Okemos Board of Education Okemos, Michigan 48864
REGULAR MEETING FEBRUARY 10, 2025

The regular meeting of the Okemos Board of Education was called to order by President Buffett at 6:30 p.m.
Members Present: Tom Buffett, Jason Burns, Katie Cavanaugh, Shulawn Doxie, Andy Phelps, Leeni Shrestha and Jillian Winn
Administration: Superintendent John Hood

MOVED by Katie Cavanaugh, SUPPORTED by Andy Phelps that the board adjourn to Executive Session pursuant to Section 8(a) of the Open Meetings Act for the purpose of discussing a personnel matter.
Roll Call

Tom Buffett	Yes	Andy Phelps	Yes
Jason Burns	Yes	Leeni Shrestha	Yes
Katie Cavanaugh	Yes		
Shulawn Doxie	Yes		

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

The board adjourned to executive session at 6:34 p.m.

The board reconvened at 7:51 p.m.

Members Present: Tom Buffett, Jason Burns, Katie Cavanaugh, Shulawn Doxie, Andy Phelps, Leeni Shrestha and Jillian Winn
Administration: Superintendent John Hood; Finance Director Elizabeth Lentz

Representatives from Veridas, TowerPinkster and Christman provided an update regarding the 2022 bond, including bid package #8 award recommendations. Bid package 8 includes high school pressing needs, the bulk of which is the music wing expansion. Timelines were reviewed, as well as the number of bids received. Representatives reviewed the projected schedule, addressed how change orders are budgeted and processed, tariffs and escalation cost.

Members inquired about timelines and the disruption to students.

No one addressed the board.

High School Representatives reported on the following: 7th grade camp; recent winter dance; bathroom update; athletic update; recent solo and ensemble competition; and the upcoming spaghetti dinner fundraiser.

Superintendent Hood reported on the following: Black History Month; upcoming childcare programming presentation; recent policy committee meeting and update; department level annual reports; upcoming sleep education meeting has been moved to zoom; thanked staff and counselors for all their efforts with 7th grade camp; and thanked HR Director Mario Martinez for his service at OPS.

President Buffett acknowledged correspondence from the following: Lauren Anderson, Stuart Loew, Alyssa Lochinski, Aaron Walden, Lindsay O'Brien, Jenny Hautman, Jane Manfredi, Erik and Kelly Bertilrud, Jill Lambert, Patrick O'Brien, Catherine Gerrish, Taylor Gast, Amanda Dernovshek, Kara Freeman, Candy Parker, Amanda Sorensen, Lynette Pemble, Matt Dernovshek, Kelly Waldon, Emily Peabody, Heather Sparkia, Michelle Sabo, Erin Stockall, Jennifer Hunter, Jordan Barany and Colleen Gast expressing support for the Edgewood Early Learning Center and childcare programming; Emily Peabody submitting a FOIA request; and Winson Peng regarding OPS and board policy.

Members reported on recent advocacy efforts; the recent Athletic Boosters Gala fundraiser; and recent ISOA meeting.

MOVED by Andy Phelps, SUPPORTED by Katie Cavanaugh that the board approve items 1 through 3 for immediate implementation and appropriate action. Item 1: Approval the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of January 27, 2025; Item 2: Approval the Minutes of the Special Meeting of February 3, 2025; and Item 3: That the board acknowledge receipt of the January financial statement and approve payment of bills for January.

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

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

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

MOVED by Katie Cavanaugh, SUPPORTED by Andy Phelps that the board waive the reading and ratify the revised contract between the Okemos Board of Education and the Okemos Education Association.

Roll Call

Tom Buffett	Yes	Andy Phelps	Yes
Jason Burns	Yes	Leeni Shrestha	Yes
Katie Cavanaugh	Yes	Jillian Winn	Yes
Shulawn Doxie	Yes		

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

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 5, 2025. Okemos may vote on candidates from Region 7, which this year is for one, three-year term. Members discussed their selection to vote for.

MASB Consultants Kimberly May and Debbie Stair began the district strategic planning process. Ms. May led the board through a brief exercise to begin identify goals; assigning roles; provided a brief outline of the upcoming process that will be followed; stakeholder input collection opportunities; and guided the board through the process of identifying what they're proud of, as well as opportunities for improvement.

Members discussed communication with families and the community; anonymity in surveys; and making it as inclusive of a process as possible.

Luke Bowman addressed the board regarding childcare.

There were no other matters.

President Buffett adjourned the regular meeting at 9:46 p.m.

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Shulawn Doxie, Secretary