Okemos Board of Education
Okemos, Michigan 48864
REGULAR MEETING MAY 10, 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, Mary Gebara, Melanie Lynn, Vincent Lyon-Callo, Andrew Phelps and Jayme Taylor
Members Absent: Katie Cavanaugh
Administrators: Superintendent John Hood; Assistant Superintendent Stacy Bailey; and Finance Director Elizabeth Lentz

Temporary Secretary

MOVED by Dean Bolton SUPPORTED by Mary Gebara that the board appoint Andrew Phelps as temporary secretary.

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

Mascot Recommendation

Superintendent Hood presented the recommendation regarding the Chief mascot and nickname. An overview of the historical timeline, changes and previous board actions concerning the Chief mascot and nickname was reviewed. Mr. Hood provided information regarding the following: an overview of the process including committee membership, and the criteria used to evaluate the options; the options of whether to maintain the current mascot/nickname or to eliminate it; and pros and cons of each option were provided. An overview of the financial commitment to make the change was offered, as well as how to fund the change including grants, the Native American Heritage Fund and fund balance.

Dr. Aaron Payment provided supporting rationale and addressed specific questions and concerns raised by the community.

The superintendent's recommendation is to eliminate the Chief mascot/nickname. Next steps were outlined.

Assistant Superintendent Bailey provided examples of curriculum currently taught in the district that includes indigenous peoples, and Native American history.

Members discussed the following: eliminating versus retiring the logo; length of phasing out period; replacement cost estimates; community conversations and education regarding why this change is important; timing of change; student input in process; community engagement; and cultural competence opportunities for students in this process.

Citizens Address Agenda & Non-Agenda Items

The following individuals addressed the board: Nathan Mahn regarding the district's outdoor mask policy, increased in-person learning, and safety protocols in the fall; Isabella Thompson-Orsua, Tessa Kaneene, Berelian Kariman, and Jasmine Thompson-Orsua regarding the mascot.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Hood reported on the following: staff appreciation week; recent passing of millages; Finance Director Elizabeth Lentz and MSBO certification; hiring update; DEAI Survey; recent policy committee meeting; upcoming road construction project at Okemos and Mt. Hope.

Members inquired about DEI grant funding and student engagement; recent DEI policy and timeline; and road construction.

High School Student Report

Student Representative Catherine reported on the following: upcoming student activities; AP exams; suicide awareness soccer game and fundraiser; and an upcoming production of High School Musical.

Board Reports & Request

President Bolton acknowledged correspondence from the following: William Hutchens regarding the mascot; Lindsey Bluhm regarding public comment at board meetings; Hashini Galhena regarding school of choice enrollment; and Jody Noble regarding state assessments and learning loss.

Dean Bolton expressed appreciation to the community on the passing of the recent millages.

Consent Agenda

MOVED by Vincent Lyon-Callo SUPPORTED by Melanie Lynn that the board approve items 1 and 2 for immediate implementation and appropriate action:
Item 1: Approval of the minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 26, 2021;
Item 2: Acknowledge receipt of the April financial statement and approve payment of bills for April.

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

2021-2022 School of Choice Openings

MOVED by Mary Gebara, SUPPORTED by Jayme Taylor that the board approve the recommended openings to be advertised through the Ingham Intermediate School District for School of Choice enrollment in the Okemos Public Schools.

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

IISD 21-22 Budget

MOVED by Andrew Phelps, SUPPORTED by Mary Gebara that the board waive the reading and adopt the resolution supporting the Ingham Intermediate School District 2021-2022 general fund budget as proposed.

Roll Call Vote

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

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

Amended Budget

MOVED by Mary Gebara, SUPPORTED by Vincent Lyon-Callo that the board approve the amended 2020-2021 Budget.

Roll Call Vote

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

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

Facilities Purchase

Operations Director Mark Fargo presented information regarding the purchase of a bus hoist including the bid process and timelines to be funded through the Facilities/Technology/Security/Transportation and Capital Outlay Bond. Director Fargo explained how the hoist will increase safety and efficiency.

Bus Purchases

Transportation Director Corrinne Karpinski present information regarding the purchase of two new buses including the bid process and timelines to be funded through the Facilities/Technology/Security/Transportation and Capital Outlay Bond.

Public Comment

No one addressed the board.

Executive Session

MOVED by Jayme Taylor, 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.

Roll Call Vote

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

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

The board adjourned to executive session at 9:24 p.m.

The board reconvened at 10:23 p.m.

Reconvened

Members Present:	Dean Bolton, Mary Gebara, Melanie Lynn, Vincent Lyon-Callo, Andrew Phelps and Jayme Taylor
Members Absent:	Katie Cavanaugh
Administrators:	Superintendent John Hood; Assistant Superintendent Stacy Bailey; and Finance Director Elizabeth Lentz

There were no other matters.

Other Matters

President Bolton adjourned the regular meeting at 10:24 p.m.

Adjourn

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Katie Cavanaugh, Secretary