Okemos Board of Education
Okemos, Michigan 48864
REGULAR MEETING MAY 24, 2021

Call To Order

The regular meeting of the Okemos Board of Education was called to order by President Bolton at 7:02 p.m.

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

Recognition: Student Reps

The board recognized and expressed appreciation to the 2020-2021 Okemos High School Student Representatives to the School Board.

IISD Bi-Annual Election

The board discussed who will represent Okemos Public Schools on June 7, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. for the Ingham Intermediate School District Bi-Annual Election. On June 7th, one member of the Ingham Intermediate School District Board of Education will be elected. President Bolton was selected as the board's representative, with Jayme Taylor as the alternate.

Adequate Information to Proceed

MOVED by Melanie Lynn SUPPORTED by Katie Cavanaugh that the board waive policy 8344.1 requirements and take action on selecting the election representative and alternate due to timelines established by the Ingham ISD.

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**

Safe Return to School Plan

Superintendent Hood presented an update regarding the Safe Return to School Plan, including: pending legislation regarding additional Covid19 funding; most recent safety requirements and protocols; the district's approach to completing the 21-22 school year; and planning for the fall and the instructional choices for 2021-2011.

Members inquired about graduation and expectations; students and qualifying for homebound status; protocols; vaccine statistics; communication with board and families; and the impact on budget.

Extended Learning Plan Month

Assistant Superintendent Bailey provided an update to the Board and community regarding updates and revisions to the District's Extended Learning plan including the choice of in-person or online; two-way interactions and attendance.

Member Cavanaugh inquired as to the number of students who took the M-Step test.

Citizens Address Agenda & Non-Agenda Items

The following individuals addressed the board: Michelle Ciabotta regarding end of the year activities; and Wei Li regarding summer learning opportunities.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Hood reported on the following: expressed condolences to the Grand Ledge Community; recent production of High School Musical; hiring update; summer programming scope; and upcoming summer curriculum work.

Superintendent Report Cont.

Members inquired about the following: an accounting of Covid19 funding uses, measures and specific efforts the district has made in response to the pandemic; social studies curriculum; enrollment in summer programs; addressing the emotional and mental health of students as they transition to returning to school.

High School Student Report

Student Representative Lauren reported on the following: commencement on June 6th; student material drop off; registration for the credit recovery program is live; OHS Press fundraiser; and vaccinated athletes.

Board Reports & Request

President Bolton acknowledged correspondence from the following: Matthew Wesaw, Hedlun Walton, Heather Burris, Chris Nugent, Megan Donahue, Dave Bueche, Thea Oatman, Margo Susnjar, Jennifer Soria, Elesha Newberry, Lindsey LaForte and Felix Kronenberg regarding the mascot; Kevin Joldersma regarding Covid protocols; Ryan Fink and Young Mi Choi-DeYoung concerning athletic fees; Rachel Freeman-Baldwin regarding the Sock Out Suicide event; Vincent Tomanica regarding contacting the board; Amy Lothamer regarding summer learning for special education students; Shiloh Daum regarding a Green Schools Conference and a book study opportunity; and Yingxin Zhou regarding summer learning opportunities.

Members inquired about the following: vaccination requirements; Mary Gebara is serving on the Governor's Michigan Blueprint for Comprehensive Student Recovery committee; and other summer learning opportunities outside of OPS.

Consent Agenda

MOVED by Mary Gebara SUPPORTED by Katie Cavanaugh that the board approve item 1 and 2 for immediate implementation and appropriate action:
Item 1: Approval of the minutes of the Regular Meeting of May 10, 2021;
Item 2: Approval of the minutes of the Executive Session Meeting of May 10, 2021.

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

Mascot & Nickname

MOVED by Mary Gebara SUPPORTED by Katie Cavanaugh that the board accept the Superintendent's recommendation and eliminate the Chief mascot and nickname.

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**

Bond Purchases

MOVED by Andrew Phelps SUPPORTED by Katie Cavanaugh that the board award the following purchases, funded from the district's Facilities/Technology/Security/Transportation and Capital Outlay Bond: • $32,399.02 submitted by Liftnow for the purchase of Bus Hoist; and • $194,000 submitted by Midwest Transit for the purchase of 2 school buses.

