

Okemos Board of Education
Okemos, Michigan 48864
REGULAR MEETING APRIL 22, 2024

The regular meeting of the Okemos Board of Education was called to order by President Gebara at 6:35 p.m.

Call To Order

Members Present: Shulawn Doxie, Mary Gebara, Andrew Phelps and Jayme Taylor

Members Absent: Tom Buffett, Katie Cavanaugh, Melanie Lynn

Administrators: Superintendent John Hood; HR Director Mario Martinez

MOVED Andy Phelps, SUPPORTED by Shulawn Doxie that the board adjourn to Executive Session pursuant to Section 8(a) of the Open Meetings Act for the purpose of discussing contract negotiations.

Adjourn to
Closed Session

Roll Call Vote

Tom Buffett	---	Melanie Lynn	---
Katie Cavanaugh	---	Andrew Phelps	Yes
Mary Gebara	Yes	Jayme Taylor	Yes
Shulawn Doxie	Yes		

AYE: 4 NAY: 0 ABSENT: 3 **MOTION CARRIED**

The board adjourned to closed session at 6:36 p.m.

Members Tom Buffett and Katie Cavanaugh arrived.

The board reconvened from closed session at 7:30 p.m.

Reconvene

Members Present: Tom Buffett, Katie Cavanaugh, Shulawn Doxie, Mary Gebara, Andrew Phelps and Jayme Taylor

Members Absent: Melanie Lynn

Administrators: Superintendent John Hood; Assistant Superintendent Stacy Bailey; HR Director Mario Martinez; Finance Director Elizabeth Lentz

The board reviewed the Ingham Intermediate School District proposed 2024-2025 General Fund Budget as required by Michigan law to determine its action at the next meeting to support or not support the budget. Ingham Intermediate School District Superintendent Mr. Jason Mellema presented the budget information including a brief overview of the ISD's general fund budget; programs and services supported by the ISD; early childhood education; mental health initiatives and the substitute system. Next steps and responsibilities were also provided.

24-25 IISD
Budget

Member Doxie inquired about the Ingham Academy program that services adjudicated youth.

French Teacher Kim Floyd presented information for board discussion regarding a cultural and language experience to Quebec proposed for February 7-10, 2025. Fundraising and scholarship opportunities were reviewed.

French Student
Trip

Spanish Teacher Karen Sanders presented information for board discussion regarding a culture and language immersion experience in Spain proposed for June 7-14, 2025. Fundraising and eligibility requirements were reviewed.

Spanish Student
Trip

Representatives from Veridas, TowerPinkster and Christman provided an update regarding the 2022 bond, including bid package #3 (CMS rebuild) award recommendations. The contracts contained in the bid package were reviewed, as well as the bid process and results. Updated timelines were provided, and the rebid process explained.

2022 Bond Update

No one addressed the board.

Citizens Address
Agenda & Non-
Agenda Items

Student Representatives reported on various activities at Okemos High School including: recent standardized testing; upcoming AP exams; testing out exam timelines; scheduling process changes; the Spring musical; recent jazz band performance; and orchestra performance.

High School
Student
Report

Superintendent Hood reported on the following: prevent to protect program; social media litigation update; handbook updates; summer registration; and childcare structural deficit and plan.

Superintendent's
Report

Members reported on the recent Community Education dance; recent MSBO Institute; and inquired about the prevent to protect program and possible participants.

Board Reports &
Request

President Gebara acknowledged correspondence from the following: Rachel Freeman-Baldwin concerning the district's standardized testing schedule; Jane Smith regarding Meridian Township Manager Frank Walsh; and Patrick Saucedo thanking the board for facilitating the purchase of the new starting blocks.

MOVED by Shulawn Doxie, SUPPORTED by Jayme Taylor that the board approve items 1 and 2 for immediate implementation and appropriate action. Item 1: Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 8, 2024; and Item 2: Approval of the Minutes of the Special Meeting of April 15, 2024.

Consent Agenda

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

MOVED by Jayme Taylor, SUPPORTED by Katie Cavanaugh that the board waive policy 8344.1 requirements and take action on whether to approve the purchases contained in the 2022 Bond Bid Package #3A.

