Okemos Board of Education
Okemos, Michigan 48864
REGULAR MEETING FEBRUARY 26, 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, Vincent Lyon-Callo, Tonya Rodriguez, Sarah Wohlford and Erica Wolf
Members Absent: Melanie Lynn
Administrators: Superintendent Alena Zachery-Ross; Assistant Superintendent John Hood; Assistant Superintendent Cheri Meier and Finance Director Elizabeth Lentz

French Student Trip

Okemos High School French teacher Melissa Samluk presented for board discussion, information regarding a student trip to France. The language and cultural experience is proposed for July 6th through July 15, 2018. It was emphasized that all school rules and policies will be applied at all times while abroad.

Spanish Student Trip

Okemos High School Spanish teacher Jose Gutierrez presented for board discussion, information regarding a student trip to France, Mediterranean and Spain. The language and cultural experience is proposed for June 25th through July 4, 2018. It was emphasized that all school rules and policies will be applied at all times while abroad.

PRESENTATION: Technology Security/Capital Outlay Transportation Committee Report

Committee Facilitator Patricia Trelstad presented information, including recommendations from the Technology/Security/Capital Outlay/Transportation Long Range Planning Committee. Ms. Trelstad explained the purpose of the committee; its membership including teachers, parents, administrators and support staff; as well as the process used to determine needs, priorities, options and recommendations.

Ms. Trelstad described the committee's findings regarding the following: furniture for flexible learning environments; capital outlay; district provided personal learning devices and technology; building and classroom security including benefits and challenges for each option; transportation and bus purchases; and air conditioning installation.

Cost estimates were provided, as well as what are allowable expenses for building and site sinking fund vs. bonding funding. Possible next steps were identified including timelines, and Board of Education final decisions regarding the amount of funding and funding sources.

Vincent Lyon-Callo inquired about the following: transportation needs and adding routes or replacing current fleet; increased energy cost due to the installation of air conditioning; as well as flexible furniture needs from teacher to teacher and building to building.

Technology Security/Capital Outlay

Amy Crites inquired about the willingness of the committee to have additional conversations and/or presentations regarding security.

Dean Bolton inquired about technology needs as they relate to busses/transportation; as well as possible fiber replacement.

Transportation Committee Report

Superintendent Zachery-Ross reported on the following: congratulated the transportation department for its recent 100% inspection by Michigan State Police; thanked the transportation department for its efforts during the recent flooding, provided a security update including some of our security measures including prevention, infrastructure, training, plans and the development of crisis and safety teams.

Superintendent Report

Director of Operations Steve Lathrop provided a summary of the district's current security infrastructure including cameras, electronic door locks, the lock down system, training provided to staff, connectivity with Meridian Township, and integration within all the systems.

Cheri Meier reported on a recent Alert Lockdown Inform Counter Evacuate (ALICE) training she attended.

Dean Bolton directed administration to provide additional information and timelines regarding the committee's security options/recommendation. A separate detailed security presentation will be provided at a future meeting

Student representative Josh reported on the following Okemos High School activities: recent performance of Our Town; upcoming performance of Les Miserables; Boys Basketball Team is Conference Champions; 7th grade camp; NHS blood drive; March 14th's National Walk Out; and an upcoming ACTION Club dodge-a-thon fundraiser.

Student Report

Vincent Lyon-Callo inquired about the student perspective as it relates to security.

Citizens Address Agenda & Non-Agenda Items

Renee Maniaci, Kari Day, Julie Bird, Brynn Hawks, Megan Nyquist, Chad DeKatch, Whitney Duffield, Jane Manfredi and Diane Dockus addressed the board concerning district safety and security.

Board Reports & Request

President Bolton acknowledged correspondence from the following: Janet Fierro concerning the world language program at Okemos High School; Darlene Vagnozzi thanking administration for their leadership during the recent flooding situation; Hedlun Walton, Trevor Hawks and Matt Sholler regarding district safety and security; Bridge Magazine awarding and announcing Okemos Public Schools as an Academic State Champion; Maria Tomovski and Katherine Murphy regarding personal health and sexuality education; Rosetta Kawauchi inquiring about previous board meeting minutes; Lindsey Rabinowitz inquiring the history of Okemos Public Schools; Received the notes from the February 5th policy committee meeting; and Chippewa Middle School thanking Molly Saunders-Scott for the donation of musical instruments.

Board Reports & Request

Erica Wolf reported on upcoming legislative hearings.

Vincent Lyon-Callo reported on the recent Parent Council meeting; and requested additional discussion regarding security and including more staff and community feedback, as well as to consider a separate security committee to address short term and long term needs. Member Lyon-Callo provided statistics and encouraged the board to broaden its security conversations to include increased prevention measures to address student mental health, suicide rates, drug use and increased well-being.

Board Reports & Request

Dean Bolton reported on the Ingham Intermediate School District superintendent interviews; March 7th is the next ISOA meeting at the Wilson Talent Center; and the upcoming Spaghetti Dinner fundraiser on March 9th at Okemos High School.

MOVED By Sarah Wohlford, SUPPORTED BY Amy Crites that the board approve items 1 and 2 for immediate implementation and appropriate action:
Item 1: Approval of the minutes of the regular meeting of February 12, 2018;
Item 2: Acknowledge receipt of the leave of absence report and approve the requested leave of absence for Ursula Morris, Social Studies and Language Arts Teacher at Kinawa, for the period of March 6th through April 30, 2018.

Consent Agenda

AYE: 6 NAY: 0 ABSENT: 1 **MOTION CARRIED**

MOVED By Erica Wolf, SUPPORTED BY Sarah Wohlford that the board adopt the Personal Health and Sexuality Education curriculum for use by students in 7th grade, as well as videos for use by 9th grade students.

PHASE Curriculum & Videos

AYE: 6 NAY: 0 ABSENT: 1 **MOTION CARRIED**

Finance Director Elizabeth Lentz provided an update and the board continued discussing the development of the 2018-2019 budget. Preliminary budget assumptions were provided, taking into consideration the Governor's proposal which includes increased revenue due to increased pupil foundation allowances; MPSERS (retirement) cost offset; enrollment projections; and an increase in Special Education revenue. Increased expenditures include health insurance premiums, a MPSERS rate increase, contract negotiations, and technology maintenance and repairs. The "most likely" projections result in an approximate positive impact on the general fund of $266, 640.

2018-2019 Budget

Ms. Lentz provided an overview of state funding over a 10 year period.

Amy Crites inquired about possible staffing needs.

The board took a 5 minute recess.

The board entered into a work session for the purpose of developing its 2018-2019 budget priorities. This portion of the meeting was not televised, but remained open per the Open Meetings Act.

Board Work Session: Budget Priorities

Work Session Cont.

Board members reviewed the process used by Leadership Council to develop their budget priorities; considered historical reductions and recent add-backs; discussed possible priorities; determined revisions or additions to Leadership's priorities; and discussed next steps which includes ranking the priorities. Results of the ranking will be included in a future meeting packet.

Comments From The Public

There was no public comment.

Other Matters

There were no other matters.

Adjourn

President Bolton adjourned the regular meeting at 11:03 p.m.

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Tonya Rodriguez, Secretary