Okemos Board of Education
Okemos, Michigan 48864
SPECIAL MEETING JUNE 1, 2020

Call To Order

The special meeting of the Okemos Board of Education was called to order by President Bolton at 7:06 p.m.

Members Present: Dean Bolton, Katie Cavanaugh, Mary Gebara, Melanie Lynn, Vincent Lyon-Callo, Tonya Rodriguez and Sarah Wohlford

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

Superintendent Report

Superintendent Hood read statement prepared by the Okemos administration team regarding racial injustice; set the tone for the meeting and upcoming budget discussions and decisions.

Citizen Address Agenda & Non-Agenda Items

No one addressed the board.

Board Reports & Request

Member Gebara provided an OEF update including a restructuring of the way the foundation distributes funding.

2019-2020 Budget Amendments

Finance Director Elizabeth Lentz will present the proposed amendments to the 2019-2020 budget for board discussion. Amendments included: loss of childcare tuition revenue, loss of athletics revenue; adjustments for staffing, utilities, transportation and Graduation Alliance. The district is expecting to prorate a portion of its deficit to fall into the 19-20 school year. As such, a significate decrease in per pupil foundation allowance was also calculated into the revised budget. These and other miscellaneous adjustments resulted in a projected deficit of approximately $2,795,948 to the general fund. The board will act on the revised budget at the June 8th board meeting.

2020-2021 Budget Development

The board continued their discussion regarding the development of the 2020-2021 budget. Updated assumptions were provided and include the decrease in per pupil foundation; enrollment; staffing, utility efficiencies; health insurance; and an additional classroom section. Director Lentz reported on impending budget items such as negotiations and the State School Aid budget.

Members inquired about the following; assuming increased enrollment; foreign students linked to MSU; a remote learning system that is allowable by the State; Covid-related expenses built into the budget; recommended versus required guidelines; and communicating with the community.

Superintendent Hood presented a prioritized list of possible budget reductions to help inform the board's discussion. Impact statements and cost savings or revenue was also provided. Item were ranked by least impactful to most impactful and separated into three levels.

Examples of items in Level 1 included: shifting some positions to grand funding sources; e-rate reimbursements; sale of technology; reorganizing tax deferred revenue; reduce textbook adoptions; not filling the position of Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources; various staffing adjustments in technology, operations, LMC clerks, secretaries and substitutes; reduced supply and school improvement budgets; childcare ratios; etc. Level 1 items totaled approximately $1.7 million in savings.

Members inquired about: additional athletic considerations; childcare ratios; compensation for those taking on additional duties; zero hour and childcare supply budget.

Examples of items in Level 2 included: reduced community education planning time; eliminating co-teaching at OHS; further reductions to employee hours and substitutes; raising athletic fees; reducing athletic transportation etc. Level 2 items totaled approximately $612,710 in savings.

Members inquired about: transportation; what the reductions mean for employee benefits; fine arts; and substitutes.

Examples of items in Level 3 included: further reductions of community education planning time; eliminating school improvement budgets; eliminating buildings substitutes; further reductions to clerks, secretaries, student supervisors, RTI coaches, social workers, reading specialist and counselors; and eliminating athletic transportation. Level 3 items totaled approximately $969,345.

Members inquired about: impact of reduced counselors and student supervisors; comfort level of teachers, selling property; Assistant Principals; and athletics.

Superintendent Hood and Director Lentz described the next steps for the board including homework and timelines.

The discussion item of board advocacy was postponed until the June 8th meeting.

Public Comments

No one addressed the board.

Other Matters

There were no other matters.

Closed Session

MOVED Melanie Lynn, SUPPORTED by Mary Gebara that 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	Yes	Tonya Rodriguez	Yes
Mary Gebara	Yes	Sarah Wohlford	Yes
Melanie Lynn	Yes		

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

The board adjourned to executive session at 10:53 p.m.

The board reconvened the regular meeting at 11:21 p.m.

Reconvene

Members Present: Dean Bolton, Katie Cavanaugh, Mary Gebara, Melanie Lynn, Vincent Lyon-Callo, Tonya Rodriguez and Sarah Wohlford

Administrators: Superintendent John Hood; Assistant Superintendent Cheri Meier; Assistant Superintendent Stacy Bailey; and Finance Director Elizabeth Lentz

Adjourn

President Bolton adjourned the regular meeting at 11:22 p.m.

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Mary Gebara, Secretary