Okemos Board of Education
Okemos, Michigan 48864
REGULAR MEETING March 9, 2026

The regular meeting of the Okemos Board of Education was called to order by President Buffett at 6:00 p.m.

Members Present:	Tom Buffett, Jason Burns, Katie Cavanaugh, Shulawn Doxie, Andy Phelps, Leeni Shrestha and Jillian Winn
Members Absent:	None
Administration:	Superintendent John Hood

MOVED by Jillian Winn, SUPPORTED by Leeni Shrestha 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 6:02 p.m.

The board reconvened from executive session at 7:29 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

Roll Call

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

Members highlighted recent events and activities including: The 49th Annual Spaghetti Dinner was a huge success this year. Featuring dinner and musical performances, this fundraiser supports OPS K-12 music programs, thankful to all who volunteered; Congratulations to all of the Red Cedar basketball teams who made it the state tournament

Jennifer Keefe addressed the board regarding the teacher contract.

High School Representatives reported on the following: Auditions for the Addams Family play were held February 9 and February 11 with performances April 24-26; school clean-up was a success; senior cap and gown ordering has completed; senior yard signs; prom theme is Rio de Janeiro; and post-prom is being held at Launch.

Superintendent Hood provided an update regarding the future of the Senior Center. The Township has

requested a meeting with Trustees Cavanaugh, Phelps, and Winn to discuss future site and building considerations. The Senior Center is expected to remain occupied through 2028.Administration recognized Director Lieber for the prompt response to the ruptured water line at Chippewa Middle School on March 3, 2026.Administration reported that the District has used four of six forgiveness days, with Chippewa Middle School having used five. Alternate spaces are being considered should Chippewa need to utilize additional days.Superintendent Hood welcomed Laura Brandt as the new Executive Assistant to the Superintendent and the Board, He also recognized Amanda Patton for her role as interim executive assistant during the time of transition.

President Buffett acknowledged correspondence from the following: Jane Church, Dr. Puneet K. Joshi, Sarah Green, Jesse Green, Christine Inman concerning teacher contracts; Robert Hinton, Theresa Rice-Olowolafe, Rhianna Walworth, Yingxin Zhou, Lauren Schefke, Amy Sova, Theresa Rice, Lindsay Harrod, Amy Parks, Hanne Hoffmann, and Anonymous Okemos Citizen concerning superintendent search; and Jena Mabrey regarding board communication, and Janelle Koorstra concerning future bond planning.

Members reported on March 4, 2026 Trust-Tea chat, MASB workshop, superintendent search, and recognized Supt. Hood, Asst. Superintendent for Instruction Bailey, Director Lieber, and Trustee Cavanaugh.

MOVED by Katie Cavanaugh, SUPPORTED by Andrew Phelps that the Board approve items 1 through 8 for immediate implementation and appropriate action. Item 1:Approval of the Minutes of the Special Meeting of February 18, 2026; Item 2:Approval of the Minutes of the Executive Session Meeting of February 18, 2026; Item 3:Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 19, 2026; Item 4:Approval of the Minutes of the Executive Session Meeting of February 19, 2026; Item 5:Approval of the Minutes of the Special Meeting of February 23, 2026; Item 6:Approval of the Minutes of the Special Meeting of February 24, 2026; Item 7:Approval of the Minutes of the Special Meeting of February 25, 2026; Item 8: Acknowledge receipt of the February financial statement and approve payment of bills for February.

AYE: 7 NAY:0 ABSENT 0 MOTION CARRIED

MOVED by Andrew Phelps, SUPPORTED by Katie Cavanaugh that the Board approve the furniture purchase for the Business Office not to exceed $41,420.00 as funded by the 2022 Bond.

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 the next three action items, Uninterruptible Power Supply, BP7 for new Cornell, and CMS Wireless Access.

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

MOVED by Jason Burns, SUPPORTED by Jillian Winn that the Board waive the requirements of Board Policy 2503A and approve the replacement and modernization of Uninterruptible Power Supply (UPS) systems across the district not to exceed $233,000 and paid for by the 2022 Bond.

AYE: 7 NAY:0 ABSENT 0 MOTION CARRIED

MOVED by Andrew Phelps, SUPPORTED by Jillian Winn that the Board waive the requirements of Board Policy 2503A and approve BP7 results for the new Cornell not to exceed $31,991,519.00 as funded by the 2022 Bond.

AYE: 7 NAY:0 ABSENT 0 MOTION CARRIED

MOVED by Jillian Winn, SUPPORTED by Shulawn Doxie that the Board waive the requirements of Board Policy 2503A approve the purchase of network technology for the new Chippewa Middle School not to exceed $429,884.00 as funded by the 2022 Bond.

AYE: 7 NAY:0 ABSENT 0 MOTION CARRIED

There was no public comment.

MOVED by Andy Phelps, SUPPORTED by Leeni Shrestha that the board adjourn to Work 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 Work Session at 9:28 p.m.

The board transitioned into a work session to discuss with PFM Financial Advisors on potential bond planning outlining the process to establish initial guardrails.

The board reconvened from Work Session at 10:32 p.m.

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

Administration: Superintendent John Hood

Other Action Items: Superintendent Search Update

President Buffett adjourned the Regular Meeting at 10:34 p.m.

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Shulawn Doxie, Secretary