Okemos Board of Education Okemos, Michigan 48864
REGULAR MEETING MAY 12, 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(a) of the Open Meetings Act for the purpose of discussing the superintendent evaluation.

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 6:16 p.m.

The board reconvened at 7:45 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

The board recognized and expressed appreciation to the 2024-2025 Okemos High School Student Representatives to the School Board.

Meridian Township Director of Public Works Dan Opsommer provided information regarding three easement requests on the Bennett Woods property. The easements for a severe weather warning siren, a pathway easement to fill in a gap of an existing pathway system, and a water easement are necessary for infrastructure upgrades and maintenance. Timelines were reviewed, as well as funding sources. There are no costs associated for the district.

Members inquired about a more specific timeline.

High School Representatives reported on the following: AP exams; recent field trips; NHS activities; recent Senior Awards Night; lacrosse game to benefit Eli's Project; May 16th Sock Out Suicide event; fine arts performances; prom and post prom; and senior end of the year activities.

Media and Technology Director Tom Isom provided information regarding fiber upgrades to be funded through the 2022 bond. The bid process, contingency, timelines and recommendation were reviewed.

Assistant Superintendent Stacy Bailey, DEI Director Lara Slee and Special Education Director Heather Pricco presented the spring benchmark assessment data and provided examples of MTSS in action around the district. Mrs. Bailey explained the district goal setting process, reviewed the most recent proficiency data broken down by subgroups. Trend data was also provided. Dr. Slee presented information related to the social-emotional screener and how the data is used. A variety of supports and initiatives already implemented was given including a new computer science committee, updated science and social studies curriculum, OG and LETRS

training, Standards based grading practices, an MTSS committee and handbook and the OHS testing center. Upcoming initiatives were described including an intervention and assessment inventory, MTSS website addition, grading guidance for MLL teachers, universal design and accommodations. Next steps and including input from the new strategic plan were also reviewed.

Members inquired about the following: advertising the MTSS handbook in school newsletters; supports for those whose growth has plateaued; access to supports; addressing gaps; what do we learn from the SEL screener; meaning of risk in this context; comparison to state or national data; and the growth versus proficiency philosophy.

DEI Director Slee presented initial thinking in regard to an annual district update that helps define our overall district culture, including points of pride, strengths, opportunities, data sets to illustrate growth, etc. The indicators of success should have a focus on a sense of belonging. Possible data points could include: referrals to mental health supports, nutrition, how the Woof Pack is utilized, mental health indicators, attendance rates, participation rates, how to acknowledge and celebrate student success, perception data, and events and activities to increase connection.

Members asked about access to events and activities; and the influence of the strategic plan on this work.

Kelly Rogers addressed the board regarding prom policies.

Superintendent Hood reported on the following: commended student reps; mental health awareness week; upcoming budget correspondence and budget update; school of choice update; and staff appreciation week.

President Buffett acknowledged correspondence on the following: Wenjing Zheng regarding the AP World History curriculum; Autumn Gebara and ACTION club members regarding Sock Out Suicide; Annette Frieseman regarding OHS correspondence; and Lisa Crites regarding negotiations.

Members discussed the following: board retreat planning and draft agenda; strategic planning and upcoming meeting; recent archery competition; responded to the prom concern; upcoming policy committee meeting; recent Behind The Scene Legislative meeting; and staff appreciation.

MOVED by Shulawn Doxie, SUPPORTED by Andy Phelps 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 28, 2025; Item 2: Approval of the Minutes of the Executive Session Meeting of April 28, 2025; Item 3: Acknowledge receipt of the April financial statement and approve payment of bills for April.

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

MOVED by Andy Phelps, SUPPORTED by Katie Cavanaugh that the board endorse the OHS Orchestra trip to Germany and Austria proposed for March 26-31, 2026 with the understanding that students will abide by all school policies and procedures while abroad.

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

MOVED by Andy Phelps, SUPPORTED by Katie Cavanaugh that the board approve the recommended openings to be advertised through the Ingham Intermediate School District for School of Choice enrollment in the Okemos Public Schools.

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

The board discussed who will represent Okemos Public Schools on June 2, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. for the Ingham

Intermediate School District Bi-Annual Election. Members also discussed their candidates of choice. Andy Phelps will represent the district, with Tom Buffett serving as alternate.

The board continued its discussion regarding the development of the 2025-2026 budget. Finance Director Lentz reviewed legislative proposed budgets from the State and their potential impact on the district's budget. 2024-2025 budget revision were explained as well as their impact on the 2025-2026 budget. Proposed revisions include environmental remediation, textbook reductions, equipment needs and other one-time items. Key factors with significant effects on the budget include decreased special education revenue, retirement offset, and health insurance increases. Impending items were described and include grants, negotiations, staffing etc.

No one addressed the board.

There were no other matters.

President Buffett adjourned the regular meeting at 10:08 p.m.

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Shulawn Doxie, Secretary