Okemos Board of Education Okemos, Michigan 48864
REGULAR MEETING NOVEMBER 11, 2024

The regular meeting of the Okemos Board of Education was called to order by President Gebara at 6:45 p.m.
Members Present: Katie Cavanaugh, Shulawn Doxie, Mary Gebara, and Andy Phelps
Members Absent: Tom Buffett, Melanie Lynn and Jayme Taylor
Administration: Assistant Superintendent Stacy Bailey

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 contract negotiations.
Roll Call Vote

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

AYE: 4 NAY:0 ABSENT 3 **MOTION CARRIED**

Members adjourned to Executive Session at 6:46 p.m.

Members Buffett, Lynn and Taylor arrived at approximately 7 p.m.

Members reconvened from Executive Session at 7:20 p.m.

Members Present: Tom Buffett, Katie Cavanaugh, Shulawn Doxie, Mary Gebara, Melanie Lynn, Andy Phelps and Jayme Taylor
Administration: Assistant Superintendent Stacy Bailey; Director Mario Martinez; Director Elizabeth Lentz

Director Slee, Director Pricco, and members from the District MTSS Committee provided an overview of the committee's work and goal areas. Dr. Slee and Director Pricco reviewed the district's MTSS approach, with a focus on the system, policies, and practices, as well as last year's outcomes. Goals were established for 24-25 including formal communication plan, common language, the MTSS handbook, and a process standard for data team meetings. They also discussed creating a catalog of possible interventions available and implemented, as well as a recent presentation OPS delivered at an MiMTSS Conference.

Members inquired about the following: change to a diamond-shaped approach to encompass extensions and enrichment on one end of the spectrum and interventions on the other end; does the model also apply to behavior; evaluating this targeted approach and projected timelines; using the practice profile to assess our growth; how common is this work across the state; and research-based methods.

Assistant Superintendent Bailey presented Kinawa classroom furniture to be purchased in the summer of 2025 and provided an overview of future furniture purchases funded by the 2022 bond. Mrs. Bailey reviewed the process used to select a vendor including members of the team, metrics used to assess furniture, process for prioritizing needs, classroom pilot process and feedback collection. She also reported on the flexibility and options the furniture provides depending on the setting, included student feedback, the plan for the old furniture, and next steps including action at the next meeting.

Special Education Director Heather Pricco and Finance Director Elizabeth Lentz presented an update regarding the proposed new special education funding formula. The board first heard of potential changes in May. They briefly reviewed the district's special education funding sources, reviewed the impact to OPS, as well as some impending items. The previous funding formula and process for determining it were discussed, as well as the

ISD's funding plan phase 1 and why a new plan was needed. Director Lentz described the various challenges with the process used to develop the new formula. Phase 2 feedback and challenges were reviewed. The total estimated budget impact is a loss of 20% of funding. Unknown items such as the Beekman Center, ISD's special education fund balance versus their general fund were reported. It was noted that services to special education students will not change despite the decreased budget. The ISD board will take action in December.

Members discussed the following: how can they help or where do they advocate; how does our budget impact compare to other area districts; and what are the philosophical differences being mentioned.

No one addressed the board.

High School Student Representatives reported on the following: recent losses and available supports; recent fundraisers to benefit local food banks; new sign in and sign out procedures; completion of new office and secure vestibule; and an athletic update.

Member Buffett asked about what other supports would be helpful.

Assistant Superintendent Stacy Bailey reported on the following: future of Flex Days; completion of the HS bathroom repairs; recent OEF Banquet; recent community presentation on sleep; thanked the Okemos Athletic Boosters for their support of our athletes; spoke on the impact and legacy of staff member Steve Finamore; expressed thanks for the support and opportunity to serve as Interim Superintendent in Superintendent Hood's absence.

Members discussed the following: recent Strategic Planning process meetings and potential action at the next meeting; new member onboarding process; recent advocacy committee conversation and MASB's summary of the lame duck legislative session; and a student survey timeline update.

MOVED by Katie Cavanaugh, SUPPORTED by Melanie Lynn 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 November 11, 2024; and Item 2: Approval of the Minutes of the Executive Session Meeting of November 11, 2024.

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

MOVED by Andy Phelps, SUPPORTED by Jayme Taylor that the board accept the donation of new weight room equipment generously donated by the Okemos Athletic Boosters.

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

MOVED by Andy Phelps, SUPPORTED by Shulawn Doxie that the board authorize the superintendent to proceed with the Kinawa remediation projects funded by the general fund, Building and Site Sinking Fund and the 2022 Bond in an amount not to exceed $1.5 Million.

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 Jayme Taylor, SUPPORTED by Katie Cavanaugh that the board waive the reading and adopt the resolution authorizing and directing the superintendent to join the lawsuit and sign the Attorney-Client Fee

Contract on behalf of Okemos Public Schools.

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

The board continued their discussion of the proposed board operating procedures, including developing a process for proposing and adopting changes to the document. 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.

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 9:29 p.m.

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Andy Phelps, Secretary