Okemos Board of Education
Okemos, Michigan 48864
SPECIAL MEETING APRIL 9, 2020

Call To Order

The special meeting of the Okemos Board of Education was called to order by President Bolton at 7:00 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

Superintendent Report

Superintendent Hood reported on the following: expressed gratitude to students, families, staff and community during this unprecedented time; described numerous acts of kindness, generosity and volunteer opportunities throughout the district including the printing of 3D face masks lunches being distributed and the High School Care Closet; reported on numerous donations including that by the Frank Walsh family to pay off student lunch accounts.

Assistant Superintendent Bailey reported on the Teacher Leader Network that was created in collaboration with the OEA to connect teachers and specialist to develop the continuous learning plan. She also reported on how the district has been meeting various community needs, specifically technology and student devices. Over 1,000 K-4 student devices will be distributed next week and ongoing distribution will be scheduled.

Board Reports & Request

There were no board reports or request.

Discussion Moved Forward: Executive Order & Continuous Learning Plan

Superintendent Hood reviewed the Governor's latest Executive Order including forgiveness of snow and closure days until learning days begin; can count five professional development days; waiver of the 75% attendance requirement; state assessments are waived; the 3rd grade Reading Law is delayed; school employees must be paid; and a continuous learning plan implemented to receive state aid funding.

Assistant Superintendent Cheri Meier explained the Executive Order's childcare provisions for essential workers; the district's status as it pertains to childcare; as well as the process for staff and families to access buildings for necessary materials.

Member Gebara inquired about preschool and GSRP and whether they are included in the Continuous Learning Plan (CLP).

Superintendent Hood and Assistant Superintendent Bailey presented information regarding the district's proposed CLP. Mr. Hood described the efforts to collaborate with neighboring districts and include considerations for special education students, economically disadvantaged, ELL, seniors etc.

The MDE's Guiding Principles were reviewed, as well as the district's guiding principles integrated from the Strategic Plan and Equity Plan. Principles include equity and access; flexible, differentiated instruction; a process for monitoring and assessment; engagement; and professional development for staff.

The CLP describes the methods and modes of instruction to be utilized. A survey will be sent to families by teachers regarding the best way for them to access the learning

opportunities, participate and communicate with each other. The CLP includes expectations regarding the daily learning time per grade level.

Executive Order & Continuous Learning Plan

Members inquired regarding the following: timelines of the surveys; managing expectations; including art, music, phys ed, and electives; attention span suggestions at the younger levels; parental involvement required and implementing a combination of the learning methods.

Assistant Superintendent Bailey clarified the process for deciding which learning targets will be addressed. Some concepts will have to be taught in person. The Teacher Leader Network will help determine what can be obtained through this method of learning and what does that mean for the fall.

Best practices regarding assessments and grading were reviewed. Grades will no longer be given, instead switching to a pass/fail situation.

Members inquired regarding the following: real time vs. static access; how to not worsen inequities; MVU and LCC classes; Wilson Talent Center; counselor availability; accountability for students who choose not to participate; and access to teachers through “office hours”.

The CLP must be approved by the Ingham Intermediate School District and does allow for amendments. The possible impact on the budget was touched on. Communication of the plan and timelines were addressed.

Citizens Address Agenda & Non-Agenda Items

There were no public comments.

Other Matters

President Bolton suggested board packets now be distributed on Fridays.

There were no other matters.

Adjourn

President Bolton adjourned the regular meeting at 9:12 p.m.

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Mary Gebara, Secretary