Okemos Board of Education
Okemos, Michigan 48864
REGULAR MEETING JUNE 8, 2020

Call To Order

The regular meeting of the Okemos Board of Education was called to order by President Bolton at 7:08 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 Stacy Bailey; and Finance Director Elizabeth Lentz

Student Recognition

The board recognized and expressed appreciation to the 2019-2020 Okemos High School Student Representatives to the School Board.

Student Report

Student Representative Catherine reported on the following: senior activities; online learning; and plans for next year.

Discussion Moved Forward: Easement Request

Attorney Gordon VanWieren presented an update regarding the easement the Board previously approved for the CATA bus pad near Hiawatha Elementary School. In reviewing the plan, the Township discovered new information for Board consideration and action regarding the sidewalk adjacent to the originally granted bus pad easement. The board will act on this item at its June 15th meeting.

Student-Parent Handbooks

Assistant Superintendent Stacy Bailey presented the proposed changes to the elementary student-parent handbook. Changes were minimal and included updated mission statement, contact information and dates.

High School Assistant Principal Andrea Hallead presented the proposed revisions to the Okemos High School student handbook. Revisions included but were not limited to: Michigan Choice policy language regarding dissection and alternate reading selections in language arts classes; lice policy; exchange student testing; student expectations at athletic events; updated threats and violence language in the code of conduct; AP class information; testing out policy; updated 21f policy; arrival and departure policies; and AED locations.

Assistant Principal Andre Ridley presented the proposed revisions to the Chippewa Middle School student handbook, which also included the addition of a lice policy; updated arrival and departure policies; AED locations; and an updated mission statement.

Assistant Principal Sara Roland presented the proposed Kinawa 5-6 revisions. Revisions include the addition of a lice policy; updated arrival and departure policies; AED locations; an updated mission statement; updated prohibited activities policy; student expectations at assemblies and performances; and homeroom information.

All handbooks will include an addendum to provide for Covid19 considerations, as well as the letter from Ingham County Prosecutors Office on threats of violence.

Continuity of Learning Plan

Assistant Superintendent Stacy Bailey provided a summary of the Continuity of Learning Plan family survey. It was reported that live interaction time decreased from elementary to secondary levels; the amount of work being completed, as well as how students felt about the amount was consistent across levels; feelings regarding CLP were also consistent across levels. She also described next steps, additional surveys

and upcoming committee meetings.

Members inquired about the following: identifying or demographic information of respondents; potential student survey; how to increase responses; survey of comfort level regarding the 20-21 school year; matching the Governor's verbiage in surveys; 21f sign up; and enforcement.

Superintendent Report

Superintendent Hood reported on the following: upcoming equity professional development opportunities and resources; transportation director position; food service meal distribution; childcare and Senior Center reopening; community education sports and activities; athletic practices; playground and grounds safety; and Commencement is June 21st at 3:00 p.m.

Student Report

Student Representative Hunter inquired about senior e-mail accounts.

Citizen Address Agenda & Non-Agenda Items

No one addressed the board.

Board Reports & Request

President Bolton acknowledged correspondence from Lisa Nguyen regarding PHASE curriculum; Asha Patel inquiring about an interview; Sandy Fields, Cyndi Webster, Michelle Zimmerman, Sally Langley, Julie Keller, Hedlun Walton, Kelly Cesar, Susan Angell, Lori Mazullo, Vicki Schiro and Linda McNamara concerning budget reductions.

Katie Cavanaugh reported on Mary Gebara's placement on the Governor's Taskforce.

Melanie Lynn expressed gratitude for all of the correspondence from the community the board has received.

Consent Agenda

MOVED Tonya Rodriguez, SUPPORTED by Sarah Wohlford that board approve items 1 through 5 for immediate implementation and appropriate action.
Item 1: Approval of the minutes of the regular meeting of May 18, 2020
Item 2: Approval of the minutes of the executive session meeting of May 18, 2020
Item 3: Approval of the minutes of the special meeting of June 1, 2020
Item 4: Approval of the minutes of the executive session meeting of June 1, 2020
Item 5: Acknowledge receipt of the May financial statement and approve payment of bills for May.

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**

Band Student Trip

MOVED Sarah Wohlford, SUPPORTED by Tonya Rodriguez that board endorse the OHS Band student trip to Hawaii from April 1 – 8, 2021 with the understanding the students will abide by all school policies and procedures while abroad.

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**

Tax Levy

MOVED Vincent Lyon-Callo, SUPPORTED by Mary Gebara that 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.

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**

MHSAA Membership

MOVED Tonya Rodriguez, SUPPORTED by Sarah Wohlford that 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, 2020 through July 31, 2021.

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**

Employment - Certified

MOVED Sarah Wohlford, SUPPORTED by Mary Gebara that board approve the employment for Sarah Sweeter, Speech & Language Pathologist for the District at Step 1, Division II; and Elizabeth Tompkins, Speech & Language Pathologist for the District at Step 2, Division II of the teacher salary schedule, effective August 24, 2020 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.

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**

2019-2020 Amended Budget

MOVED Tonya Rodriguez, SUPPORTED by Katie Cavanaugh that board approve the amended 2019-2020 Budget.

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**

Board Advocacy

Board Advocacy Continued

The board discussed advocacy strategies to promote support for school funding and reduction of budgetary impacts on students and programs, including: engaging the community in these efforts; contacting representatives at State and Federal levels; providing contact information for legislators; and providing sample language, talking points and templates. Administration will seek legal guidance regarding restrictions as they pertain to using public funds for political purposes. Members Cavanaugh and Gebara were appointed as a subcommittee for this work.

2020-2021 Budget Development

The board continued their discussion regarding the development of the 2020-2021 budget. Superintendent Hood reviewed the process and timelines. Updated assumptions were provided and included revised enrollment and savings from staff retirements. The net impact to the general fund is an approximate deficit of $2.8 million.

The board reviewed potential budget reductions and revenue enhancements, as well as reviewed items that have been recently added back. While members generally agreed with the Level 1 reductions, they discussed at length additional athletic reductions; cuts to operations, substitutes, RTI Coaching, LMC clerk time; childcare planning time and Community Education office time.

Members inquired about the level of cuts the board is to find; one-time versus ongoing reductions; number of students impacted; library access and services; and a visual representation or pie chart of who the reductions are affecting.

Public Comment

The board's discussion regarding their summer schedule was postponed until June 15th.

Other Matters

No one addressed the board.

Adjourn

There were no other matters.

President Bolton adjourned the regular meeting at 12:00 a.m. on June 9, 2020.

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Mary Gebara, Secretary