also described.

Safety &  
Security Update

Members inquired about the following: Be Smart gun storage; Oxford Report findings; and text alert capabilities.

Citizens Address  
Agenda & Non-  
Agenda Items

No one addressed the board.

High School Student Representatives reported on the following: recent spaghetti dinner fundraiser; upcoming collage concert March 16th; recent diversity assembly; touch of class fundraiser; recent can and bottle drive for Okemos Outreach Club; Haven House book fundraiser; start of spring sports and tryouts; successful winter sports season; recent unified basketball game; WILL activities during women's history month; BPA competition; pickleball club inaugural event; and NHS annual blood drive.

High School  
Student  
Report

Superintendent Hood reported on the following: 24-25 school calendar has been released; recent OPM facilities committee meeting; testing results at CMS; transition of payroll to Ingham ISD; school zone and no parking signs were not approved by the county road commission; 3rd grade basketball teams went to state championship game; recent archery competition; and the points of pride newsletter distributed to families and community.

Superintendent's  
Report

Members discussed meeting with MASB regarding aligning priorities; follow-up with Ingham County and involvement of residents; and drinking fountain filters.

President Gebara acknowledged correspondence from the following: Desire Smith concerning a student incident.

Members reported on the following: success of 7th grade girls' basketball team; MSBO festival; Community Education sponsored dance (previously father-daughter dance); community meetings with the board; recent ISOA meeting including a presentation on AI; Protect the Pack event on June 12<sup>th</sup>; and board book study discussion item.

MOVED by Katie Cavanaugh, SUPPORTED by Shulawn Doxie that the board approve items 1 and 2 for immediate implementation and appropriate action. 1: Approval of the minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 26, 2024: and Item 2: Acknowledge receipt of the February financial statement and approve payment of bills for February.

Consent Agenda

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

MOVED by Andy Phelps, SUPPORTED by Jayme Taylor that the board award the purchase of 3000 Lenovo ThinkPad L13 Yoga student devices, and 800 ThinkPad XL Yoga staff devices, including docking stations, bags and warranties to Trafera, not to exceed \$5,268,992 to be funded by the 2022 bond.

Device Purchase

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**

MOVED Jayme Taylor, SUPPORTED by Melanie Lynn that the board award the roof replacement project to Single Ply Solutions, not to exceed \$199,880 to be funded by the sinking fund and insurance.

Roof  
Replacement

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**

MOVED by Shulawn Doxie, SUPPORTED by Melanie Lynn that the board endorse the CMS Montessori trip to Washington DC, scheduled for May 12th - May 14, 2025 with the understanding the students will abide by all school policies and procedures.

Student Trip

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

Finance Director Elizabeth Lentz provided information regarding the development of the 2024-2024 budget. Director Lentz reviewed timelines, as well as the Governor's budget proposal which includes retirement system changes, universal pre-K, and covid grant funding. She reviewed current assumptions including staffing, health insurance rates, and retirements. Impending items were also described.

2024-2025  
Budget  
Development

Members discussed the following: district's capacity to support increased GSRP and preschool; and a process for assessing organizational effectiveness.

Superintendent Hood provided follow-up information regarding the superintendent evaluation schedule, as well as the data tool the board inquired about. He reported that demos have been scheduled to evaluate the data tool options. Members discussed a July to June evaluation cycle versus January to December, noting the majority of superintendents have a July to June cycle. The State does not require an evaluation be submitted every year if the superintendent is rated proficient, meaning the board could switch and conduct a formal eval without submitting a formal report to the State. The majority of members preferred a July to June cycle schedule. Members also discussed board operating procedures, and onboarding new members.

Supt Eval Follow  
Up

There was no public comment.

Public Comment

There were no other matters.

Other Matters

President Gebara adjourned the regular meeting at 9:41 p.m.

Adjourn

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Andy Phelps, Secretary