Okemos Board of Education Okemos, Michigan 48864
REGULAR MEETING SEPTEMBER 23, 2024

The regular meeting of the Okemos Board of Education was called to order by President Gebara at 7:01 p.m.
Members Present: Tom Buffett, Katie Cavanaugh, Shulawn Doxie, Mary Gebara, Melanie Lynn, and Andy Phelps and Jayme Taylor
Administration: Superintendent John Hood; Assistant Superintendent Stacy Bailey; Finance Director Elizabeth Lentz

Director of Finance Elizabeth Lentz and Mr. Steve Piesko, CPA and principal from Maner Costerisan P.C. presented the 2023-2024 draft audit report of the district. Mr. Piesko commended the district's financial management, as well as recognized the minimal variance of the projected 2023-2024 budget and the actual budget. Mr. Piesko pointed out several areas of note including: pension retirement; bond controls; and an upcoming GASB requirements.

Representatives from Veridas, TowerPinkster and Christman provided an update regarding the 2022 bond, including bid packages #3 and #4. A construction update for bid package #4 which includes secure vestibules and pressing needs at OPM, Hiawatha and OHS was given. An update on bid Package #3 which is the new Chippewa Middle School was provided. The community and board received a reminder of the pre-bond commitments, a budget breakdown and next steps including timelines.

No one addressed the board.

High School Student Representatives reported on the following: status of FLEX days; recent homecoming activities; upcoming can and bottle drive on October 5th; upcoming blood drive; recent win for Varsity Football; and athletics update.

Superintendent Hood reported on the following: recent conference and legislative update; operations and upcoming presentation on that department's budget and facilities needs plans; congratulated Dawn Reed and Vanessa Nahat on recently received distinctions; OHS bathroom repairs; Meridian Township Senior Center taskforce; and access to athletic facilities after hours.

Members inquired about the following: evening fine arts performance requirements; process for approaching finding a sub in the Superintendent's absence; and propose an internal interim sub.

President Gebara acknowledge correspondence from Haishao Liang and Guangming He regarding permitting use of school athletic facilities to community members; and Ryan Smith a candidate running for the LCC Board.

Members reported on the homecoming parade and festivities; and the timelines regarding FLEX days.

MOVED by Katie Cavanaugh, SUPPORTED by Andy Phelps 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 9, 2024; Item 2: Approval of the Minutes of the Special Meeting of September 17, 2024; and Item 3: Approval of the Minutes of the Executive Session Meeting of September 17, 2024.

AYE: 7 NAY:0 ABSENT 1 **MOTION CARRIED**

The board discussed the upcoming board retreat as it pertains to outcomes, priorities and agenda items. How the committee expects the retreat and discussions to look was outlined, as well as the role of the facilitator.

The board continued their discussion of the next chapters of The Human Side of School Change as part of their

book study.

There were no comments from the public.

There were no other matters.

President Gebara adjourned the regular meeting at 8:42 p.m.

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Andy Phelps, Secretary