**Okemos Board of Education**
**Okemos, Michigan 48864**
**REGULAR MEETING April 27, 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, Andy Phelps, Katie Cavanaugh, Shulawn Doxie, Leeni Shrestha and Jillian Winn
Members Absent:
Administration: Superintendent Matt Olson; Interim Superintendent Stacy Bailey; Executive Director of Finance Elizabeth Lentz; Director of Human Resources Jennifer Emmendorfer

Roll Call

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|---|---|
| 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**

MOVED by Andy Phelps, SUPPORTED by Jillian Winn, that the Board waives the reading and approve the contract between the Okemos Board of Education and Mr. Matt Olson, effective May 1, 2026.

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

MOVED by Andy Phelps, SUPPORTED by Katie Cavanaugh that the Board adjourn to Executive Session pursuant to Section 8(c) and 8(h) of the Open Meetings Act for the purpose of discussing attorney-client privileged information and contract negotiations.
Roll Call

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|---|---|
| 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 6:06 p.m.

The Board reconvened from Executive Session at 7:12 p.m.
Roll Call

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|---|---|
| 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**

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

East Lansing resident Erik Potere, English teacher and Journalism Advisor, addressed the board regarding the journalism program at Okemos High School.

Okemos resident Barbara O'Kelly addressed the board regarding the Meridian Township Senior Center.

Okemos resident Cory Gahsman, Psychology teacher, addressed the board regarding the journalism program at Okemos High School.

Haslett resident Quinton Reynolds, addressed the board regarding the journalism program at Okemos High School.

Howell resident Lori Mazzullo addressed the board, welcomed and thanked Superintendent Matt Olson on behalf of the Okemos Education Association.

The OHS student representative shared highlights including the Spring Pep Assembly was held April 24th where teachers from around the district attended and participated in assembly games, The Addams Family Show wrapped up their performances after three successful shows. They also gave a student preview at the high school. Love for our Elders and Artbox will have a joint meeting to write appreciation letters for teachers in the district, Thirteen seniors will be participating in Senior Signing Day on April 29th to continue playing sports when they enter college, Girls Varsity Tennis is undefeated, OHS carnival will be held April 29th from 4:15-7:00 with many activities and opportunities for families to participate.

MOVED by Jillian Winn, SUPPORTED by Shulawn Doxie that the board waive the reading and adopt the resolution establishing May 6, 2026 as Staff Appreciation Day in honor of the employees of the Okemos Public Schools.

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**

Trustee Winn shared that the State Science Olympiad was held this past weekend at MSU Breslin Center. OHS and CMS both received awards; Trustee Burns had the pleasure of attending several events around the district, including the Honors Times Two presentation that involved many Okemos students.Pizza Pizzicato was held April 18th with the students giving an outstanding performance. President Buffett highlighted The Addams Family Musical, which was held April 24-26 and thanked Mr. Stice, Ms. Nieuwkoop and the Okemos community for putting together an incredible show.

Cherie Wisdom, Coordinator at the Meridian Senior Center presented and gave an update on the Senior Center and how it impacts the Okemos community. For more than 31 years, the Senior Center has been located in Chippewa Middle School. Participation has been impacted recently with the uncertainty surrounding the location and future of the Senior Center. Membership is targeted to be at approximately

400 members by the end of the year.

Christina Alighire, Community Education Coordinator, presented and gave an update on Community Education Childcare-Edgewood including program highlights, enrollment updates, and fundraising efforts. There are currently 92 staff members serving 790 families. In September, LuLu from the Woof Pack, was added at Edgewood and has had a very positive impact. An update for the Universal Preschool is that full funding was granted for 104 students. The program was at a loss in February 2025 of over $383,000, and is now positive $57,000 and on track for sustainability with budget assumptions.Highlighted fundraising opportunities for needed items outside of scope of funded expenses.

President Buffett acknowledged correspondence from the following; Yingxin Zhou, regarding starting a middle school tennis program; Dylan Wong regarding restrictions on students using ChatGPT/AI; Barbara Beech regarding teacher contract.

Vice President Phelps shared that the Facilities Committee met on April 17th. Updates include a tour of Chippewa to see the progress and how everything is on schedule, Cornell Closing Celebration and support for the transition, and the 2027 potential bond and identification of timelines, roles and responsibilities of board members, administration, and community members as part of that steering committee.Trustee Burns and Trustee Cavanaugh, as part of the Advocacy Committee met with some elected representatives to discuss school spending.

Interim Superintendent Stacy Bailey spoke on the Executive Director of Finance position being reposted once it was announced that Matt Olson would be starting as superintendent.. Current Executive Director of Finance Elizabeth Lentz is retiring at the end of August. Interim Superintendent Bailey and Director of Human Resources Jennifer Emmendorfer will be working with Superintendent Olson to search for qualified candidates. Principal Tracy Ojerio has announced her retirement and was thanked for her service to education and impact. Thanked the Board for their support during the transitional time as Interim Superintendent as well.

MOVED by Andy Phelps, SUPPORTED by Katie Cavanaugh, that the Board approves items 1 through 2 for immediate implementation and appropriate action. Item 1: Approval of the Minutes of the Executive Meeting of April 13, 2026; Item 2: Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Session Meeting of April 13,, 2026.

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

MOVED by Jillian Winn, SUPPORTED by Leeni Shrestha, that the Board endorse the OHS BPA members trip to Nashville, Tennessee, scheduled for May 6 through May 10, 2026, with the understanding the students will abide by all school policies and procedures.

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

MOVED by Shulawn Doxie, SUPPORTED by Katie Cavanaugh, that the Board approve the recommended openings to be advertised through the Ingham Intermediate School District for School of Choice enrollment in the Okemos Public Schools.

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

Executive Director of Operations Brian Lieber and Chippewa Building Principal Jody Noble presented on the BP3 Owner Directed Equipment Purchase Review. Seeking approval on the “aggregated total” +

reasonable margin for unforeseen changes with the request totaling $275,485.00 ($250,439.90 known costs + 10% margin).

Interim Superintendent Bailey shared that for over ten years, Okemos Public Schools employees that retire and have Sick Time had that money placed in a 403(b).This has been the practice, but we have not had a policy in place. Interim Superintendent Bailey, Executive Director of Finance Elizabeth Lenzth, and Director of Human Resources Jennifer Emmendorfer have put that into a resolution, being reviewed by Thrun Law Firm, P.C.

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. Previewed the tentative timeline for Budget Development.

No one addressed the board.

President Buffett adjourned the Regular Meeting at 8:41 p.m.

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Shulawn Doxie, Secretary