Okemos Board of Education Okemos, Michigan 48864
REGULAR MEETING OCTOBER 28, 2024

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

Members Present: Tom Buffett, Katie Cavanaugh, Shulawn Doxie, Mary Gebara, and Melanie Lynn, Andy Phelps and Jayme Taylor

Administration: Superintendent John Hood; Assistant Superintendent Stacy Bailey; Director Mario Martinez; Director Lara Slee; Director Elizabeth Lentz

Representatives from Veridas, TowerPinkster and Christman provided an update regarding the 2022 bond, including bid packages #3, #4 and #8. Bid package #8 was introduced which includes improvements to music rooms and storage, kitchen improvements, greenhouse repairs, and bathroom renovations. They reported on the completion of the High School and Hiawatha Elementary secure vestibules and office spaces. Before and after care improvements at Central Montessori were reviewed. The pool improvements and HVAC at OHS is scheduled to begin March, 2025. They reviewed progress on bid pack #3 which is the new CMS, as well as reviewed bond milestones, timelines, upcoming presentations and bids.

Members inquired about the following: consistency of materials and design across buildings; and using space while construction is underway.

Assistant Superintendent Stacy Bailey, and DEI Director Lara Slee provided an overview of district benchmark assessment results, along with key initiatives that will be utilized to address students' needs during the 2024-2025 school Mrs. Bailey reviewed the district's goal setting process and schedule of assessments. It was reported that the district outperforms state and county averages for M-Step, Mi-Access, PSAT and SAT assessments. Trend data over the last 10 years was presented, as well as the most current data broken down by demographic groups. Achievement goals versus actual proficiency was described.

Dr. Slee reviewed NWEA growth data, goals and achievement as a district and broken down into subgroups. SEL data measuring risk, as well as initiatives implemented to reduce risk were presented. Examples include the Woofpack, OHS Testing Center, new science and social studies curriculum, and universal accommodations.

Members inquired about the following: supporting teachers; process of goal setting; follow up on subgroup data; special education subgroup data; the narrow achievement gap at 7th and 8th grade level; possible universal accommodation presentation; knowing the impact and effectiveness of initiatives; and the BASC assessment.

High School Student Representatives reported on the following: addition of 3rd lunch; Halloween spirit week; no school on Friday; end of quarter one; fall production of Harvey; Trunk or Treat event; and an athletic update.

Superintendent Hood reported on the following: strategic plan proposal from MASB; possible mass action lawsuit regarding insulin prices; digital communication position status; Meridian Senior Center update; congratulated our State Champion Golfer; congratulated Coach Dan Stolz on his induction into National High School Coaches Hall of Fame; and addressed recent safety and security situation at Kinawa. Mr. Hood reviewed current processes, procedures, and the experts the district hired to develop these. It was note that more education is needed, and there is an upcoming Safety and Security Community Forum on Tuesday, October 29th.

Members discussed social media usage.

Nicholas Daum addressed the board concerning security procedures.

President Gebara acknowledged correspondence from the following: Chris Davis and Michael Callahan

concerning Kinawa safety and security; and Michelle Ott regarding the Red Cedar Basketball program. Members discussed the following: recent MASB Conference and the district's safety and security presentation; recent Executive Committee meeting and their upcoming planning.

MOVED by Tom Buffett, SUPPORTED by Katie Cavanaugh 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 14, 2024; and Item 2: Approval of the Minutes of the Executive Session Meeting of October 14, 2024.

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

MOVED by Andy Phelps, SUPPORTED by Jayme Taylor that the board authorize the superintendent to proceed with the high school bathroom repair and renovation projects funded by the building and site sinking fund, 2022 bond and insurance in an amount not to exceed $605,000.

Roll Call Vote

Tom Buffett	Yes	Melanie Lynn	Yes
Katie Cavanaugh	Yes	Andrew Phelps	Yes
Mary Gebara	Yes	Jayme Taylor	Yes
Shulawn Doxie	Yes		

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

MOVED by Katie Cavanaugh, SUPPORTED by Shulawn Doxie that the board waive the reading and adopt first reading of board policies 2201 Board Powers/General Powers, 2303 Violation of Board Code of Ethics, 2401 Board Member Elections, 2405 Board Officers, 2501 Meetings, and 2504 Public Participation at Board Meetings.

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

Board members are asked to review and be prepared to discuss at the next few board meetings the proposed Board Operating Procedures. Questions or comments can be sent to Rhianna for sharing with the sub-committee. Members suggested that the board require CBA 101 to be taken by all members; recommended that the BOPs include verbiage on social media; and discussed the process outlined for filling a board vacancy.

The board delayed their discussion of the next chapters of The Human Side of School Change as part of their book study until the next meeting.

There were no comments from the public.

There were no other matters.

MOVED by Katie Cavanaugh, SUPPORTED by Shulawn Doxie that the board adjourn to Executive Session pursuant to Section 8(a) of the Open Meetings Act for the purpose of discussing the superintendent evaluation.

Roll Call Vote

Tom Buffett	Yes	Melanie Lynn	Yes
Katie Cavanaugh	Yes	Andrew Phelps	Yes
Mary Gebara	Yes	Jayme Taylor	Yes
Shulawn Doxie	Yes		

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

Members adjourned to Executive Session at 9:26 p.m.

Members reconvened from Executive Session at 9:48

Members Present: Tom Buffett, Katie Cavanaugh, Shulawn Doxie, Mary Gebara, and Melanie Lynn, Andy Phelps and Jayme Taylor
Administration: Superintendent John Hood

President Gebara adjourned the regular meeting at 9:49 p.m.

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Andy Phelps, Secretary