Okemos Board of Education Okemos, Michigan 48864
REGULAR MEETING OCTOBER 27, 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

MOVED by Andy Phelps, SUPPORTED by Jillian Winn 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 executive session at 6:31 p.m.

The board reconvened from executive session at 7:19 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

Members highlighted recent events and activities including: recent MASB Annual Conference; upcoming OEF Awards Banquet; and a recent Archery Club contest.

Orchestra Director Justin Valla presented information regarding a student trip to Cleveland proposed for April 30th to May 1, 2026. The itinerary and fundraising opportunities were also reviewed.

Members inquired about what is included in the cost.

Finance Director Elizabeth Lentz provided an update regarding the recently adopted State budget as well as information regarding proposed budget revisions. Director Lentz reviewed the legislative proposals versus what the State actually adopted. Other major changes and their impact on the district's budget were described and result in an approximate increase of $463,000 to the district.

Proposed budget revisions to revenue were presented and include: increased foundation allowance; enrollment; retirement offset; special education funding; and grant revenue. Proposed revisions to expenditures include: mole remediation; insurance rates; and staffing. Areas still under review were explained and include negotiations, staffing, special education revenue and insurance reimbursements. Director Lentz explained that the budget revision timeline and process was moved up to November from December.

Members inquired about the insurance reimbursements.

Superintendent Hood presented an update regarding the future of the Montessori program, including a recommendation for a future new building to serve the PreK-4th grade population in a future bond. A stakeholder committee was formed to review the PreK-8th grade programming and determine the future scope

of the program and implications for district planning. The rationale for the study committee was explained, as well as the committee membership, purpose of the Montessori program past and present. Enrollment and enrollment trends were reviewed, as well as program strengths. Program opportunities were described including access, awareness, staff and facilities. Administration's recommendation is to continue Montessori programming, including the ability to increase preK-4 enrollment, prioritize a new preK-4 building in future bond planning, and implement strategies to increase 5-8th grade enrollment.

Members discussed the following: clarify increased continuity; what does expand enrollment mean; impact on staffing; how to increase enrollment at 5-8th grade levels; areas to cut costs; and when was the last time another choice or option was evaluated.

The board discussed a resolution and memorandum of understanding with board member Dr. Jason Burns for assisting the district with the creation, implementation and analysis of surveys for strategic planning purposes. Dr. Burns expertise will be utilized in developing, implementing and analyzing surveys and survey data. The memorandum of understanding formally outlines and puts in writing the scope of Dr. Burns' work.

No one addressed the board.

High School Representatives reported on the following: Halloween activities and spirit week; club activities and their upcoming fundraisers; athletics update; and how to obtain an OHS Press subscription.

Superintendent Hood reported on the following: Human Resources Director hiring update; thanked Interim HR Director Peter Trezise for his service; upcoming safety and security forum on November 18th at OHS; recent coffee chat with community members; MOU with Meridian Township regarding the Senior Center; upcoming IISD county-wide bond to rebuild the Beekman Center; student cell phone policy; and the transportation annual report.

Members reported on the following: expressed appreciation to the Transportation Department; cell phone policy and follow up; moving exams to before the winter break; and is the transportation report on the website.

President Buffett acknowledged correspondence from the following: Anonymous Constituent concerning communication with the board; Ryan Morris requesting an interview; Brett Meteyer concerning student cell phones; and Hanne Hoffman regarding student sleep and school start times.

Members reported on a Community Engagement committee update and upcoming chat on Friday at 10 a.m. at Bigby.

Andy Phelps moved to amend the October 13th minutes to adjust the adjournment time and amend the October 14th minutes to add Jillian Winn to the roll call vote.

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

MOVED by Andy Phelps, SUPPORTED by Jillian Winn that the board approve items 1 through 3 for immediate implementation and appropriate action. Item 1: Approval of the amended Minutes of the Regular Meeting of October 13, 2025; Item 2: Approval of the amended Minutes of the Special Meeting of October 14, 2025; and Item 3: Approval of the Minutes of the Executive Session Meeting of October 14, 2025.

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

MOVED by Jillian Winn, SUPPORTED by Shulawn Doxie that the board waive the reading and adopt first reading of board policies 4408 Termination; 4409 Non-Renewal; 5202 Unlawful Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation Against Students; 5405-O Title I Parent and Family Engagement Policy; and 5406 Title I Funds.

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

MOVED by Katie Cavanaugh, SUPPORTED by Leeni Shrestha that the board waive the reading and adopt final reading of board policies 2504-O Public Participation at Board Meetings; 3110 Data Breach Response; 3115 Non-Discrimination, Anti-Harassment, and Non-Retaliation; 3115A Definitions for 3115 Series; 3118 Title IX Sexual Harassment; 3201 Accounting; 3211 Post-Issuance Tax Compliance; 3212 Post-Issuance Disclosure Compliance; 3301-O Purchasing and Procurement; 3301A Purchasing and Procurement with Federal Funds; 3307 Construction Administration; 3402 Drills, Plans, and Reports; 3407 Asbestos Management; 3408 Firearms and Weapons; 4101 Non-Discrimination; 4103 Whistleblowers Protection; 4105B Religious Workplace Accommodations for Employees and Applicants; 4407 Discipline; 5104 Age of Majority; 5401-O Parent Involvement in Education; 5411 Student Promotion, Retention, and Placement; 5420 Sex Education; 5421 Work-Based Learning Experience; 5603 Section 504; 5701 Abuse and Neglect; 5707-O School Wellness Policy; 5712 Concussion Awareness.

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

MOVED by Andy Phelps, SUPPORTED by Katie Cavanaugh that the board waive policy 2503A requirements and take action on whether to adopt the resolution and MOU regarding Member Jason Burns.

AYE: 6 NAY:0 ABSENT 0 **MOTION CARRIED**
Member Jason Burns abstained from voting.

MOVED by Andy Phelps, SUPPORTED by Katie Cavanaugh that the board waive policy 2503A requirements and take action on whether to approve phase two of the Kinawa remediation project.
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 0 **MOTION CARRIED**
Member Jason Burns abstained from voting.

Superintendent Hood and the Board discussed the district entering into a lawsuit against Powerschool due to the data breach that impacted Okemos and schools nation-wide last year. There is no cost to the district, which is expected to take approximately 10 hours of staff time. Frantz Law Group is lead on the suit and the award settlement cannot be estimated at this time.

Members inquired about a separate lawsuit that families can join and if there are any implications since the district currently uses PowerSchool for student information purposes. The board will continue its discussion at the next meeting.

There was no public comment.

MOVED by Andy Phelps, SUPPORTED by Katie Cavanaugh that the board adjourn to Executive Session pursuant to Section 8(h) of the Open Meetings Act for the purpose of discussing 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 executive session at 9:24 p.m.

The board reconvened from executive session at 10:38 p.m.

Members Present: Tom Buffett, Jason Burns, Katie Cavanaugh, Shulawn Doxie, Andy Phelps, Leeni Shrestha and Jillian Winn
Administration: Superintendent John Hood

There were no other matters.

President Buffett adjourned the regular meeting at 10:39 p.m.

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Shulawn Doxie, Secretary