Okemos Board of Education
Okemos, Michigan 48864
REGULAR MEETING MARCH 12, 2018

Call To Order

The regular meeting of the Okemos Board of Education was called to order by President Bolton at 7:01 p.m.

Members Present: Dean Bolton, Amy Crites, Melanie Lynn, Vincent Lyon-Callo and Sarah Wohlford
Members Absent: Tonya Rodriguez and Erica Wolf
Administrators: Superintendent Alena Zachery-Ross; Assistant Superintendent John Hood; Assistant Superintendent Cheri Meier and Finance Director Elizabeth Lentz

Tonya Rodriguez arrived at 7:06 p.m.

PRESENTATION: Facility Use/Site Committee Report

Members of the Facility Use/Site Long Range Planning Committee presented information, including recommendations for long and short term options to alleviate building capacity issues as a result of increased enrollment.

Steve Lathrop briefly described the "current reality" of the district's buildings including use, capacity and possible open rooms. Future developments and construction in the community were provided.

Elizabeth Lentz provided enrollment data including future projections which indicate increased enrollment the next several years.

Committee Member Beth Brauer-Delaney explained the recommendations. Short term recommendations were proposed that include remodeling and repurposing, as well as portables. Other options the committee considered were mentioned, for example minimal redistricting and maximizing class sizes. The benefits and challenges of each option were explained.

Long term recommendations were proposed that include adding on to Kinawa and reconfiguring grade distribution, or possibly adding on to several buildings and reconfiguring. Other options the committee considered were mentioned, for example building a new building, and re-opening Edgewood or Wardcliff. The benefits and challenges of each option were explained.

Cost associated with the options were communicated. Additional considerations for request from the fine arts department and athletic department were provided. Next steps were discussed.

Erica Wolf arrived at 7:23 p.m.

Amy Crites inquired about building a new building on the empty Powell Rd. lot that the district already owns, and the possibility of re-opening Wardcliff.

Tonya Rodriguez inquired about updating Wardcliff for ADA compliance if childcare programs were relocated there; as well as capacity at the high school. Vincent Lyon-Callo inquired about the optimal size of a building for what's best for student learning; protecting recess and playground access as we consider reconfiguring grades and possibly moving 4th grade; and traffic flow will need to be prioritized.

Facility Use/Site Committee Report

Erica Wolf inquired about what it would look like for the Montessori program if grades are reconfigured.

Members inquired about the short term recommendations and their impact on implementing the long term options.

Dean Bolton inquired about timelines and pursuing the repurposing/remodeling option. He also inquired about research as it relates to best practice for reconfiguring grades.

Superintendent Zachery-Ross reported on the following: March 14th National Walk Out and the district's response to the event; school safety, security and the process of limiting outside access to the buildings during the school day in upcoming weeks.

Superintendent Report

Meridian Township Assistant Chief Plaga reported on the police department's efforts to address security and safety issues including: developing plans; providing training; providing grant funds for radio equipment; crisis intervention materials; implementing drills; and providing a school resource officer.

Ashweena Genugantla, Chad DeKatch, Joy Collins, Trevor Hawks, Shane Cavanaugh, Alyse Ley, Ann White, Davis Coye, Megan Nyquist, Katie Cavanaugh and Sukkyung Kim addressed the board regarding school safety and security.

Citizens Address Agenda & Non-Agenda Items

President Bolton acknowledged correspondence from the following: Michael Bernstein, Jessica Bograkos, Kristin Brooks, Mark Burton, Katie Cavanaugh, Shane Cavanaugh, Joy Collins, Brett DeGroff, Emily Edger, Mary Gebara, Ryan and Jessica Kamerad, Jacqueline Karamanos, Kevin Karpinski, Tonya Karpinski, Suk Kim, Ryan Lewis, Alyse Ley, Jayne Lock, Valerie Long, Kristen McCarthy, Tim, McCarthy Megan Nyquist, Srijana Pandit, Michael and Kristin Ritter, Scott Schopieray and Ann White concerning school and student safety; Nikki Bassett, Jun Ma and Kate Stevenson regarding sexual abuse prevention training; and Linda Bullard regarding the March 14th Walk-Out.

Board Reports & Request

Erica Wolf asked Superintendent Zachery-Ross to clarify the timeline and logistics for locking the doors.

