Okemos Board of Education
Okemos, Michigan 48864
REGULAR MEETING June 22, 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, Jason Burns, and Jillian Winn
Members Absent:	Leeni Shrestha
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) 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 Absent
Katie Cavanaugh Yes	Jillian Winn Yes
Shulawn Doxie Yes	

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

The Board adjourned to Executive Session at 6:58 p.m.

The Board reconvened from Executive Session at 6:59 p.m.

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

President Buffett led everyone in a moment of silence for the passing of Tom Isom, Director of Media and Technology.

Trustee Cavanaugh shared that students arrived back home last Thursday from their French class trip and the OHS Debate Team sent three teams to the National Debate Tournament in Richmond, VA. Trustee Cavanaugh also mentioned that the fifth annual Protect the Pack was held two weeks ago and it was very well attended and thanked all of the volunteers. Vice-President Phelps acknowledged Joe Kattelus and the Okemos Athletic Boosters. They have given $168,469.00 to Okemos athletics and the school

- $74,880 given directly to individual High School sports teams
- $93,589 donated in equipment for the High School weight room

- Support provided at more than 100 concession events each school year, engaging athletes, families, and volunteers
- Partnerships built with dozens of local businesses through sponsorship signage across multiple athletic venues

Superintendent Olson highlighted the groundbreaking for the baseball and softball fields that was held on June 19, 2026. Students, coaches, bond partners, board members, the Poletes family, and community members were in attendance.

Executive Director of Finance Elizabeth Lentz presented the 2026-27 State Aid Note borrowing recommendation. We have dropped in our fund balance and state aid assists in order to make sure we have sufficient cash flow. Cash flow starts in October and our fiscal year begins July 1, 2026. We will bid out for up to 3,500,000.00 for 2026-27 to meet our cash flow needs. This is something that the district had previously done in the past.

Executive Director of Finance Elizabeth Lentz presented the proposed 2026-27 budget which included the following along with the General Fund: Debt Retirement Fund, Sinking Fund, Capital Projects Fund, Student & Activity Fund, and Food Service. The General Fund was then presented highlighting increases and decreases to the General Fund.

Superintendent Olson and President Buffett reviewed the Level 1 budget summary from the previous board meeting
and then walked through a FAQ sheet that stemmed from questions trustees put forward and also from community correspondence.

Okemos resident Jennifer Keith regarding proposed cuts to MTSS coaches
Okemos resident Candace Boldrey regarding OHS/CMS choir, Gifted and Talented Coordinator, and Chippewa Montessori greenhouse
Bath resident and Okemos staff member Matt Cyrus regarding proposed cuts to MTSS coaches
Okemos resident and staff member Erica Harris regarding proposed cuts to MTSS coaches
Okemos resident Lea Yam regarding proposed close of Edgewood 0-2 program
Okemos resident Alexandra Atang regarding proposed close of Edgewood 0-2 program
Okemos resident Kelly Bertrilund regarding proposed cuts to MTSS coaches
Okemos residents Ellen and Paul Vallin regarding proposed closure of Edgewood 0-2 program
Okemos resident Simon Belisle regarding the proposed budget cuts

Superintendent Olson welcomed Lindsey Price as the new principal at Cornell Elementary. He expressed gratitude to the board members, Executive Director of Finance Elizabeth Lentz, and Executive Assistant Laura Brandt for work over the past few weeks. Superintendent Olson expressed condolences to the Media and Tech Team on the loss of Director Tom Isom.

President Buffett acknowledged correspondence from the following: Marian Murembya, Cheri Meyer, Melissa Kolb, Caitlin Pemble, Christine Skoutelas, Sandra Ortiz, Devon Becker, Nichole Berridge, Phillip Stadler, Janelle Koorstra, Rachel Smith, Matt Cyrus, Kristin Johnson, Vanessa Grant, and Rebecca Sturges regarding the proposed but to MTSS coach positions; Alexandra Atang, Lin Family, Danielle Emerson, Liz Davis, Cari Maday, Erin Stockall, Russ and Hailee Werner, Lea Yam, Dan Lance, Jaclyn Green, Matt and Ashley Maiville, and Sarah Maria regarding the proposed Edgewood closing of the 0-2 program; Smita Mahale, Urvi Patel, Deval Patel, and David Noble regarding the proposed cut to Gifted and Talented Coordinator; June Hicks, Madison Berridge, Anna Krystyniak, Sue Mlaker, Dr. Sarah Long, Jonathan Coy, and Rebecca Sturges regarding proposed budget cuts; Chris Strode regarding significant number of bugs covering OHS restrooms; Joe Kattelus regarding the three year summary for the Okemos Athletic Boosters; Melissa Samluk regarding concerns for the 2026-27 OHS school year; Lindsay Heinzelmann regarding emerging data on the impact of learning and technology; and Chris Dana regarding the OHS/CMS choir program.

Trustee Cavanaugh urged the community to write legislators both for reasons of the state budget and for universal childcare. Trustee Phelps gave an update on the Facilities Committee.

MOVED by Jillian Winn, **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 Regular Meeting of June 8, 2026; Item 2: Acknowledge receipt of the May financial statement and approve payment of bills for May 2026.

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

MOVED by Jillian Winn, **SUPPORTED** by Andy Phelps, that the board appoint Timothy Erickson, Jamie Storey, and Meghan Loughlin-Krusky to serve on the district's PHASE Advisory Board.

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

MOVED by Shulawn Doxie, **SUPPORTED** by Jason Burns, that the board approve the 2026-2027 Academic Handbook for distribution to Okemos High School students.

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

MOVED by Jason Burns, **SUPPORTED** by Katie Cavanaugh, that the board waive the reading and adopt the resolution authorizing the issuance and sale of notes in an amount not to exceed $3,500,000 to provide for cash flow needs pending receipt of School Aid funds.(Roll Call Vote)
Roll Call

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

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

MOVED by Andy Phelps, **SUPPORTED** by Katie Cavanaugh, that the board approve the amended 2025-2026 Budget. (Roll Call Vote)
Roll Call

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

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

MOVED by Andy Phelps, **SUPPORTED** by Katie Cavanaugh, that the board initially adopt the appropriations for the General Fund of $71,301,406; Debt Retirement Fund of $12,681,663; Building and Site Sinking Fund of $1,777,610; Capital Projects Fund of $50,250,000; Student/School Activity Fund of $1,146,300 and Food Services Fund of $2,906,627 for the 2026-2027 fiscal year. (Roll Call Vote)
Roll Call

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

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

Okemos resident and staff member Jen Baker regarding proposed budget cuts and requesting to have a different process for obtaining input from school staff when making budget decisions

President Buffett adjourned the Regular Meeting at 9:07 p.m.

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Shulawn Doxie, Secretary