Okemos Board of Education Okemos, Michigan 48864
REGULAR MEETING DECEMBER 9, 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, Melanie Lynn and Andy Phelps
Members Absent:	Jayme Taylor
Administration:	Superintendent John Hood; Assistant Superintendent Stacy Bailey; Finance Director Elizabeth Lentz

President Mary Gebara, Superintendent Hood and members of the board recognized Members Melanie Lynn and Jayme Taylor for their dedication and service as a member of the Okemos Board of Education.

No one addressed the board.

High School Student Representatives reported on the following: BPA Shoe drive; Okemos Outreach toy drive; Spanish & French students singing at nursing home; athletic update; recent dance team competition; upcoming winter assembly including fine arts performances; upcoming winter break, finals and Toddler Day; Care Closet drive; upcoming BPA competition; and student spirit activities.

Superintendent Hood reported on the following: thanked Assistant Superintendent Bailey for leadership while he was on leave; recent girls basketball game; introduced new digital communication specialist Nathan Brown; expressed gratitude to the board and its leadership.

Members discussed the following: recent advocacy committee meetings and legislative efforts; Filter First grant update; suggested having final exams before winter break; possible presentation on athletics; upcoming Okemos Athletic Boosters Gala; ISOA meeting including a tour of the Wilson Talent Center; upcoming policy committee meeting.

MOVED by Shulawn Doxie, SUPPORTED by Melanie Lynn 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 November 25, 2024; Item 2: Approval of the Minutes of the Executive Session Meeting of November 25, 2024; and Item 3: That the board acknowledge receipt of the November financial statement and approve payment of bills for November.

AYE: 6 NAY:0 ABSENT 1 **MOTION CARRIED**

MOVED by Tom Buffett, SUPPORTED by Andy Phelps that the board award the purchase of furniture for Kinawa to VS America, in an amount not to exceed $1,894,133.79 and to be funded through the 2022 bond.

AYE: 6 NAY:0 ABSENT 1 **MOTION CARRIED**

MOVED by Katie Cavanaugh, SUPPORTED by Shulawn Doxie that the board waive the reading and adopt the resolution for collection of summer property tax as appropriate from Alaiedon Township, Meridian Township, and the City of Lansing and to negotiate a reasonable expense for such collection of the district's tax levy.

Roll Call Vote

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

AYE: 6 NAY:0 ABSENT 1 **MOTION CARRIED**

MOVED by Andy Phelps, SUPPORTED by Melanie Lynn that the board authorize the superintendent to complete the contract with MASB to facilitate the Strategic Planning Process in an amount not to exceed $11,147.

AYE: 6 NAY:0 ABSENT 1 **MOTION CARRIED**

MOVED by Katie Cavanaugh, SUPPORTED by Shulawn Doxie that the board waive the reading and adopt final reading of board policies 2406 Board Officers' Duties and 2505 Board Committees.

AYE: 6 NAY:0 ABSENT 1 **MOTION CARRIED**

MOVED by Andy Phelps, SUPPORTED by Melanie Lynn that the board waive the reading and adopt the Board Operating Procedures.

AYE: 6 NAY:0 ABSENT 1 **MOTION CARRIED**

Assistant Superintendent Stacy Bailey provided information regarding a recommendation from the district's Parent Council for an appointment to the district's Personal Health and Sexuality Education Advisory (PHASE) Board to fill a 3-year term. The board will take action at its next meeting.

Finance Director Elizabeth Lentz provided information regarding 2024-2025 budget revisions. Proposed revisions to revenue include: unchanged foundation allowance, enrollment, special education categoricals, decreased facility rental income and insurance reimbursements. Revisions to expenses include: retirement, salary adjustments and staffing; insurance cost increases, nurses and health team are no longer grant funded, and maintenance equipment purchases for example. Grants, rate stabilization, pre-school and GSRP, mental health grants, and title funds were also reviewed. Impending budget items were discussed, as well as next steps and a budget development timeline.

Members inquired about the retirement cap; special education funding; and enrollment.

There were no comments from the public.

Members thanked and acknowledged Melanie Lynn and Jayme Taylor for their service.

Jayme Taylor arrived at 8:22 p.m.

President Gebara announced her resignation from the board.

The board discussed the process to fill the board vacancy, timelines and next steps. The board will appoint a new member at a special meeting on January 6th at 6 p.m. Applications will be due by December 17th. There will be a special meeting on December 19th at 6 p.m. to review applicants and select who to interview.

Members thanked and acknowledged Mary Gebara for her service.

President Cavanaugh adjourned the regular meeting at 8:38 p.m.

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Andy Phelps, Secretary