

**Okemos Board of Education
Okemos, Michigan 48864
REGULAR MEETING June 14, 2021**

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The regular meeting of the Okemos Board of Education was called to order by President Bolton at 6:34 p.m.

Call To Order

Members Present: Dean Bolton, Katie Cavanaugh, Mary Gebara, Melanie Lynn, Vincent Lyon-Callo, Andrew Phelps and Jayme Taylor

Administrators: Superintendent John Hood; and Finance Director Elizabeth Lentz

MOVED by Andy Phelps SUPPORTED by Mary Gebara 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

| | | | |
|-----------------|-----|--------------------|-----|
| Dean Bolton | Yes | Vincent Lyon-Callo | Yes |
| Katie Cavanaugh | Yes | Andrew Phelps | Yes |
| Mary Gebara | Yes | Jayme Taylor | Yes |
| Melanie Lynn | Yes | | |

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

The board adjourned to executive session at 6:35 p.m.

The board reconvened from executive session at 7:10 p.m.

Reconvene

Members Present: Dean Bolton, Katie Cavanaugh, Mary Gebara, Melanie Lynn, Vincent Lyon-Callo, Andrew Phelps and Jayme Taylor

Administrators: Superintendent John Hood, Assistant Superintendent Stacy Bailey and Finance Director Elizabeth Lentz

Drs. Angela Hall and Terry Flenbaugh presented an initial overview of survey data and an update on focus groups, as well as an update on the timeline regarding the district's equity work. Dr. Flenbaugh provided an update on the status of the data collection processes including feedback received through a recent equity survey. Approximately 2600 responded to the survey. A breakdown of the participant makeup including role, demographics, language, race, gender, and education level was given. He reviewed the results of several survey questions regarding commitment to equity, experiences regarding equity and diversity-related issues.

Equity Update

Dr. Hall reported on recent focus groups conducted with the following groups: African-American, Asian-American, LGBTQIA, students with IEP's or 504's and economically-disadvantaged. Themes that emerged from the groups included additional staff training, more accessible information regarding IEP's and 504's; and training for contracted staff and substitute teachers. Remaining timelines as they pertain to the Equity Plan re-write were reviewed and include community forums in October.

Members inquired about how the pandemic may have impacted the survey results.

Rob Crowe and Amy Baumer of the Christman Corporation presented a proposal of the construction management services provided by Christman for the district as we approach bond planning for 2022. Management services include bond development, campaign support, marketing, and scheduling. The fee structure was also reviewed. The district

Construction
Management
Services

currently works with Christman and is planning to put out an RFP for architect services in July after Board action on construction manager.

Members discussed the following: who implements these functions if the district does not use a construction management company; and who did the district use for the last bonds.

Operations Director Mark Fargo presented information regarding the purchase of additional school lunch tables to provide extra seating and spacing, as well as the bid process and timelines. This purchase would be partially funded through the district's Facilities/Technology/Security/Transportation and Capital Outlay Bond; with the remaining amount through Covid grants.

Bond & Covid
Purchases

MOVED by Mary Gebara SUPPORTED by Katie Cavanaugh that the board waive policy 8344.1 requirements and take action on the bond and Covid grant purchases due to timelines and high demand for the tables.

Adequate
Information To
Proceed

Roll Call Vote

| | | | |
|-----------------|-----|--------------------|-----|
| Dean Bolton | Yes | Vincent Lyon-Callo | Yes |
| Katie Cavanaugh | Yes | Andrew Phelps | Yes |
| Mary Gebara | Yes | Jayne Taylor | Yes |
| Melanie Lynn | Yes | | |

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

Superintendent Hood provided an update to the Board and community regarding implementation of the plan and the current status of the Safe Return to School plan. Mr. Hood described the district's current reality including revised safety protocols and masking and distancing requirements. He also reminded the community of the 2021-2022 school year plans and reported on the status of those seeking homebound status for next year.

Safe Return to
School Plan

Member Lyon-Callo inquired about the process for managing vaccinated versus unvaccinated staff and students.

The following individuals addressed the board regarding the mascot and name change: Dan Kulke; Tim Potter; Chris Nugent; Daniel Richardson; Chester Wosko; Mike Kulka; and Kristin Brooks. Mike Krumm addressed the board regarding middle school football.

Citizens Address
Agenda & Non-
Agenda Items

Superintendent Hood reported on the following: 3rd Grade reading law; grant application to Native Heritage Fun; mascot and nickname transition; equity planning; staffing and hiring update; status of student-parent handbooks; expressed gratitude to students, families, staff and community for the way they conducted the 20-21 school year.

Superintendent's
Report

Member Lynn inquired about the turnover in the administrative team and data collection.

President Bolton acknowledged correspondence from the following: William Hutchens, Heather Paris, Mel House, Dennis Hart, Cecilia Wilber, Ron Webster regarding the mascot; John Kepros regarding a data request; Chelsea Brodin regarding a partnership with Varsity Tutors; Yingxin Zhou regarding summer learning opportunities and funding; Yingxin Zhou concerning hiring; Charles Hilu, Sarah Al-Shaikh, Markie Heideman and Jace Harper regarding media requests; Ric and Bridget Balesky regarding graduation.

Board Reports &
Request

Katie Cavanaugh reported on the recent graduation event; and spoke to the mascot and nickname change.

Jayme Taylor also spoke regarding the mascot and nickname change.

MOVED by Mary Gebara SUPPORTED by Melanie Lynn that the board approve item 1 through 4 for immediate implementation and appropriate action:

Consent Agenda

Item 1: Approval of the minutes of the Regular Meeting of May 24, 2021;

Item 2: Approval of the minutes of the Special Meeting of June 2, 2021;

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 Ashley Andersen, 2nd Grade Teacher at Cornell Elementary School for the period of August 24th through November 19, 2021; and Lauren Holland, 6th Grade Teacher at Kinawa for the period of August 19th through November 5, 2021.

