Okemos Board of Education Okemos, Michigan 48864
REGULAR MEETING APRIL 28, 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; Director Peter Trezise

MOVED by Katie Cavanaugh, SUPPORTED by Andy Phelps that the board adjourn to Executive Session pursuant to Section 8(1)(h) of the Open Meetings Act for the purpose of reviewing attorney-client privileged information.

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**

The board adjourned to the executive session at 6:31 p.m.

The board reconvened at 7:00 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; and Director Lara Slee

Representatives from the ACTION Club at OHS provided a summary of their 2024-2025 events and outreach projects. The history and purpose of the volunteer and service-oriented club was given and includes school outreach, community outreach and elderly outreach projects. Club participation and other community organizations which ACTION partners with were reviewed. Special attention was given to the Sock Out Suicide event on May 16th and mental health activities led by the ACTION club.

Orchestra Director Justin Valla presented information regarding a student trip to Germany and Austria. The performing and cultural experience is proposed for March 23rd - March 31, 2026. Fundraising opportunities and AP credit available were described.

Members inquired about the following: price guarantees; bid process; clarified that the board policy requires just more than one bid; scholarships; and resources available.

Operations Director Brian Lieber presented an update on the Filter First legislation and grant, its implementation, and timelines for OPS. The legislation is designed to protect students from lead in their drinking water and provides requirements districts must comply with. Requirements include for example a drinking water management plan, filters, signage, and a replacement schedule. A cost analysis of where the grant will be spent was reviewed, as well as testing and transparency. The district is currently ahead of schedule.

Members inquired about the following: flushing; testing schedule; how the filters work; maintenance cost; and current water quality.

No one addressed the board.

High School Representatives reported on the following: recent Touch of Class fundraiser; musical performance of The Drowsy Chaperone; prom tickets and upcoming prom dance; annual Sock Out Suicide campaign; AP exams; NHS induction; pickleball tournament; recent bake sale fundraiser; athletic update including a mental health awareness lacrosse game.

Superintendent Hood reported on the following: executive committee meeting; upcoming district culture annual report; recent staff conversations regarding the 25-26 budget; negotiations; communication to Edgewood families and upcoming presentation; enrollment, specifically kindergarten registrations; work with Ingham County Health Department regarding a measles response plan; showed the board and community where to find board meeting dates and prior videos.

Members inquired about the status of additional lighting on Hulett Rd near the High Schol.

President Buffett acknowledged correspondence on the following: Peter Ott regarding the future of recreational sports; Jonathan Coy providing a consultant recommendation; Lindsay O'Brien regarding childcare programming; and Sean Graney requesting an interview.

Members reported on the following: strategic planning and ad hoc committee to clarify goals; board retreat on August 1st; OEF Golf Outing fundraiser; and legislation concerning cell phones in schools.

MOVED by Andy Phelps, SUPPORTED by Jason Burns 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 April 14, 2025; Item 2: Approval of the Minutes of the Executive Session Meeting of April 14, 2025; and Item 3: Approval of the Minutes of the Special Meeting of April 26, 2025.

Motion was withdrawn.

MOVED by Andy Phelps, SUPPORTED by Shulawn Doxie 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 April 14, 2025 as amended; Item 2: Approval of the Minutes of the Executive Session Meeting of April 14, 2025; and Item 3: Approval of the Minutes of the Special Meeting of April 26, 2025 as amended.

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

MOVED by Jason Burns, SUPPORTED by Andy Phelps that the board award the data center and firewall upgrades to Sentinel Technologies, and the phone system replacement to RingCentral for a total cost not to exceed $748,157.10 and to be funded through the 2022 bond.

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**

MOVED by Leeni Shrestha, SUPPORTED by Jillian Winn that the board adopt the new textbooks and materials for use at Okemos High School beginning with the 2025-2026 school year: Journalism - The Michigan Daily and New York Times; Creative Writing: Improv for Writers; Contemporary Literature - Circe, James, Ayesha At Last, Frankenstein in Baghdad, Beautiful Little Fools, Station Eleven, The Ballad of Songbirds & Snakes, Scythe, The House In The Cerulean Sea, The Grace Year, The Things They Carried,

Long Way Down, Homegoing, Beartown, The Nickel Boys, Our Missing Hearts, All My Rage, Darius The Great Is Not OK, Patron Saints of Nothing, I Am Not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter, The Midnight Library, and Girl In Pieces; AP Statistics - The Practice of Statistics, 7th Edition; French I - Nous Sommes Level 1; Spanish I - Somos Level 1.

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

MOVED by Jillian Winn, SUPPORTED by Katie Cavanaugh that the board waive the reading and adopt the resolution establishing May 6, 2025 as Staff Appreciation Day in honor of the employees of the Okemos Public Schools.

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**

Members individually expressed their gratitude to the staff.

MOVED by Andy Phelps, SUPPORTED by Shulawn Doxie that the board waive the reading and adopt final 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**

MOVED by Jason Burns, SUPPORTED by Katie Cavanaugh that the board waive the reading and adopt first reading of board policies 3115 Non-Discrimination, Anti-Harassment and Non-Retaliation; 3115A Definitions for 3115 Series; 3115B Designation of Coordinators; 3115C Supportive Measures; 3115D Informal Resolution; 3115E Grievance Procedure and Remedies; 3115F Complaint Dismissal and Appeals; 3115H Training Requirements and Policy Notice; 3118 Title IX Sexual Harassment; 3402 Drills, Plans and Reports; 4213 Anti-Nepotism; 5206 Student Discipline; and 5509 Public Appearances of School Groups.

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

MOVED by Shulawn Doxie, SUPPORTED by Leeni Shrestha that the board waive the reading and delete board policy 5706 Opioid Antagonist and 3115G Additional Requirements to Prevent and Address Pregnancy Discrimination.

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

MOVED by Andy Phelps, SUPPORTED by Katie Cavanaugh that the board extend all AOA administrator contracts through June 30, 2027.

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**

MOVED by Katie Cavanaugh, SUPPORTED by Andy Phelps that the board amend the contract of Assistant Superintendent Stacy Bailey to extend the dates of employment through June 30, 2028.

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**

The board reviewed the recommendation for School of Choice openings to be advertised through the Ingham Intermediate School District for the 2025-2026 school year. The proposed openings are as follows: Begindergarten/Kindergarten = 8 openings; 1st grade = 6 openings; 2nd grade = 10 opening; 3rd grade = 2 openings; 4th grade = 12 openings; and 5th grade = 7 openings; 6th grade = 1 opening; 7th grade = 2 openings; 8th grade = 1 opening; 9 - 12th grades = 2 openings per grade.

Members discussed applying to a specific building versus the district; and historical trends of openings versus applications.

The board continued its discussion regarding the development of the 2025-2026 budget. Finance Director Lentz reviewed past budget decisions and their impact on the 24-25 and 25-26 budgets. She also reviewed 24-25 budget revisions including special education revenue, software subscriptions, environmental remediation and their carryforward impact. Update assumptions were provided including the 3rd-party cleaning contract extension and a reduction in sections and therefore staffing. District retirement costs were explained, as well as timelines and impending items such as negotiations, grant availability and state aid.

The board reviewed the proposed letter to legislators, drafted by the Advocacy Committee in response to proposed changes to the U.S. Department of Education. Additional board feedback will be incorporated before sending it to legislators on behalf of the board.

No one addressed the board.

There were no other matters.

President Buffett adjourned the regular meeting at 9:14 p.m.

_____

Shulawn Doxie, Secretary