Okemos Board of Education
Okemos, Michigan 48864
REGUALR MEETING OCTOBER 9, 2017

Call To Order

The regular meeting of the Okemos Board of Education was called to order by President Lynn at 7:01 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 and Assistant Superintendent Cheri Meier

Presentation: Proposed Energy Project

Director of Operations Steve Lathrop presented for board discussion an energy project at Okemos High School involving upgrading lighting in selected areas, including the hallways, common areas and cafeteria. The proposed project would have special funding through Consumers Energy and Michigan Saves in the form of grants and rebates, in addition to using the remaining solar project proceeds resulting in a budget neutral improvement; and would establish the Green Revolving Fund approved by the board during its June 12th meeting.

50% of the savings achieved through the energy project would go back into the Green Energy fund to support future efficiency projects. Bids are currently being sought with a projected completion of December 15th.

Superintendent Report

Superintendent Zachery-Ross reported on the following: recent homecoming activities; Athletic Hall of Fame Induction ceremony; students kneeling during the National Anthem and accompanying response from the district and legal counsel; upcoming presentation regarding 16-17 discipline data; Hiawatha Principal hiring process update; World Café activities; updated preliminary enrollments; recent and upcoming facility audits and the development of a facilities committee.

Dean Bolton suggested adding a discussion item regarding the development of the superintendent's facilities committee(s).

Vincent Lyon-Callo inquired about if the National Anthem is played before all sporting events.

Melanie Lynn suggested adding a discussion item regarding the student representative and generating interest.

Citizens Address Agenda & Non-Agenda

No one addressed the board.

Board Reports & Request

President Lynn acknowledged receipt of the following correspondence: Cyndi Webster congratulating Sandy Fields on winning the Ruby Brown Award for Individual Excellence from the Michigan Association for Media in Education; Meridian Township regarding a 2017 Master Plan Public Hearing; Chuck Canestraight regarding Superintendent Zachery-Ross' doctorate degree status; RJ Wolcott inquiring about certain board policies; and Al Singletary concerning students kneeling during the National Anthem.

Dean Bolton reported on a recent Ingham School Officers Association meeting.

Sarah Wohlford reminded the community to purchase tickets for the OEF Awards banquet at either the school buildings or online.

Tonya Rodriguez reported on a recent World Café meeting she attended.

Vincent Lyon-Callo suggested adding a discussion item to the agenda to generate interest in the position of student representative to the school board.

Consent Agenda

MOVED by Dean Bolton, SUPPORTED by Amy Crites, 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 September 25, 2017
Item 2: Approval of the minutes of the Special Meeting of September 27, 2017
Item 3: Approval of the minutes of the Executive Session of September 27, 2017

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

Board Policy: Final Reading

MOVED by Sarah Wohlford, SUPPORTED by Amy Crites, that the board waive the reading and adopt final reading of board policy 4116.2/5116.2 Sexual Harassment.

AYE: 7 NAY: 0 ABSENT: 0 MOTION CARRIED

Board Meetings

The board assessed how successful they have been at implementing the attributes and strategies to increase meeting effectiveness agreed upon during their July 19th work session. Members agreed that presentations are a vital part of meetings and suggested a process for informing the board if a member is going to be absent.

superintendent's Facilities Committee Development

The board discussed the development of a superintendent's facilities committee to begin the process of collecting information and data that will eventually make a recommendation to the board and inform the decision of whether to pursue a bond in 2018 or 2019. Members supported the Superintendent's plan to proceed with a committee. Members discussed past superintendent committees.

Student Representativ

The board discussed the need to find students who are interested in participating as a student representative to the board. Ideas were generated to improve interest from the student body.

Comments From The Public

Deb Hamilton addressed the board regarding student representatives to the board and a possible letter of recommendation in return for their service.

Other Matters

Sarah Wohlford will serve as the representative to the October 17th World Café at Bennett Woods. Dean Bolton will attend October 18th at CMS; and Amy Crites will attend the Kinawa World Café on October 25th.

Vincent Lyon-Callo inquired about when the scheduling of Parent-Teacher Conferences for Chippewa Middle School would begin.

Adjourn

President Lynn adjourned the regular meeting at 8:33 p.m.

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Tonya Rodriguez, Secretary