Okemos Board of Education Okemos, Michigan 48864
REGULAR MEETING FEBRUARY 24, 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 Jason Burns, SUPPORTED by Shulawn Doxie that the board adjourn to Executive Session pursuant to Section 8(c) of the Open Meetings Act for the purpose of discussing contract negotiations.
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**

The board adjourned to executive session at 6:16 p.m.

The board reconvened at 7:07 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; Director Lara Slee

Finance Director Elizabeth Lentz provided information regarding the development of the 2025-2026 budget, including preliminary assumptions. Director Lentz reviewed the governor's proposed budget including retirement changes, foundation allowance, child nutrition and transportation, as well as the impact on the district's budget. Carryforward and one-time expenses and revenue were explained, as well as the impact on the 2025-2026 budget. Preliminary assumptions for 25-26 were provided and impending items such as negotiations, enrollment, staffing and other variables were explained. Timelines and next steps were provided.

Members inquired about the impact on the budget due to federal level changes.

High School Representatives reported on the following: fine arts performances and ensembles; winter formal; prom planning; recent 24 hour drama productions; upcoming spaghetti dinner fundraiser; ping pong tournament; athletic update including hockey, basketball, and intramural basketball; WILL personal needs drive; Okemos Outreach bake sale and bottle drive; senior service projects; NHS blood drive on April 11th; global gathering activities; Student Council Valentine's activity; and AP application policy changes.

Superintendent Hood provided an update on the district's Community Education Childcare program. He began by outlining the objectives for the presentation and discussion. He emphasized that while the district values childcare programming, it is not required to offer it. He then reviewed the current offerings for each age group, highlighting the benefits and challenges associated with the district’s services. Additionally, he compared rates and offerings from other districts in the county and explained how the district arrived at its current approach. Mr. Hood also shared the planned changes and improvements for the program, discussed past and present enrollment trends, and provided a multi-year budget comparison. Several options for ensuring the program’s sustainability were presented, along with the steps required to implement each one. Other considerations, such as the addition of more GSRP classrooms, were also discussed. Administration recommended moving forward

with either Option 1 or Option 2.

Members discussed the following: when was last tuition increase; discussions with neighboring districts; restructuring of OPM enrichment; further breakdown of financials; half-day and early release offerings; timeline for reassessment; staffing; organizational capacity; sibling discounts; facility rental and safety precautions; urgency to avoid additional deficit spending; any other cost savings; enrollment trends; and budget versus philosophical approach.

Seth Burk, Luke Bowman, John Chen, Deelane Camling, Amanda D, Jillian Lambert, Lindsey O'Brien, Viva Nsair, Taylor Gast, and Mario Martinez, addressed the board regarding childcare programming.

Superintendent Hood reported on the following: clarified a recent LSJ article and policies regarding law enforcement and immigration; Learner Management System review; and an educator evaluation tool update.

President Buffett acknowledged correspondence from the following: Lindsay O'Brien, Kelsey Ellis, Liz Davis, Erin Stockall, Amanda Goll and DeeLane Camling expressing support for the Edgewood Early Learning Center and childcare programming; Jill Lambert concerning facility rentals; Candace Boldrey and Rebecca Stoner regarding the district's policy on deportation efforts; and Mario Martinez providing feedback on leadership.

Board Members reported on the following: advocacy committee work; next steps as they pertain to the childcare discussion; Montessori programming and equity; enrichment versus after-school at Montessori; and a 360 evaluation of Superintendent Hood and feedback from trustees.

MOVED by Katie Cavanaugh, SUPPORTED by Shulawn Doxie that the board approve items 1 through 4 for immediate implementation and appropriate action. Item 1: Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 10, 2025; Item 2: Approval of the Minutes of the Executive Session Meeting of February 10, 2025: Item 3: Approval of the Minutes of the Special Meeting of February 18, 2025; and Item 4: Approval of the Minutes of the Executive Session Meeting of February 18, 2025.

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

MOVED by Andy Phelps, SUPPORTED by Katie Cavanaugh that the board select Guillermo Lopez as the Region 7 candidate of its choice to complete the election ballot for members of the 2025 board of directors of the Michigan Association of School Boards.

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

MOVED by Jason Burns, SUPPORTED by Shulawn Doxie that the board award contracts not to exceed $3,104,136 for the trade contractors listed below and to assign those contracts to The Christman Company pursuant to the construction manager-as-constructor project delivery method: LD Clark Company; Proline Concrete Construction; Davenport Masonry, Inc.; Custom Steel Fabricators, LLC; C&I Building Maintenance, Inc.; Aaron Glass Company, Inc.; Moore Trosper Construction, Inc.; Grand River Interiors & Plaster, LLC; Integrity Interiors, Inc.; H&H Painting Company Inc.; Brigade Fire Protection; Applegate Inc. Meyer Electric, Inc.; and The Boelter Companies, Inc.

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

MOVED by Jillian Winn, SUPPORTED by Shulawn Doxie that the board waive the reading and adopt final reading of board policies 3102 Smoking, Tobacco Products, Drugs, and Alcohol 3106 Booster Clubs, PTOs, and Other Support Groups 3119 Experimental or Pilot Programs 3207 School Activities Fund 3211 Post-Issuance Tax Compliance 3301 Purchasing and Procurement 3306 Construction Bidding 3307 Construction

Administration 3408 Firearms and Weapons 3410 Opioid Antagonist 4101 Non-Discrimination 4105 Disability Workplace Accommodations for Employees and Applicants 4105A Pregnancy Workplace Accommodations for Employees and Applicants 4105B Religious Workplace Accommodations for Employees and Applicants 4106 Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) 4107 Military Leave 4109 Break Time For Nursing Mothers 4201 Employee Ethics and Standards 4202 Children's Protective Services (CPS) and Adult Protective Services (APS) Reporting and Student Safety and Welfare 4206 Employment Contracts 4207 Third Party Contracting 4215 District Technology and Acceptable Use Policy 4228 No Expectation of Privacy 4229 Acceptable Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence 4401 Definition 4507 Termination 4603 Performance Evaluation 5103 Search and Seizure 5105 Collaboration with Outside Entities 5202 Unlawful Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation Against Students 5203 Hazing 5204 Student Appearance and Dress Code 5206 Student Discipline 5206A- Student Discipline Due Process 5206B Student Discipline - Students with Disabilities 5206D Student Discipline - Enrollment Following Misconduct at Another Public or Nonpublic School 5208 Student Acceptable Use and Internet Safety 5208.01 Acceptable Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence 5212 Registered Sex Offenders - Students 5301 Compulsory Attendance, Absenteeism, and Truancy 5303 Student Enrollment and Withdrawal 5304 Nonpublic School Students Part-Time Attendance 5416 Homebound and Hospitalized Instruction 5506 Field Trips 5510 Student-Initiated, Non-Curricular Clubs 5601 Special Education 5701 Abuse and Neglect 5711 Toilet Training 5713 Immunizations and Communicable Diseases 5804 Work Permits

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

Dan Peabody, Liam Barany, Jill Lambert, Luke Bowman, Kiosha Miller, Rebecca Mercado-Jones addressed the board concerning childcare programming.

Members discussed communication with families and the community; anonymity in surveys; and making it as inclusive of a process as possible.

Luke Bowman addressed the board regarding childcare.

There were no other matters.

President Buffett adjourned the regular meeting at 10:29 p.m.

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Shulawn Doxie, Secretary