Okemos Board of Education
Okemos, Michigan 48864
REGULAR MEETING APRIL 26, 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

IISD 2021-2022 Budget

The board reviewed the Ingham Intermediate School District proposed 2021-2022 General Fund Budget as required by Michigan law to determine its action at the next meeting to support or not support the budget. Ingham Intermediate School District Superintendent Mr. Jason Mellema presented the budget information. Mr. Mellema provided a brief overview of the IISD's general fund budget, including project revenue, expenses, programs and services supported by the general fund, as well as new initiatives, next steps and responsibilities.

Safe Return to School

Superintendent Hood and Assistant Superintendent Bailey 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 reported on the timeline for the most recent selection window with changes effective May 3rd. There will be a vaccination clinic on Thursday, April 29th from 3-6:00 p.m. at Okemos High School provided by Sparrow. An update regarding planning for 2021-2022 was also given.

Members discussed the following: possible additional hours or days next year to address learning loss; how it is currently going within classrooms; feedback from teacher; the upcoming vaccine clinic; and standardized testing.

Extended Learning Plan

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 learning; two-way interactions; and attendance.

Citizens Address Agenda & Non-Agenda Items

No one addressed the board.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Hood reported on the following: May 10th recommendation regarding the mascot; new board policy being developed by the policy committee and equity tool; hiring process and additional posting opportunities the district is implementing; emergency declaration by Meridian Township and Ingham County; athletics and recent meeting with senior athletes; recent PLC regarding anti-Asian hate.

Members inquired about the community informational meetings regarding the mascot; new policy, and approach to addressing board policies from an equity lens; suggestions from the community as we approach the new mascot or nickname; restorative justice practices throughout the district; format of board meetings going forward.

High School Student Report

Student Representative Lauren reported on the following: standardized testing; senior spectacular prom alternative; testing out forms are due May 1st; senior yard signs; and upcoming survey regarding graduation options.

Board Reports & Request

President Bolton acknowledged correspondence from the following: Kathy Solomon, Kristi White, Kamerin, Randall Schaetzl and John Gustafson regarding the mascot; Steve Stagg, Sabine Blaxton, Mary Michner, Hedlun Walton, Gina and Scott Golde, Patrick Morris, Alana and Eric Reome, Marcy Kinzer, Rob and Susie Antcliff, Bridget and Ric Balesky, Gina Golde, Chris and Stacy Tapscott, Barrett and Carrie Bonemer, Gabe Michner, Larry and Cindy Gerhardt, Tamara Bauer, Jeff and Shelly Korb, Eric Guernsey, Colin and Kim Cronin, Steve and Joy Chas,e Rebecca Gulbransen, Chris Blaxton, Stephanie Hirchert-Walton, Chris and Laura Nugent, Steve and Linda Chermak, Gregg Howe, Steve and Stacy Greborunis, Mike and Christine Alexander, Lisa Theis, Michelle Renfrew, Penny Faustyn, Suzie and Kevin Jager, Matt Gillard, Gwynne and Mark Kadrofske, Nathan and Leslie Wertz, Christine Mason, Heidi and Neil Haremski, Scott and Amy Basel, Brian and Daviet Knox, John Papapolymerou, Jackie Karamos, Linnea Quimby, Jen Presas, Andi and Mauricio Pincheira, Adam and Courtney Schnelker, Brian and Rochelle Rizzi, Kevin Berry, Steve and Amy Stagg, Nicole and Patrick Brillantes, Jarod and Carm North, Therese Mensah, Ann Chrapkiewicz, Ryan and Amanda Storey, Bridget Cotton, Jenny Carr, Terrie Malinak, Mike Murshak, Radka Todorova and Toma Manolov, Aaron Holland, Karrie Craig, Jon & Lisa Bonsignore, Jeff & Ellen Lewis, Darus Ward, Nathan & Shawna Buckwalter, Sheree and John Jungwirth, Ami VanAntwerp, Adrian Blow, Tina Timm, Mary Arvanitis, Dennis Arvanitis, Stacey Mahoney, Pam Schap, Ali Stanley, Vincent and Susan Benivegna concerning athletics; Chris and Stacy Tapscott regarding pause on in-person learning; and Yingxin Zhou concerning Meridian Township business.