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

MOVED by Andy Phelps SUPPORTED by Mary Gebara 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
Tax

Roll Call Vote

| | | | |
|-----------------|-----|--------------------|-----|
| Dean Bolton | Yes | Vincent Lyon-Callo | Yes |
| Katie Cavanaugh | Yes | Andrew Phelps | Yes |
| Mary Gebara | Yes | Jayme Taylor | Yes |
| Melanie Lynn | Yes | | |

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

MOVED by Mary Gebara SUPPORTED by Katie Cavanaugh 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, 2021 through July 31, 2022.

Participate in
MHSAA

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

MOVED by Jayme Taylor SUPPORTED by Mary Gebara that the board waive the reading and adopt the resolution authorizing the issuance and delegating the sale of the Okemos Public Schools 2021 Refunding Bonds.

Refunding Bonds

Roll Call Vote

| | | | |
|-----------------|-----|--------------------|-----|
| Dean Bolton | Yes | Vincent Lyon-Callo | Yes |
| Katie Cavanaugh | Yes | Andrew Phelps | Yes |
| Mary Gebara | Yes | Jayme Taylor | Yes |
| Melanie Lynn | Yes | | |

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

MOVED by Andy Phelps SUPPORTED by Jayme Taylor that the board approve the employment of Pat Brennan, English Teacher at Okemos High School, at Step 5, Division II; and Lucas Joncas, 6th Grade Teacher at Kinawa at Step 1, Division I of the teacher salary schedule, effective August 19, 2021 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.

Employment –
Certified

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

MOVED by Melanie Lynn, SUPPORTED by Mary Gebara that the board employ Dr. Nicole Beard as Principal at Hiawatha Elementary School; and Mrs. Angie Tyrpak as Principal at Cornell Elementary School effective August 9, 2021 through June 30, 2023.

Roll Call Vote

| | | | |
|-----------------|-----|--------------------|-----|
| Dean Bolton | Yes | Vincent Lyon-Callo | Yes |
| Katie Cavanaugh | Yes | Andrew Phelps | Yes |
| Mary Gebara | Yes | Jayme Taylor | Yes |
| Melanie Lynn | Yes | | |

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

MOVED by Melanie Lynn SUPPORTED by Mary Gebara that the board employ Mr. Dan Hyliard as Principal at Okemos High School effective July 19, 2021 through June 30, 2023.

Employment -
Admin

Roll Call Vote

| | | | |
|-----------------|-----|--------------------|-----|
| Dean Bolton | Yes | Vincent Lyon-Callo | Yes |
| Katie Cavanaugh | Yes | Andrew Phelps | Yes |
| Mary Gebara | Yes | Jayme Taylor | Yes |
| Melanie Lynn | Yes | | |

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

MOVED by Mary Gebara SUPPORTED by Andrew Phelps that the board award the purchase of school lunch tables, submitted by School Specialty not to exceed the following: \$287,925.08 funded by the district's Facilities/Technology/Security/Transportation and Capital Outlay Bond; and \$126,901.28 through Covid grant funding.

Bond & Covid
Purchases

Roll Call Vote

| | | | |
|-----------------|-----|--------------------|-----|
| Dean Bolton | Yes | Vincent Lyon-Callo | Yes |
| Katie Cavanaugh | Yes | Andrew Phelps | Yes |
| Mary Gebara | Yes | Jayme Taylor | Yes |
| Melanie Lynn | Yes | | |

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

Assistant Superintendent Stacy Bailey presented the new textbook and curriculum recommendations for 2021-2022. Mrs. Bailey also reviewed the adoption process and guidelines for identifying bias in curriculum tool used for developing the recommendations. It is not assumed that funds will be available in the general fund to purchase textbooks. Members of the K-4 ELA curriculum review team reviewed the proposed IntoReading program, including strengths and feedback from the pilot classrooms. Additional textbook recommendations include: Senior English; AP Calculus; Geometry; Honors Geometry; Algebra II; AP Chemistry; Environmental Science; German II; and Spanish III.

Textbook
Recommendation
s

The board continued their discussion regarding the development of the 2021-2022 budget. An overview of Administration's approach including current considerations, new Covid relief grant funds, fall considerations and connection with the strategic plan was given. Current recommendations were reviewed.

2021-2022
Budget

Director Lentz provided a summary of Covid relief grants and their impact on the 2020-2021 budget including uses, funds available and expected. Initial planning for 2021-2022 Covid relief funds include staffing and facilities. Future revisions were also discussed.

Members discusses a possible presentation for the community regarding student support measures; and funding the DEI position.

Board priorities developed from a recent work session were outlines and include the mascot/nickname transition; reducing athletic fees; hiring an HR Assistant Superintendent; and hiring a DEI Director. The board further discussed a material tracking system, and board packet software.

Updated projections including Level 1 priorities incorporated, and the carryforward effect included, resulted in an impact on the general fund of a negative approximately \$661,660. Impending budget discussions were discussed and include the state budget and negotiations.

The board established its summer meeting schedule. There will be a meeting July 15th at 7:00 p.m.; July 26th for the superintendent evaluation at 6:00 p.m.; August 16th and August 30th at 7:00 p.m.

Summer Meeting
Schedule

Rosemary Possanza addressed the board regarding her students experience in 20-21.

Public Comment

There were no other matters.

Other Matters

President Bolton adjourned the regular meeting at 11:25 p.m.

Adjourn

Katie Cavanaugh, Secretary