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

The regular meeting of the Okemos Board of Education was called to order by President Buffett at 6:15 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 Andy Phelps, SUPPORTED by Katie Cavanaugh that the board adjourn to Executive Session pursuant to Section 8(c) of the Open Meetings Act for the purpose of discussing contract negotiations and 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 6:16 p.m.

The board reconvened at 7:08 p.m.

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

Spanish Teacher Ann Onan provided information regarding a student trip to Costa Rica. The language and cultural experience is proposed for June 9th through June 16, 2026.

Members inquired about number of quotes; chaperones; what level of Spanish is required; flights; capacity; and deposits.

Representatives from Veridas, TowerPinkster and Christman provided an update regarding the 2022 bond, including bid package #7 Cornell Design, as well as presented information regarding an Energy Savings Project. Representatives reviewed the Cornell design, build timelines, design principles and factors for success; as well as the objectives to address with the new Cornell building. Site plans and preliminary renderings, green space, and new car line were discussed.

Members discussed the following: playground set up; emergency vehicle loop; car line; capacity; kitchen; outdoor space; recreation and facility use; bid process timelines; and impact of tariffs.

Representatives introduced Energy Conservation Projects which were identified in a proposal from Trane and includes HVAC and energy systems updates, digital controls, rooftop units and training. They also explained the bid process, timelines, and are recommending funding via the 2022 bond rather than the energy savings bond.

Assistant Superintendent Bailey, Director Slee, and Director Pricco provided an update on the District MTSS work. In addition, Assistant Superintendent Bailey also presented the winter benchmark assessment data. Instructional systems including MTSS were reviewed, as well as the goal setting process. Current initiatives

and supports such as universal accommodations, universal design, professional development were described. NWEA growth data was shared broken down by subgroup. The team highlighted Multilingual Learners specifically including training for teachers, best practice guidance, grading, and an evaluation tool. PreK-5th grade teacher literacy supports, and training were also pointed. The integration of the district's equity plan and goals were connected throughout the presentation. Academic growth days at OHS were introduced. Collaboration between levels; YPAR experience; BASC risk assessment; and K-4 SEL curriculum were reviewed. In addition, the team touched on the incident reporting process; DEIAC activities; upcoming equity dashboard; behavior threat assessment and prevention.

Members inquired about the following: supporting students with plateaued growth; staff training participation; more information on academic growth days; YPAR participation; BASC assessment and how the district responds; data security; improved accessibility and awareness; peer to peer support; trend data; and federal government impacts.

No one addressed the board.

High School Representatives reported on the following: recent Okemos Outreach fundraiser; Spaghetti Dinner fundraiser; upcoming NHS Blood drive; upcoming Collage Concert; band trip to Hawaii; 1/2 days; fun squad activities; BPA competition; solo and ensemble performances; athletic update including tryouts; and mascot application process.

Superintendent Hood introduced Peter Trezise as Interim HR Director. He also reported on the following: installing vape detectors with proceeds from Juul litigation settlement; childcare enrollment update; upcoming presentation on 127 program, and a board walk through of CMS progress.

Superintendent Hood reported on the following: clarified a recent LSJ article and policies regarding law enforcement and immigration; Learner Management System review; and an educator evaluation tool update.

President Buffett acknowledged correspondence from the following: Matt Webster and Annette Frieseman regarding student incidents; and Aaron Walden, Kelly Bertilrud, Carol Ohlrogge, John Chen, Luke Bowman and Matthew Ellsworth regarding childcare programming.

Members announced a last call for strategic planning participant nominations; discussed a sub-committee for advocacy activities; and inquired about 3rd party collecting of student physical data.

MOVED by Shulawn Doxie, SUPPORTED by Katie Cavanaugh 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 February 24, 2025; Item 2: Approval of the Minutes of the Executive Session Meeting of February 24, 2025; and Item 3: That the board acknowledge receipt of the February financial statement and approve payment of bills for February.

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

MOVED by Jason Burns, SUPPORTED by Shulawn Doxie that the board waive the reading and adopt first reading of board policy 4113 Michigan Earned Sick Time Act (ESTA).

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

Assistant Superintendent Stacy Bailey presented information regarding proposed Personal Health and Sexuality Education curriculum for use by special education students in 4th through 12th grades. The proposed curriculum has already been previewed and unanimously approved for use by the PHASE (Personal Health and Sex Education) board.

The board continued its development of the 2025-2026 budget. Finance Director Elizabeth Lentz provided preliminary assumptions including health insurance, teacher division changes, enrollment, delayed curriculum adoption, reduced grant funding and childcare tuition increases. She also reviewed impending items such as state aid, staffing, negotiations etc.

Superintendent Hood and the Board discussed the development and contents of upcoming departmental annual reports to the board. Directors shared ideas and possible data points to be included in an annual report for the transportation, technology, extra-curriculars athletic and operations departments. They also discussed including points of pride, future challenges for each department, replacement cycles, and funding sources.

Members discussed incident data; the cost for families; scholarships; spots available on teams; numbers who tryout versus number who make it; include unified sports on extra-curricular report; opportunities, not just challenges; and urgency or prioritization.

Jan Casey addressed the board regarding protecting student data.

The board will establish a special meeting for the purpose of conducting a pre-enrollment hearing.

President Buffett adjourned the regular meeting at 10:32 p.m.

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Shulawn Doxie, Secretary