Okemos Board of Education Okemos, Michigan 48864
REGULAR MEETING MARCH 17, 2025

The regular meeting of the Okemos Board of Education was called to order by President Buffett at 6:35 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 Jason Burns, 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.
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 the executive session at 6:36 p.m.

The board reconvened at 7:13 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

OHS Science Teacher Molly Turner provided information regarding a physics student trip to Cedar Point proposed for May 5th.

BPA Advisor Sharon Murchie provided information regarding a BPA National Leadership Conference trip to Orlando, Florida for BPA Chapter Members proposed for May 7th through the 11th.

High School Representatives reported on the following: recent Collage Concert; archery competition; upcoming spring break and Okemos Outreach activity; NHS blood drive; Touch of Class fundraiser; WILL Club visit to CMS; ACTION Club activities; and March is Reading Month activities.

Operations Director Brian Lieber provided information regarding the extension of the district's contract with 3rd party cleaning contractor GRBS. Director Lieber reviewed the benefits and challenges with utilizing the 3rd party contractor route versus hiring an all Okemos staff. He explained why administration is recommending extending the contract for 2 years and not going out to bid for a possible new contractor and provided a cost analysis of the options.

Members inquired about the extension cycle; what does improvement mean specifically; and expectations.

Operations Director Brian Lieber provided information regarding the purchase of a mower to be funded by the general fund. Director Lieber explained the benefits of the new mower including increased efficiency, cost savings that will be obtained in saving manpower, fuel savings and a proactive approach to replacement. He also shared a return on investment analysis over the next few years.

Superintendent Hood, Department Directors and the Board continued their discussion regarding the

development and contents of upcoming departmental annual reports to the board. The Food Service Department suggested data points such as state claims from year to year, participation, staffing model, meals served, and increased catering. The Communications team discussed an upcoming website audit, FOIA data, a formal communications plan and calendar, as well as some analytics. Safety and Security proposed assessment statistics, enhancements, remapping of district, equipment, drill and crime reporting, and training. The Community Education department plans to report data trends, professional development, communication, challenges, budget, and progress towards improving the program's rating.

Members discussed the following: include possible solutions to the challenges; scratch cooking data; communication; funding sources; more user-friendly website; master family calendar; social media presence and strategy; is the cost involved tracked; childcare waitlist data; impact of changes or new initiatives; recruitment efforts; recreation; how to measure student and/or community culture; possible reports from principals.

No one addressed the board.

Superintendent Hood reported on the following: recent parent-teacher conferences; childcare update, tuition increase and communication; and Meridian Senior Center future location update.

Members inquired about extending parent-teacher conference time; involvement of the board in the Sr Center recommendation; a FLEX update; field trip follow-up and policy; recent professional learning; recent district parent council meeting; OPM project involving the prime minister of Sri Lonka; student project regarding maple syrup and field trip; responding to changes at the Federal Department of Education; Science Olympiad competition; and an invitation to complete the strategic planning surveys.

Superintendent Hood congratulated Member Phelps on recent MASB awards and training.

MOVED by Andy Phelps, SUPPORTED by Katie Cavanaugh that the board award the energy improvement projects to Trane for an amount not to exceed $3,505,162 and to be funded through the 2022 bond.

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

MOVED by Leeni Shrestha, SUPPORTED by Shulawn Doxie that the board adopt the Elevatus Personal Health and Sexuality curriculum for use by 4th through 12th grade special education students.

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

MOVED by Andy Phelps, SUPPORTED by Katie Cavanaugh that the board endorse the OHS Spanish student trip to Costa Rica, scheduled for June 9th through June 16, 2026 with the understanding the students will abide by all school policies and procedures while abroad.

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

MOVED by Jillian Winn, SUPPORTED by Shulawn Doxie that the board waive the 30-day review period, waive the reading and adopt final reading of board policy 4113 Michigan Earned Sick Time Act (ESTA).

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

MOVED by Andy Phelps, SUPPORTED by Shulawn Doxie that the board waive the reading and adopt first reading of board policies 4101 Non-Discrimination, 4105A Pregnancy Workplace Accommodations for Employees and Applicants, 5102 Lockers, 5213 Personal Protection Orders Against Students, 5405 Title I Parent and Family Engagement Policy, 5421 Work-Based Learning Experience, 5502 Student Government,

5707 School Wellness Policy, and 5806 Recording of District Meetings.

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

Director Lentz provided information about how adoption of a Section 127 Educational Assistance Plan would benefit district employees who are being reimbursed for educational expenses under existing agreements or through State tuition reimbursement programs flowing through the District. Administration is proposing that the district adopt the educational assistance plan to benefit employees requiring board action at the next meeting.

No one addressed the board.

Protect the Pack is scheduled for June 11th.

President Buffett adjourned the regular meeting at 9:29 p.m.

_____

Shulawn Doxie, Secretary