Okemos Board of Education
Okemos, Michigan 48864
REGULAR MEETING May 18, 2026

The regular meeting of the Okemos Board of Education was called to order by President Buffett at 7:00 p.m.

Members Present:	Tom, Buffett, Andy Phelps, Katie Cavanaugh, Shulawn Doxie, Leeni Shrestha and Jillian Winn
Members Absent:	Jason Burns
Administration:	Superintendent Matt Olson, Assistant Superintendent Stacy Bailey, Executive Director of Finance Elizabeth Lentz, Director of Human Resources Jennifer Emmendorfer, Director of Operations Brian Lieber

Trustees shared events happening around the district last week; Chippewa 8th graders traveled to Washington, D.C. and the OHS band, orchestra, and choir concerts were held last week as well.

Holt resident Lisa Murphy addressed the board regarding the Chippewa Secondary Montessori Greenhouse build at the new Chippewa Middle School.

The OHS student representatives shared highlights including that the varsity tennis team competed at regionals and have advanced to state will take place on May 29; student council hosted a KONA Ice fundraiser; seniors last school day is May 18; May 19 is commencement rehearsal followed by a picnic lunch and a viewing of their senior year video; commencement will be held May 21 at the MSU Breslin Center; prom was held this weekend followed by post-prom at Launch. Students enjoyed it being there this year. The post-prom was organized by the OHS Parent Committee. Many classes have end-of-year field trips as well. The last days for all other students are June 3-5.

The Board recognized and expressed appreciation to the 2025-2026 Okemos High School Student Representatives to the Board of Education, Harshita Rajaram, Finn Regan, and James Sharp.Trustee Phelps read the Student Representative on the Board resolution, effective May 18, 2026.

District bond partners provided an update on summer 2026 projects funded by the 2022 bond and community donation. Shane Lounsberry, Christman Project Manager, is taking a career path change. Going forward communication will go out with how that role will be filled. Overview was given on the New Chippewa timeline with ribbon cutting/open house tentatively scheduled for August 18. Fire alarm replacement work at OHS will be completed this summer.

Superintendent Matt Olson gave highlights of the week starting with attending the orchestra concert. OHS Orchestra Director Justin Valla and well as students gave an impressive performance; Sock Out Suicide hosted by ACTION provided Superintendent Olson with insight on the work being done and roots of it; district-wide survey went out this week to students and families; Superintendent Olson and Assistant Superintendent Stacy Bailey attended Future Learning Council last week; Superintendent Olson met with multiple stakeholders and leadership about the Chippewa greenhouse and were able to problem solve for both short and long term offering students continued opportunities; severe weather/dismissal proved challenging today getting communication out to families. Superintendent Olson along with Security Director Katie Diehl will debrief and look at our current process.

President Buffett acknowledged correspondence from the following: Beth Layhe, Colleen Scott, and Sarah Zyskowski regarding Chippewa Secondary Montessori Greenhouse at the new Chippewa MS; Luke Wood regarding learning styles in schools; Allison Janetis Cullinane regarding severe weather communication during dismissal, and Bridget Potchen regarding trash cans be placed near athletic fields at Kinewa MS; President Buffett went to District Parent Council this week where they were

exploring issues regarding screen time, May 26 will be the final trust-teas event for the school year.

MOVED by Shulawn Doxie, **SUPPORTED** by Jillian Winn, that the Board approves items 1 through 2 for immediate implementation and appropriate action. Item 1: Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of May 11, 2026; Item 2: Approval of the Minutes of the Executive Session Meeting of May 11, 2026

AYE: 6 NAYS: 0 ABSENT: 1 **MOTION CARRIED**

MOVED by Katie Cavanaugh, **SUPPORTED** by Andy Phelps, that the Board waive the reading and adopt the resolution supporting the Ingham Intermediate School District 2026-2027 general fund budget as proposed.

AYE: 6 NAYS: 0 ABSENT: 1 **MOTION CARRIED**

MOVED by Andy Phelps, **SUPPORTED** by Jillian Winn, that the Board award contracts not to exceed $9,182,684.00 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: Driesenga & 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 Services; Southern Bleacher Company, Inc.; CSM Mechanical, LLC; Centennial Electric, LLC.

AYE: 6 NAYS: 0 ABSENT: 1 **MOTION CARRIED**

Assistant Superintendent Stacy Bailey presented new textbook recommendations for 2026-27. Recommendations include K-5th Grade Math; 7-8th Grade ELA; Sports Literature; AP Calculus; Biology; AP Microeconomics. Superintendent Bailey reviewed replacement cycles and the selection process.

Kinawa Assistant Principal Sara Roland and OHS Assistant Principals Allison Cironi and Joe Schmidt presented the proposed changes to the 2026-2027 District-Wide Student & Family Handbook. This will be the first year of a district-wide handbook; previously, handbooks were maintained at the building level.

Executive Director of Finance Elizabeth Lentz gave a budget update. Reviewed the 2025-26 Preliminary Budget Assumptions for 2026-27 as well as the 2026-27 Expenditure Increases/Revenue Decreases. Director Lentz highlighted Overage Assignments and Reduction in Sections including total impact on general fund budget.

Okemos resident David Atkins addressed the board regarding the baseball and softball complex.

The board adjourned to the Work Session at 8:34 p.m.

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Members Absent:	Jason Burns
Administration:	Superintendent Matt Olson, Assistant Superintendent Stacy Bailey, Executive Director of Finance Elizabeth Lentz, Director of Human Resources Jennifer

Emmendorfer

The board transitioned into a work session. Laura Hilger, Senior Director of Teaching and Learning with KnowledgeWorks, presented the Portrait of a Learner framework, which outlines a shared vision for the skills educators need to drive innovation and support systems change through personalized, competency-based learning.

President Buffett adjourned the Regular Meeting at 9:33 p.m.

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Shulawn Doxie, Secretary