Vin Lyon-Callo inquired about the school breakfast and lunch program and updates for the 2021-2022 school year.

Consent Agenda

MOVED by Mary Gebara SUPPORTED by Melanie Lynn that the board approve item 1 for immediate implementation and appropriate action:
Item 1: Approval of the minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 12, 2021.
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**

Staff Appreciation Day Resolution

MOVED by Jayme Taylor, SUPPORTED by Mary Gebara that the board read and adopt the resolution establishing May 4, 2021 as Staff Appreciation Day in honor of the employees of the Okemos Public Schools.
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**

Extended Learning Plan

MOVED by Andrew Phelps, SUPPORTED by Katie Cavanaugh that the board approve the district's Extended Learning Plan as required by law.

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**

2020-2021 Budget Amendments

Finance Director Elizabeth Lentz presented the proposed amendments to the 2020-2021 budget for board discussion. Revisions included: increased Special Education revenue; state aid due to increased enrollment; MPSERS contributions; grant funding, decreased operations cost; and staffing resulting in a positive revenue over expenditures of $1.8 million. Approximately 1.5 million of this increase is one-time, non-structural items, meaning it will not carryforward from year to year. The expected carryforward to the 2021-2022 budget is $345,000.

2021-2022 Budget Development

The board continued its development of the 2021-2022 budget. Director Lentz provided a brief overview of the Governor and state legislative proposals and potential impact. All proposals reflected an increased foundation allowance. The removal of the super-blend for pupil accounting purposes, and enrollment stability funds were also reported. Other updated assumptions include staff roll-up costs, loss of rental income, loss of state aid due to the removal of the super-blend, etc. resulting in a net impact on the general fund budget of a positive $84,000. Administration is recommending a neutral position neither adding or removing structural expenses, though they could consider one-time expenses.

Members discussed the following: approach to budgeting process; priorities; cost associated with the mascot change and possible grant funding available.

School of Choice Openings

The board reviewed the recommendation for School of Choice openings to be advertised through the Ingham Intermediate School District for the 2021-2022 school year. Superintendent Hood reviewed the process for determining the number of openings. The proposed openings are as follows: Begindergarten/Kindergarten – 1 opening; 1st grade – 7 openings; 2nd grade – 1 opening; 3rd grade – 1 opening; 4th grade – 4 openings; 5th grade through 12th grade – 1 opening per grade level.

School Start Times

Superintendent Hood presented information for board discussion regarding school start times, including research regarding the effect of sleep on student health, state requirements for instructional hours and days, common considerations and implications were identified. Superintendent Hood described the district's transportation needs, the snowball effect to other after school activities, the effect on instructional time for early dismissals, safety issues, and potential childcare impacts. In addition, 7th hour options, feedback from stakeholders regarding options, costs involved, and educational opportunities were discussed. Mr. Hood provided considerations for negotiated items and staffing.

Public Comment

Other Matters

Several different options were presented and included similar start times for all levels, flip-flopping elementary and secondary level, moving all start times later, and pairing Kinawa and CMS start times and K-4 and OHS start times together. The opportunities and barriers for each option were explained. Next steps and timelines were provided. While administration is recommending to keep the status quo and survey stakeholders for interest, however it will pursue options the board would like to consider.

Adjourn

Start Times Cont.

Members discussed: possible federal funding; what have other districts done to implement this change; do after-school activities outweigh the general health and best interest of students; using fund balance to purchase buses; walker distance; elementary students riding with high schoolers; actual impact on after-school activities; narrowing down options, using a science-based approach; homework policies; zero hour that actually starts at the current 1st hour; 7th hour option; virtual classes during 1st hour; and late start Wednesdays. It was determined that the board would like to see additional information on options flip-flopping K-6 and 7-12 start times, moving all start times 45 minutes later, and pairing Kinawa and CMS start times and K-4 and OHS start times together.

Public Comment

No one addressed the board.

Other Matters

Previous practice for roll calls and parliamentarian procedures.

Adjourn

President Bolton adjourned the regular meeting at 10:11 p.m.

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Katie Cavanaugh, Secretary