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**

IISD Bi-Annual Election

MOVED by Dean Bolton, SUPPORTED by Andrew Phelps that the board waive the reading and adopt the resolution designating Dean Bolton as its representative and Jayme Taylor as alternate, to the electoral body for the June 7, 2021 Ingham Intermediate School District election of board members and instruct Member Bolton concerning the board's choice of Nancy Stanley to fill one vacant six-year term on the Ingham ISD board of education.

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**

Administrator Contracts

MOVED by Jayme Taylor SUPPORTED by Katie Cavanaugh that the board extend the following administrator contracts through June 30, 2023: Brian Fuller, Athletic Director – Okemos High School, Andrea Hallead, Assistant Principal-Okemos High School, Jody Noble, Principal- Chippewa Middle School, Noelle Palasty, Principal-Bennett Woods Elementary School, Heather Pricco, Special Education Director-District, Andre Ridley, Assistant Principal- Chippewa Middle School, Sara Roland, Assistant Principal – Kinawa School, Steve Stierley, Principal – Kinawa 5-6, and Lamanzer Williams, Assistant Principal-Okemos High School.

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**

Amend Assistant Superintendent Contract

MOVED by Katie Cavanaugh SUPPORTED by Jayme Taylor that the board amend the contract of Assistant Superintendent Stacy Bailey to extend their dates of employment through June 30, 2024.

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**

Employment - Certified

MOVED by Mary Gebara SUPPORTED by Katie Cavanaugh that the board the employment of Kim Floyd, French Teacher at Chippewa Middle School and OHS, at Step 8, Division II; Theodore Sczepanski, 6th grade ELA and Social Studies Teacher at Kinawa, at Step 5, Division I; Antonia Sundeen, Math Teacher at OHS, At Step 1, Division I; and Molly Turner, Science Teacher at Okemos High School at Step 8, Division II of the teacher salary schedule, effective August 19, 2021 in accordance with sections 1230 (2) and 1230a (2) of the Revised School Code conditioned upon receipt of acceptable criminal history checks an d criminal records checks.

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

Extended Learning Plan

MOVED by Katie Cavanaugh SUPPORTED by Mary Gebara that the board approve the district's Extended Learning Plan as required by law.

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

2021-2022 Budget Development

The board continued their discussion regarding the development of the 2021-2022 budget. Director Lentz provided an update regarding a recent budget consensus at the state level; recent legislative proposals and their impact on the budget; and uncertainty with the enrollment stability funding. Updated projections and assumptions were provided resulting in an approximate impact on the general fund of a negative $198,660. Impending budget discussions including negotiations and board priorities were mentioned.

Food Service Update

Food Service Director Michael Wensel provided an update and information regarding the breakfast and lunch program including new requirements. Mr. Wensel reported on transition activities within the department including hiring, relationship building with staff, and upcoming team building pursuits. Summer programming was described and includes 7-day meal kits for breakfast and lunch to be served at 5 different locations - 4 during the day time and one in the evening, and to be offered in some form all school year long. Any student and community member under 18 years old is eligible to receive the free meals. Meals will be free all next year again as allowed by the USDA.

Member Cavanaugh inquired about more diverse options including vegetarian and meat alternatives.

Policy Audit

Policy Committee Members discussed their summer process for reviewing board policies with an equity focus. All board members would be responsible for a portion of the policy audit, which would be passed from the board to the administrative team for additional revisions and feedback. Timelines and next steps for this year-long process to address the entire policy manual were discussed.

Member Lynn suggested student input, as well as from the DEIAC.

School Bond Loan Refunding

Finance Director Lentz presented information regarding School Bond Loan Refunding. The district will no longer have to borrow from the school loan bond, allowing it to save approximately $560,000 if the district refinanced its debt. If the board would like to pursue refinancing, the district would issue an RFP to see what the market offers. It was explained that pay off years would not change, and mills levied wouldn't change until final years when it would drop. The board agreed to go ahead with the process.

Public Comment

No one addressed the board.

Other Matters

The superintendent evaluation mid-year check in meeting will be July 26th at 6:00 p.m.

A reminder that there is a board budget work session scheduled for June 2nd at 5:30 p.m.

Adjourn

President Bolton adjourned the regular meeting at 10:02 p.m.

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Katie Cavanaugh, Secretary