Okemos Board of Education
Okemos, Michigan 48864
REGULAR MEETING May 11, 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, Jason Burns, Shulawn Doxie, Leeni Shrestha and Jillian Winn
Members Absent:	None
Administration:	Superintendent Matt Olson, Assistant Superintendent Stacy Bailey, Executive Director of Finance Elizabeth Lentz, Director of Human Resources Jennifer Emmendorfer

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

The Board reconvened from Executive Session at 7:05 p.m.

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

Trustees shared events happening around the district, including that Okemos Archery traveled to Louisville, KY for the National Tournament, Chippewa Montessori students hosted a pancake breakfast and are also holding the Annual Native Plant Sale for the community with proceeds going to the Washington, D.C. 8th grade trip which is occurring this week.

Okemos resident Nadine Roya, addressed the board regarding the Chippewa Secondary Montessori Greenhouse build at the new Chippewa MS

Okemos resident Nina Roya, addressed the board regarding the Chippewa Secondary Montessori Greenhouse build at the new Chippewa MS

Okemos resident Emma Roya, addressed the board regarding theChippewa Secondary Montessori

Greenhouse build at the new Chippewa MS

Okemos resident Ekaansh Mishra, addressed the board regarding the Chippewa Secondary Montessori Greenhouse build at the new Chippewa MS

The OHS student representatives shared highlights including that the girls' soccer team played in Compete for a Cause and hosted senior night; student council held a fundraising event at Panera; Business Professionals of America (BPA) traveled to Nashville; TN for Nationals; seniors last school day is May 18th; commencement will be held May 21 at the MSU Breslin Center; last day for seniors is May 12; the senior class will volunteer at Okemos elementary schools and 24/2 Church; Prom Post-Prom will be held at Launch organized by the OHS Parent Committee; Spirit Week; Sock Out Suicide 5K hosted by ACTION; and choir, orchestra and band will have their end of year concerts as well.

Presentation from Bond Partners: Representatives from the Okemos Schools Bond Team and Executive Director of Operations Brian Lieber, presented an update on BP5 Concession/Plaza Bid Results. The assigned BP5 budget with BP4 savings included is $9,182,684.00. Partners received 44 bids for 15 categories with the final contracts award recommendations being: Driesenge & Associates, Inc., Woodhull Construction, Kent Companies, Inc., Nationwide Construction Group, Brothers Outdoor World, Davenport Masonry, Inc., Zak Welding & Custom Work, LLC, Action Roofing Sheet Metal, Inc., Liberty Sheet Metal, Vos Glass, Trumble Group, Niles Construction Group, Southern Bleacher Company, Inc., CSM Mechanical, LLC, and Centennial Electric, LLC.

Superintendent of Ingham Intermediate School District, Jason Mellama, presented information on the 2026-27 Proposed General Fund Budget. Ingham ISD operates three funds: General Education, Special Education and Career and Technical Education. Public Act 234 of 2004 mandates local district boards of education adopt a resolution either in support or disapproval of Ingham ISD's General Fund Budget.

Superintendent Matt Olson gave highlights of his first week as Superintendent of Okemos Public Schools. Participated in walk-through at the new Chippewa MS, Special Olympics Field Day, and looking forward to attending Sock Out Suicide May 15th.

President Buffett acknowledged correspondence from the following; Eric Potere, Kelly Bozung, Matt Bozung, and Kevin Dubb regarding journalism programming at OHS; Devon Becker, Cornell Principal recommendation; Matt Prinz, Kaylee McElroy, and Bruce Timmons regarding Chippewa Secondary Montessori Greenhouse build at the new Chippewa MS. Trustee Cavanaugh shared the Finance Committee met May 1st and will be emailing ideas for a budget workshop that the Finance Committee will review; Trustee Cavanaugh attended the township meeting where the township gave informative updates; Trustee Winn held Trust-teas which was not well attended. President Buffett stated that it is important to hold the space for the community even if few attend. Trustees Burns and Cavanaugh gave an update on the Advocacy Committee as well.

MOVED by Katie Cavanaugh, **SUPPORTED** by Andy Phelps, that the Board approves items 1 through 3 for immediate implementation and appropriate action. Item 1: Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 27, 2026; Item 2: Approval of the Minutes of the Executive Session Meeting of April 27, 2026; Item 3: Acknowledge receipt of the April financial statement and approve payment of bills for April.

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

MOVED by Jillian Winn, **SUPPORTED** by Shulawn Doxie, that the Board waive the requirements of Board Policy 2503A that the Board authorize approval of equipment expenditures totaling $275,485.00 for the purchase of equipment in support of the opening of the new Chippewa Middle School funded by the 2022 bond.

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

MOVED by Andy Phelps, **SUPPORTED** by Jillian Winn, that the Board read and adopt the Resolution No.2026-04-07, Mandatory Employer Retirement Contributions for Accumulated Leave Payouts, effective for eligible separations from service occurring on or after March 25, 2026, as presented.

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

MOVED by Andy Phelps, **SUPPORTED** by Katie Cavanaugh, that the Board extend the following administrator contracts through June 30, 2028: Joseph Corr - Principal at Hiawatha Elementary; Allison Cironi - Assistant Principal at Okemos High School; Jody Noble - Principal at Chippewa Middle School; Heather Pricco - Director of Special Education; Andre Ridley - Assistant Principal at Chippewa Middle School; Sara Roland - Assistant Principal at Kinawa; Lauren Schefke - Principal at Bennett Woods Elementary; Joe Schmidt - Assistant Principal at Okemos High School; Steve Stierley - Principal at Kinawa; Katie Casson - Principal at Central Montessori, Stacy Bailey - Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction; Kenneth Hintze - Athletic Director at Okemos High School

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

MOVED by Jillian Winn, **SUPPORTED** by Katie Cavanaugh that the Board read and adopted the Retirement Non-Spiking Resolution related to compensation increases and final average compensation determinations for applicable retirees and retirants with service on or after July 1, 2021, through June 30, 2025, as presented.

Executive Director of Finance Elizabeth Lentz gave a budget update. Reviewed the 2025-26 Preliminary Budget Assumptions for 2026-27.

No one addressed the board.

President Buffett adjourned the Regular Meeting at 8:23 p.m.

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Shulawn Doxie, Secretary