Okemos Board of Education
Okemos, Michigan 48864
REGULAR MEETING FEBRUARY 12, 2024

Call To Order

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, Andrew Phelps and Jayme Taylor

Administrators: Superintendent John Hood; Assistant Superintendent Stacy Bailey; Finance Director Elizabeth Lentz; HR Director Mario Martinez; DEI Director Lara Slee

Closed Session

MOVED by Jayme Taylor, SUPPORTED by Katie Cavanaugh 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	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**

The board adjourned to closed session at 7:02 p.m.

Reconvene

The board reconvened from closed session at 7:29 p.m.

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

Administrators: Superintendent John Hood; Assistant Superintendent Stacy Bailey; Finance Director Elizabeth Lentz; HR Director Mario Martinez; DEI Director Lara Slee

Request to Negotiate

The board discussed the OEA's request to open negotiations, specifically the proposed board policies covered under PERA. The board recently adopted first reading of several policies that they will not bring forward for adoption until there has been collaboration with union leadership.

Representative Julie Brixie briefly reported on the new United Resiliency Center in East Lansing for the purpose of promoting mental and emotional well-being. She also distributed luminaries to observe the anniversary of the MSU shooting.

MTSS & Winter Benchmark Assessment Data

Assistant Superintendent Bailey, Director Slee, and Director Pricco provided an update on the District MTSS process; while Principal Kemsley and OHS educators shared examples of professional learning and system creation at OHS to improve student learning. In addition, Assistant Superintendent Bailey also presented the winter benchmark assessment data.

A brief overview of MTSS was given including: development and purpose of the District MTSS committee, data analysis, framework components for meeting student needs, team-based leadership, tiered delivery system, shifting from a triangle approach to a diamond structure to meet students who need not just intervention but also those who need

MTSS & Winter Benchmark Assessment Data

enrichment, screening and assessment system, best practice profile, and shared goals.

A summary of winter benchmark assessment data, as well as examples of supports were shared. The approach of measuring student growth versus just achievement was explained. Current literacy and math growth data was provided, as well as social-emotional health screener results.

Representatives from OHS provided examples of MTSS in action including: professional development, individual coaching, universal design and accommodations, department coaching, differentiation within the curriculum versus two different classes, the academic learning center, one-on-one tutoring, and student support teams.

Members inquired about the following: self-assessment; tiered fidelity index; transportation to summer school; referral process; evaluating the initiatives; and SEL screener data.

High School Student Report

High School Student Representatives reported on the following: recent 7th grade camp; boiler issue at the high school; no school for President's Day; recent solo and ensemble performances; upcoming spaghetti dinner fundraiser; and recent winter dance.

Bond Update

The bond team provided an update on the overall 2022 bond project including the status of completed bid packages and budget, stakeholder engagement plans, and next steps. A reminder of the pre-bond commitments and priorities was shared, as well as a budget breakdown including timelines. Community engagement opportunities, upcoming board updates including recreational fields were reviewed.

Members discussed community engagement in particular, as well as if there are items that were discussed and possibly not able to be completed.

Student Trip

OHS German Teacher Andy Floyd provided information regarding a trip to Germany. The language and cultural immersion experience is proposed for June 10th through June 19, 2024. Scholarships, fundraising, and next steps were described.

Media & Technology Director Tom Isom provided information regarding a technology purchase to be funded by the 2022 bond. Bids were sought for a full security upgrade that includes cameras, access control, and structured cabling.

Members inquired about feedback from the district’s safety and security consultants.

Citizens Address Agenda & Non-Agenda Items

Lori Mazzullo addressed the board regarding the negotiation of the PERA board policies. While Josh Coty addressed the board regarding their priorities.

Superintendent’s Report

Superintendent Hood reported on the following: Hiawatha carline design; start time meetings with staff; board book study; recent emergency response meeting; 7th grade camp; Montessori maple syrup projects; upcoming superintendent goal setting meeting; upcoming conference presentation on safety and security response; OPM testing and facilities and new testing website.

Board Reports & Request

President Gebara acknowledged correspondence from the following: Dorothy Diefenbach, Mark Polsdofer concerning the proposed Hiawatha carline design; Sarah Atwood and K. Patterson regarding the superintendent contract; Jillian Winn regarding the recording of board meetings; Okemos Woof Pack sharing a recent interaction; Serenity Horton regarding the Ennis Center for Children; and Isabel Wang, Geoffroy Laumet and Rob Blankenhorn regarding school start times.

Board Reports & Request

President Gebara read a statement regarding the superintendent's new contract.

Members reported on the following: strategic priorities versus superintendent goals; change management; 7th grade camp; OEF golf outing; MASB course; and possible use of a data service.

Consent Agenda

MOVED by Shulawn Doxie, 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 January 22, 2024; Item 2: Acknowledge receipt of the January financial statement and approve payment of bills for January.

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

PHASE Curriculum

MOVED by Tom Buffett, SUPPORTED by Melanie Lynn that the board approve adopt the Personal Health and Sexuality Education curriculum for use by elementary special education students.

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

Meridian Township LOU

MOVED by Katie Cavanaugh, SUPPORTED by Shulawn Doxie that the board waive the reading and direct the superintendent to enter into the letter of understanding with Meridian Township.

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

Technology Purchase

MOVED Jayme Taylor, SUPPORTED by Andy Phelps that the board award the purchase of ethernet switches and wireless access points, not to exceed $1,128,611.85 to Sentinel and to be funded through the 2022 bond.

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**

Board Policy: First Reading

MOVED by Andy Phelps, SUPPORTED by Shulawn Doxie that the board waive the reading and adopt first reading of board policies 3118 Title IX Sexual Harassment; 3303 Gifts and Donations; 3403 Reporting Accidents; 3404 Communicable Diseases; 3501 Freedom of Information Act; 3501-AG Michigan Freedom of Information Act Procedures and Guidelines; 4102 Anti-Harassment, Including Sexual Harassment; 4103 Whistleblowers' Protection; 4104 Employment Complaint Procedure; 4105 Workplace Accommodations for Employees and Applicants with Disabilities; 4107 Military Leave; and 5416 Homebound and Hospitalized Instruction; 5702 Student Illness and Injury.

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

Montessori SOC

MOVED by Tom Buffett, SUPPORTED by Katie Cavanaugh that the board approve the following recommended number of PPK-8 Public Montessori school-of-choice openings for potential enrollment: Kindergarten-2 openings; Grades 1 and 2- 1 opening; Grades 3 and 4- 0 openings; Grades 5 and 6 - 10 openings; and Grades 7 and 8 - 10 openings.

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

MASB Election

Board members have received information on candidates seeking election to the board of directors of the Michigan Association of School Boards (MASB). The election ballot must be completed and returned by March 6, 2024. Okemos may vote on candidates from Region 7, which this year is for one, three-year term. Members will review and make their selection of who to vote for at the February 26th meeting.

Public Comment

No one addressed the board.

Other Matters

There were no other matters.

Adjourn

President Gebara adjourned the regular meeting at 9:54 p.m.

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Andy Phelps, Secretary