Okemos Board of Education Okemos, Michigan 48864
REGULAR MEETING OCTOBER 13, 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, Jason Burns, Katie Cavanaugh, Shulawn Doxie, Andy Phelps, Leeni Shrestha and Jillian Winn
Administration: Superintendent John Hood; Assistant Superintendent Stacy Bailey; Director Elizabeth Lentz; and Interim HR Director Peter Trezise

Members highlighted recent events and activities including: OHS Press subscriptions; recent Senior Center celebration; recent homecoming activities; and commended the Varsity Soccer team for their recent honoring of an elementary soccer player.

Representatives from Veridas, TowerPinkster and Christman provided a construction update regarding the 2022 bond, including bid packages #3, 4, 8, energy savings and new High School athletics projects. A construction update for Bid Pack 3 (Chippewa Middle School) remains on schedule and on budget. Bid Pack 8, which is the High School Music Addition and bathroom renovations were reviewed. Humidity sensors were added at the middle school through the energy savings bond. Guiding principles for long rang planning, timelines, renderings and upcoming bid approvals were reviewed. Bid Pack 5 was introduced and is the Baseball/Softball complex. The proposal places the new baseball and softball complex back on the high school to improve accessibility and eliminate student driving. The plan proposes using turf fields to increase play opportunities during rainy seasons and reduce annual maintenance. A potential donor may help fund the project and expedite its construction, and any donation will be brought before the Board for acceptance. The construction timeline aims for the complex to be ready by Spring 2027.

Members inquired about: what is phase one or what can we afford to do now as it pertains to the baseball/softball complex; what is currently there; impact of tariffs and escalation; turf field concerns; furniture selection process; what has the donor asked for in return.

Operations Director Brian Lieber provided an update regarding Kinawa remediation efforts, including budget, and timelines. Director Lieber described the causes, expert recommendations, process and progress of phase one, Prevention measures were described. The scope of phase 2 was reviewed; this phase targets office and staff areas not addressed in Phase 1. The projected cost and difficulty estimating costs were explained.

Members discussed the following: is the contingency included in total cost; what have we spent so far; proactive versus reactive approach; phase three cost; use infrastructure grant from the State; addressing the Kinawa pool; and potential uses for the Kinawa pool space.

No one addressed the board.

High School Representatives reported on the following: recent swatting incident; homecoming activities; marching band exhibition, upcoming choir and orchestra concert; Love Letters Club; Key Club and dodgeball tournament; ACTION club coffee bar; and an athletics update.

Members inquired about the student government selection process.

Superintendent Hood reported on the following: state approval for the high school fire alarm system replacement; district opted into the state program for free breakfast and lunch, retroactively to October 1st, resulting in October expenses being refunded to families; HR Director hiring update; annual transportation report; upcoming presentation regarding the state budget; CMS construction walk through; Safety and Security Forum is scheduled for November 18th at OHS; and fundraising efforts for the Wolfpack.

Members inquired about the following: free meals program; explanation regarding the hiring of an HR Director; and what happens to retired support dogs.

President Buffett acknowledged correspondence from the following: Jon Villasurda and Michael Gawecki regarding school meals; Sherry Trezise regarding HR 4588; and Imam Chaudhry with an invitation to the Annual Salaam Festival.

Members reported on the following: advocacy committee update and recent efforts; board outreach, and superintendent evaluation committee reports.

MOVED by Andy Phelps, SUPPORTED by Jillian Winn that the board approve items 1 through 5 for immediate implementation and appropriate action. Item 1: Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 22, 2025; Item 2: Approval of the Minutes of the Executive Session Meeting of September 22, 2025; Item 3: Approval of the Minutes of the Special Meeting of September 29, 2025; Item 4: Approval of the Minutes of the Executive Session Meeting of September 29, 2025; and Item 5: Acknowledge receipt of the September financial statement and approve payment of bills for September.

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

MOVED by Katie Cavanaugh, SUPPORTED by Andy Phelps that the board accept the audit report of Maner & Costerisan P.C. for the 2024-2025 school year.

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

MOVED by Jillian Winn, SUPPORTED by Shulawn Doxie that the board waive the reading and adopt the resolution authorizing the issuance and delegating the sale of the third series of Okemos Public Schools 2022 Bonds, approved by the voters at the November 8, 2022 election.

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**

MOVED by Andy Phelps, SUPPORTED by Katie Cavanaugh that the board waive the Level 3 hearing for grievances that have been brought or will be brought in the future by individual bargaining unit members and the Okemos Education Association alleging a violation of Article 3 of the Collective Bargaining Agreement and the June 2024 Letter of Agreement. Grievance 01-25-26 will be heard on October 14, 2025.

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

MOVED by Jillian Winn, SUPPORTED by Leeni Shrestha that the board waive policy 2503A requirements and take action on whether to approve phase two of the Kinawa remediation project.

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

MOVED by Andy Phelps, SUPPORTED by Jillian Winn that the board amend the Kinawa remediation motion to include the phrase “not to exceed $400,000”.

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

MOVED by Katie Cavanaugh, SUPPORTED by Andy Phelps that the board approve the 2nd phase of the Kinawa remediation project, not to exceed $400,000.

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

There was no public comment.

The board engaged in a work session to continue its development of the strategic plan with a focus on board level data and timelines for monitoring. Year 1 activities, strategies and evidence were reviewed, as well as an operational overview of five-year goals. Guiding principles were reviewed, as well as proposed data sources, reporting schedules, a new data dashboard, and yearly strategies.

There were no other matters.

President Buffett adjourned the regular meeting at 9:51 p.m.

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Shulawn Doxie, Secretary