Okemos Board of Education
Okemos, Michigan 48864
REGULAR MEETING April 13, 2026

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, Andy Phelps, Katie Cavanaugh, Shulawn Doxie, Leeni Shrestha and Jillian Winn
Members Absent:	Members Absent: Jason Burns* Absent during roll call with arrival time of 6:32 p.m.
Administration:	Interim Superintendent Stacy Bailey; Executive Director of Finance Elizabeth Lentz; Director of Human Resources Jennifer Emmendorfer

MOVED by Jillian Winn, SUPPORTED by Katie Cavanaugh that the Board adjourn to Executive Session pursuant to Section 8(a) 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	Jillian Winn Yes
Shulawn Doxie Yes	

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

The Board adjourned to Executive Session at 6:32 p.m.

The Board reconvened from Executive Session at 7:53 p.m.

Members Present:	Tom Buffett, Andy Phelps, Katie Cavanaugh, Jason Burns, Shulawn Doxie, Leeni Shrestha and Jillian Winn
Members Absent:	None
Administration:	Interim Superintendent Stacy Bailey; Executive Director of Finance Elizabeth Lentz; Director of Human Resources Jennifer Emmendorfer

Dr. Joseph Schmidt, OHS Assistant Principal, provided information on behalf of BPA Advisor Dr. Sharon Murchie for a BPA National Leadership Conference trip to Nashville, TN proposed for May 6th through the 10th. BPA Chapter Members went to the State Competition in Grand Rapids. Nineteen students qualified for the National Tournament, with ten students accepting the invitation to attend. Dr. Murchie received two quotes for travel: Quote 1: $16,000.00 Quote 2: $14,500.00. With strategic work, Dr. Murchie worked with a conglomerate of five different schools to take the cost of travel down to $2125.00 which includes gratuity and hotel room for the driver. Per student cost will be $1200.00.

No one addressed the board.

The OHS student representative shared highlights including the May 16 prom tickets are on sale from April 20 through May 1. State testing is occurring for all students this month. Pizza Pizzicato will be taking place April 18 at Chippewa MS. Students in 5th-12th grade orchestra students perform a concert together that learn the same day as performance. The orchestra spent Spring Break in Germany. BPA is hosting their Annual Business Fair, National Honor Society Induction will be May 6. OHS Theater will be

performing The Addams Family April 24-26. Track, tennis, softball and baseball seasons are under way. The softball and baseball teams would like to thank both the Board and the Poletes family for new equipment and facilities.

At the request of President Buffett and with no objection from trustees, Jason Mellama's presentation was moved up in the agenda.

Superintendent of Ingham Intermediate School District, Jason Mellama, presented information on the Special Education 2026 Bond Proposal for $99,960,000.00 to fund construction of the New Beekman Center and the Addition/Renovation of Heartwood School. Taxpayer impact is equal to 0.55 mill increase.

Interim Superintendent Stacy Bailey spoke about the board touring new Chippewa and the incredible progress. Cornell Celebration was held Friday, April 10th. Montessori update - strategies to increase enrollment, especially in middle grades have gone well. Continue using those strategies, as well as a promotional video that is being made for the website. Screenagers, a documentary focusing on the impact screen time has on students will be shown April 28, 6:00-8:00 p.m. at the high school. This event is open to the public as well.

President Buffett acknowledged correspondence from the following; Tracy Ojerio, regarding the Cornell Elementary Closing Celebration Invitation; Yingxin Zhou, regarding starting a middle school tennis program.

Trustee Cavanaugh shared that Protect the Pack is scheduled for June 11, 2026.

MOVED by Andy Phelps, SUPPORTED by Katie Cavanaugh, that the Board approves items 1 through 3 for immediate implementation and appropriate action. Item 1: Approval of the Minutes of the Executive Meeting of March 23, 2026; Item 2: Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Session Meeting of March 23, 2026; Item 3: Acknowledge receipt of the February financial statement and approve payment of bills for March 2026.

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

MOVED by Andy Phelps, SUPPORTED by Katie Cavanaugh, that the Board waives the reading of Board Policy 2503(a) and approves the contract between the Okemos Board of Education and the Association of Okemos Administrators effective July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2027.

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

MOVED by Andy Phelps, SUPPORTED by Jason Burns, that the Board waives the reading of Board Policy 2503(a) and approves the contract between the OCMFS effective July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2027.

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

MOVED by Andy Phelps, SUPPORTED by Jillian Winn, that the Board approves waiving the reading of Board Policy 2503(a) and approves the changes in salary and benefits for Central Office; Central Office; Clerical/Technical/Child Care, and Select Staff personnel effective July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2027.

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

Interim Superintendent Stacy Bailey reported on School of Choice Openings for the 2026-2027 school year and estimated number of openings. We potentially are able to offer ten openings per grade level in K-4 and one opening per grade level in Grades 5-12. We are doing a Kindergarten Round-up this year which will provide us with more data for an update at the next board meeting.

Executive Director of Finance Elizabeth Lentz gave a budget update. Reviewed the 2025-26 Preliminary Budget Revision #2 and Carryforward Impact on 2026-27 Budget. Discussed 2026-27 Expenditure Increases/Revenue Decreases to the General Fund and a budget development tentative timeline.

No one addressed the board.

President Buffett adjourned the Regular Meeting at 8:58 p.m.

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Shulawn Doxie, Secretary