Okemos Board of Education
Okemos, Michigan 48864
REGUALR MEETING NOVEMBER 13, 2017

Call To Order

The regular meeting of the Okemos Board of Education was called to order by President Lynn at 7:02 p.m.

Members Present: Dean Bolton, Amy Crites, Melanie Lynn, Vincent Lyon-Callo, Tonya Rodriguez, Sarah Wohlford and Erica Wolf

Administrators: Superintendent Alena Zachery-Ross; Assistant Superintendent John Hood; Assistant Superintendent Cheri Meier and Finance Director Elizabeth Lentz

Presentation: World Language Opportunities

Assistant Superintendent John Hood provided an update regarding K-12 World Language opportunities throughout the district, detailing participation trends over the last three years and reviewing recommendations from the 2016 Okemos World Language Committee.

Mr. Hood provided an overview of survey results and recommendations from the 2016 World Language Committee's finding in 2016. He reviewed what the committee described as an ideal program and compared it with what is currently offered. The district has implemented an after school program and PLC activities, as well as Michigan Virtual University courses offered. Mr. Hood reported on enrollment and participation, and admitted that the current offerings falls short as it pertains to equity due to transportation needs and cost involved.

Dean Bolton inquired about the feedback from parents regarding the after school elementary program, as well as tuition cost.

Vincent Lyon-Callo inquired about research that supports learning languages at a younger age; suggested surveying the elementary level parents regarding obstacles and reasons preventing them from participating; consider foreign language skills and experiences when making hiring decisions; and how to help the 7-12th grade level students enrolled in online classes to be more successful.

Superintendent Report

Superintendent Zachery-Ross reported on the following: Parent-Teacher Conferences; upcoming fine arts performances; OHS Science Teacher Dave Chapman was awarded the Outreach Award from the Association of State Floodplain Managers; upcoming meeting regarding road construction projects that will affect Okemos community members; Emily Renfrew has signed a letter of intent to play lacrosse for Northern Michigan University; student representative to the school board; upcoming drama production of An Ideal Husband November 15-19th; increased security presence at the buildings as a precautionary measure in response to Meridian Township's request.

Dean Bolton requested that the press release provided by Meridian Township police be distributed to families upon receipt.

Citizens Address Agenda & Non-Agenda

Vincent Lyon-Callo inquired about how the construction projects will affect the transportation routes.

No one addressed the board.

Board Reports & Request

President Lynn acknowledged receipt of the following correspondence: Linda Danders regarding proposed legislation and Gun Violence Prevention; Ingham County Road Department with a notice of a public information meeting; Meridian Township regarding a planning commission public hearing; Ingham Intermediate School District inviting members to the 11th Annual Arts Advocacy breakfast; Jason Aldrich following up kneeling during the National anthem and a student issue; Carl Norberg following up regarding substance abuse prevention.

Tonya Rodriguez reported on the recent MASB Delegate Assembly.

Dean Bolton also reported on the MASB Delegate Assembly, the conference sessions he attended, as well as the district's own presentation regarding Equity Plan development. Member Bolton also reported on the Ingham School Officers Association meeting including a presentation regarding the 3rd Grade Reading Law and an upcoming Arts Advocacy Breakfast.

Melanie Lynn reported on the MASB Annual Conference and encouraged members to participate in MASB activities and courses; as well as a recent presentation by Superintendent Zachery-Ross at the Meridian Township Breakfast.

Erica Wolf reported on proposed open carry legislation and provided contact information for the legislators proposing the bill. Members were encouraged to contact the MASB and local senators and representatives to voice concerns regarding this legislation. She suggested the board develop a resolution in opposition.

Members reaffirmed the Okemos Public Schools policy regarding weapons, and established Erica Wolf as the legislative liaison to provide legislative updates to the board.

Consent Agenda

MOVED by Dean Bolton, SUPPORTED by Sarah Wohlford, 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 October 23, 2017
Item 2: Acknowledge receipt of the October financial statement and approve payment of bills for October.

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

2017-2018 Budget Amendments

Finance Director Elizabeth Lentz presented the proposed amendments to the 2017-2018 budget for board discussion. Revenue revisions included a state aide increase due to higher than projected enrollments, special education revenue, and MPSERS Stabilization. Expenditure revisions included increased general and special education staffing to accommodate increased enrollments; wage and benefit expenses more accurately reflect staffing assignments and benefit selections; supplies and materials budgets were adjusted to reflect increased enrollments; and non-traditional program participation. The net impact on the fund balance is projected to be an increase of $781,100. Items that could potentially impact the 2017-2018 budget were also noted. The board will vote to approve the amended budget at the December 11th meeting.

The board discussed at length whether to assign funds for K-6 math curriculum; as well as the OEF's commitment of $40,000 to fund clubs and organizations.

Superintendent Zachery-Ross provided a history of budget reductions and revenue

enhancements, as well as board priorities and items that have been added back in the last few years.

2017-2018 Budget Amendments Cont.

Members inquired about the following: other curriculum studies currently underway; the cost involved for non-traditional programs; budget priority conversations prior to the budget development season; and administration's budget priorities for comparison

Erica Wolf inquired about the proposed legislation that would require ISD's to provide funding to Charter Schools.

Tonya Rodriguez inquired about the borrowing cost involved in not having a fund balance above 10%.

Members agreed to discuss their priorities and add back items at a future budget development meeting, rather than a during an amendment process.

Members requested a full list of priorities before making a decision regarding assigning the funds for math curriculum.

Superintendent relocation expenses was also discussed as they pertain to taxable income.

K-12 Facility Use/ Site & Long Range Planning Committee

Superintendent Zachery-Ross provided an update on the development of the K-12 Facility Use/Site and Long Range Planning Committees. The process used for collecting and selecting members was described.

Comments From The Public

There were no comments from the public.

Other Matters

A special meeting will be established for the purpose of discussing superintendent and board of education relations.

Adjourn

President Lynn adjourned the regular meeting at 10:02 p.m.

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Tonya Rodriguez, Secretary