Adequate
Information to
Proceed

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

MOVED Katie Cavanaugh, SUPPORTED by Andy Phelps that the board add 2022 Bond Bid Package #3A as an action item to the agenda.

Revise Agenda

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

MOVED by Tom Buffett, SUPPORTED by Katie Cavanaugh that the board read and adopt the resolution establishing May 7, 2024 as Staff Appreciation Day in honor of the employees of the Okemos Public Schools.

Staff
Appreciation
Resolution

Roll Call Vote

Tom Buffett	Yes	Melanie Lynn	---
Katie Cavanaugh	Yes	Andrew Phelps	Yes
Mary Gebara	Yes	Jayme Taylor	Yes
Shulawn Doxie	Yes		

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

MOVED by Katie Cavanaugh, SUPPORTED by Shulawn Doxie that the board waive the reading and adopt first reading of board policies: 5801 Closed Campus; 5802 Student Transportation; 5805 Student Audio and Video Recording; and 5807 Flag Display and Pledge of Allegiance.

Board Policy 1st
Reading – July 1
Effective

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

MOVED by Jayme Taylor, SUPPORTED by Shulawn Doxie that the board waive the reading and adopt first reading of board policies: policies 5206 Student Discipline; 5206A Discipline - Due Process; 5206B Discipline - Students with Disabilities; 5206C Discipline - Reinstatement Following Expulsion; 5206D Discipline - Enrollment Following Misconduct at Another Public or Nonpublic School; and 5206E Discipline - Suspension from Class, Subject, or Activity by Teacher.

Board Policy 1st
Reading – 30 Day
Effective

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

MOVED by Andy Phelps, SUPPORTED by Tom Buffett that the board waive the reading and adopt the resolution to accept the offer as set forth in the bond purchase agreement dated April 5, 2024 and appoints the Huntington National Bank as the Paying Agent-Bond Registrar.

2022 Bond Sale

Roll Call Vote

Tom Buffett	Yes	Melanie Lynn	---
Katie Cavanaugh	Yes	Andrew Phelps	Yes
Mary Gebara	Yes	Jayme Taylor	Yes
Shulawn Doxie	Yes		

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

MOVED by Katie Cavanaugh, SUPPORTED by Jayme Taylor that the board award contracts not to exceed \$2,399,704 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: Asbestos Abatement, Inc.; Michigan Paving & Materials Company; Justice Fence Company; Centennial Electric LLC.

2022 Bond Bid
Award
Recommendation

Roll Call Vote

Tom Buffett	Yes	Melanie Lynn	---
Katie Cavanaugh	Yes	Andrew Phelps	Yes
Mary Gebara	Yes	Jayme Taylor	Yes
Shulawn Doxie	Yes		

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

Finance Director Elizabeth Lentz provided a brief update as it pertains the development of the 2024-2024 budget, including a review of legislative funding proposals at the State, updated projections for foundation allowance, transportation funding and savings from retirements. She also reported on upcoming 23-24 budget revisions including state aid, childcare, staffing, utilities, and other funding sources. Impending items aid were also reviewed.

2024-2025
Budget
Development

Members inquired about next steps; historical fund balance; and the priorities process.

The board reviewed the recommendation for School of Choice openings to be advertised through the

Ingham Intermediate School District for the 2024-2025 school year. The proposed openings are as follows: Begindergarten/Kindergarten = 14 openings; 1st grade = 9 openings; 2nd grade = 1 opening; 3rd grade = 9 openings; 4th grade = 19 openings; and 5th - 12th grades = 2 openings per grade.

24-25 School of Choice Openings

Members inquired about members the process used to determine the number of openings; philosophical approach to school of choice; who receives preference; percentage of school of choice students; and did the district recover the students lost during Covid.

There was no public comment.

Public Comment

Member Taylor requested a presentation regarding special education funding, as well as school funding in general.

Other Matters

President Gebara adjourned the regular meeting at 9:45 p.m.

Adjourn

Andy Phelps, Secretary