Vincent Lyon-Callo inquired about world language and Michigan Virtual University opportunities and how they are communicated; as well as upcoming fine arts performances, and presentation by Will Heininger on mental health issues.

Amy Crites congratulated the Kinawa Archery students moving on to the state tournament.

Dean Bolton reported on the recent Ingham School Officer's Association meeting and spaghetti dinner fundraiser; as well as the upcoming fine arts festival.

The board took a 5 minute recess.

Consent Agenda

MOVED By Sarah Wohlford, SUPPORTED BY Melanie Lynn that the board approve items 1 through 4 for immediate implementation and appropriate action:
Item 1: Approval of the minutes of the regular meeting of February 26, 2018;
Item 2: Approve the request for a Personal Leave of Absence for the 2018-2019 school year for Rachel Baldwin, Special Education Teacher at Kinawa;
Item 3: Approve the renewal of a Parental Leave of Absence for Katie Atkins for the 2018-19 school year; and
Item 4: Acknowledge receipt of the February financial statement and approve payment of bills for February.

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

Spanish Student Trip

MOVED By Amy Crites, SUPPORTED BY Erica Wolf that the board endorse the OHS Spanish student trip to France, Mediterranean and Spain from June 25th through July 4, 2018 with the understanding the students will abide by all school policies and procedures while abroad.

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

French Student Trip

MOVED By Melanie Lynn, SUPPORTED BY Tonya Rodriguez that the board endorse the OHS French student trip to France from July 6th through July 15, 2018 with the understanding the students will abide by all school policies and procedures while abroad.

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

Board Policy: First Reading

MOVED By Amy Crites, SUPPORTED BY Tonya Rodriguez that the board waive the reading and adopt first reading of board policies: 1312 Complaints Regarding School Personnel; 1324 Soliciting Funds From and By Students; and 1326 Student Production of Goods and Services.

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

Building & Site Sinking Fund Projects

Director of Operations Steve Lathrop presented information regarding proposed building and site sinking fund projects for the 2018-2019 school year. Proposed projects include asphalt at Okemos High School and Phase IV of G-wing renovations at Chippewa Middle School. Bids were already sought for the CMS project and came back significantly higher than expected. The renovations will be postponed until 2019-2020. Instead all of the asphalt projects at the High School will be completed in 2018-2019.

Soccer Field Lighting Project

Mr. Lathrop also provided an update on the status of the soccer field lighting project. Field lights will be installed at the soccer field stadium to be funded by the OHS Soccer Boosters.

Football Turf Project

In addition, the all funds have been raised to proceed with the installation of artificial turf on the Okemos High School football field.

Vincent Lyon-Callo inquired about the possibility of using the Building and Site Sinking Fund to finance the short term security options recommended earlier in the meeting.

Buzzer & Camera System

Director of Operations Steve Lathrop provided information regarding the installation of a buzzer camera system at the main entry of each building, including the associated costs. A 4-6 week timeline for installation is proposed.

Melanie Lynn requested clarification regarding the recently established district safety team. This will be reported on at the March 26th meeting.

Security Options

Director of Operations Steve Lathrop presented additional information regarding security option #2 and option #3 recommended by the Technology/Security/Capital Outlay/Transportation Long Range Planning Committee at the February 26th board meeting, including cost. The board is seeking input regarding these and all of the recommendations from the Technology/Security/Capital Outlay/Transportation and Facility Use/Site Long Range Planning Committees at its April 18th Community Conversation.

Tonya Rodriguez inquired about relocating the buzzer camera systems once they have been installed at a buildings.

Vincent Lyon-Callo inquired about the benefits of the vestibule and redirecting traffic through the office; as well as next steps are. He requested a broader conversation regarding creating a safer school environment besides installing additional equipment and suggest a proactive approach rather than responsive.

Melanie Lynn inquired about the implementation of option one and the additional recommendations from the committee.

Comments From The Public

Scott Schopieray, Mark Burton, Alyse Ley and Kate Cavanaugh addressed the board regarding student safety and security.

Other Matters

Erica Wolf inquired about the placement of the PHASE Curriculum on the district web site.

Adjourn

President Bolton adjourned the regular meeting at 10:34 p.m.

_____

Tonya Rodriguez, Secretary