Okemos Board of Education
Okemos, Michigan 48864
REGULAR MEETING JANUARY 22, 2018

Call To Order

The regular meeting of the Okemos Board of Education was called to order by President Bolton at 7:00 p.m.

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

Recognition: 24 Yrs of Service

The board recognized the following employees who have attained 24 years of service: Michael Backus, Business Education Teacher at Okemos High School; Karen Canestraight, Science Teacher at Okemos High School; Kathleen Eyia, Kindergarten Teacher at Bennett Woods Elementary; Connie Holmes, Special Education ParaPro at Bennett Woods Elementary; and Elizabeth Putman, Administrative Assistant at Hiawatha.

Student Trip

OHS Spanish Teacher Jose Gutierrez presented information regarding a Spanish student trip to Ecuador and the Galapago Islands proposed for June 19th through June 26, 2018. The trip is an educational, cultural and language experience. It was emphasized that all school rules and policies will be applied at all times while abroad.

Superintendent Report

Superintendent Zachery-Ross reported on the following: January is School Board Appreciation Month; new quick ID system for lunch accounts; update on progress of the Superintendent's Facilities Committees; Lansing State Journal student article regarding racism; and OHS Symphonic Wind Ensemble performance at the Michigan Music Conference in Grand Rapids on January 26th.

Finance Director Elizabeth provided information regarding the district's credit rating that was recently downgraded by Moody's Investor Service. While this does not affect current bonds, it may minimally impact future bonds.

Student Rep Report

Student Representative Josh reported on the following OHS activities: a NHS volleyball fundraiser; and recent 1st semester exams.

Citizens Address Agenda & Non-Agenda Items

No one addressed the board.

Vincent Lyon-Callo inquired about Leadership Council's reponse to the racism article that was shared with them.

Board Reports & Request

President Bolton acknowledged receipt of the following correspondence: Meridian Township regarding a wetland use permit request.

Tonya Rodriguez reported on a recent Parent Council meeting at Okemos High School.

Consent Agenda

MOVED by Sarah Wohlford, SUPPORTED by Melanie Lynn, that the board approve items 1 through 3 for immediate implementation and appropriate action.
Item 1: Approval of the minutes of the regular meeting of January 8, 2018;

Item 2: Acknowledge receipt of the December financial statement and approve payment of bills for December; and

Item 3: Acknowledge receipt of the leave of absence report and approve the requested leave of absence for Mariana Austrins, Kindergarten Teacher at Hiawatha Elementary for the period of January 15th through February 23, 2018.

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

Discussion: Montessori School of Choice Openings

The board discussed potential School of Choice openings to be advertised (February 18) for the Pre-K through 8th grade Montessori program. The numbers being proposed will reflect available seats, while maintaining the district's ability to accommodate resident students. The number of openings are as follows: Kindergarten - 2 Openings; Grades 1 and 2 - 0 openings; Grades 3 and 4 - 2 openings; Grades 5 and 6 - 1 opening; and Grades 7 and 8 - 2 openings.

Central Montessori Principal Sue Hallman provided additional clarification regarding the enrollment process and how the number of openings is selected.

Comments From The Public

Sue Hallman thanked the Board and Administrators for their continued support of the Montessori program.

Other Matters

The board established a work session during the February 26th meeting for the purpose of developing budget priorities.

Tonya Rodriguez inquired about opportunities for community engagement as it pertains to the work of the Facilities Committee, as well as the Technology, Security, Transportation & Capital Outlay Committee.

Adjourn

President Bolton adjourned the regular meeting at 7:50 p.m.

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Tonya Rodriguez, Secretary