Okemos Board of Education Okemos, Michigan 48864
REGULAR MEETING JUNE 9, 2025

The regular meeting of the Okemos Board of Education was called to order by President Buffett at 7:00 p.m.

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

OHS French Teacher Kim Floyd presented information regarding a French student trip to France. The language and cultural experience is proposed for June 10-18, 2026. The bid process was reviewed as well.

Members inquired about fundraising ideas and increasing access.

Safety and Security Director Katie Deal and District Nurse Stephanie Gosha presented an overview of the district Cardiac Emergency Response Plan (CERP), which is required by state law (Michigan Compiled Law Section 29.19, Act 207 of 1941) and Board Policy 3402. The plan is an updated version and ensures compliance with "My Heart certification" obtained in 2025. The CERP will be posted on the district website. It was noted that Medical Emergency Response Teams (MERT) are established in all buildings, with members required to be CPR certified and attend annual training. The health team will coordinate two drills annually with each building using different scenarios. AED locations are posted on emergency evacuation maps in all schools and outbuildings, including the fieldhouse. New additions to the plan include defined roles and responsibilities for communication, incident reporting, and integration with EMS. An annual review and evaluation of the CERP will be conducted. The board will take action to adopt the plan at the next meeting.

Members inquired about Narcan locations, and learning by observing drills.

Assistant Superintendent Bailey and building administrators presented the culmination of a year-long project to organize K-12 student handbooks into a "one-stop shop". The goal was to align handbooks with newly adopted board policies. Goals for the new district handbook included: common language, focus on purpose, relevance, alignment with board policies, and user-friendliness. Revisions include: Clarifying language for universal accommodations; a Student Conduct Chart; the recess policy was reviewed, as well as language addressing AI.

Members discussed the following: have administrators share with families what the major changes are; increased access to the information; universal accommodations and late work policy; clarification regarding the consequences and chronological order; and AI usage.

DEI Director Slee presented an initial reveal of the district-wide student success dashboard. The purpose of the dashboard is to answer "are we making a difference?" and provide transparency on academic and non-academic progress. The dashboard is a work in progress and not yet live. The dashboard will utilize a variety of data sources that can be filtered as well as report trends. Key Data Points reported will include: Achievement data, growth measures, mental health and Belonging (perception and process data), graduation rates, attendance, advanced coursework participation and performance, Woofpack access, after-school activity participation, and student safety perceptions.

Members discussed the following: suggested including participation rates in the Wilson Talent Center; audience for the dashboard; separating the data by levels; linking to Powerschool and the other sources for data; and correlations between data sets.

The board continued its discussion regarding developing the 2025-2026 budget. Director Lentz reviewed the budget development process and timeline to date. Additional information was provided regarding substitute days. Updated assumptions were presented including: foundation allowance, savings from teacher retirements and resignations, reductions and revenue enhancements, and a reduction in class sections.

Members inquired about the following: rationale regarding substitute cost; club funding; sections at the high school; what clubs charge fees and why, as well as what is considered a club; requested additional participation information; and enrollment.

Superintendent Hood described the release process as it pertains to non-resident students.

Simon Belisle addressed the board regarding proposed budget reductions.

Superintendent Hood reported on the following: recent Edgewood/childcare family meeting; provided an update regarding family, student and staff surveys.

President Buffett acknowledged correspondence on the following: Renee Schwienhorst, Anindita Biswas, Katherin Croft, Yangfan Liu, Kaitlyn Chen, Kaylee Wagestar, Kristen Heethuis, Ying Yan, Julie Keller, Michelle Zimmerman, Amanda DeKatch, Molly Carney, Valerie Hedges, Christine Skoutelas, Liz Luyendyk, Jeff Keller, Wenjuan Ma, John Zang-Bodis, and Emily Greenberg, concerning proposed budget reductions; and Lindsey Harrod concerning lockdown procedures.

Members reported on the following: recent Ingham ISD election; commencement; Protect The Pack event; board retreat planning; and strategic planning goals.

MOVED by Andy Phelps, SUPPORTED by Jillian Winn that the board approve items 1 through 6 for immediate implementation and appropriate action. Item 1: Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of May 12, 2025; Item 2: Approval of the Minutes of the Executive Session Meeting of May 12, 2025; Item 3: Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of May 19, 2025; Item 4: Approval of the Minutes of the Special Meeting of May 27, 2025; Item 5: Approval of the Minutes of the Executive Session Meeting of May 27, 2025; Item 6: Acknowledge receipt of the May financial statement and approve payment of bills for May.

AYE: 6 NAY:0 ABSENT 1 MOTION CARRIED

MOVED by Shulawn Doxie, SUPPORTED by Leeni Shrestha that the board waive the reading and adopt the resolution permitting Okemos Public Schools to continue membership in the Michigan High School Athletic Association for the year August 1, 2025 through July 31, 2026.

Roll Call

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

AYE: 6 NAY:0 ABSENT 1 MOTION CARRIED

MOVED by Jillian Winn, SUPPORTED by Shulawn Doxie that the board waive the reading and certify collection of summer tax levy for Okemos Public Schools in the amount specified by the tax levy provided by the Ingham Intermediate School District and negotiation of the fee for collection of the tax levy.

Roll Call

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

Shulawn Doxie Yes

AYE: 6 NAY:0 ABSENT 1 MOTION CARRIED

MOVED by Andy Phelps, SUPPORTED by Katie Cavanaugh that the board waive the reading and adopt final reading of board policies 3402 Drills, Plans and Reports; 4213 Anti-Nepotism; 5206 Student Discipline; and 5509 Public Appearances of School Groups as amended.

AYE: 6 NAY:0 ABSENT 1 MOTION CARRIED

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 were returned to committee.

The board discussed the proposed strategic planning goals for action at the June 16th meeting. Members provided minor edits. Superintendent Hood outlined timelines and next steps for the administrative team to operationalize these goals into a 3-5 year plan with measurable outcomes.

No one addressed the board.

There were no other matters.

President Buffett adjourned the regular meeting at 9:37 p.m.

_____

Shulawn Doxie, Secretary