

**Okemos Board of Education**  
**Okemos, Michigan 48864**  
**REGULAR MEETING MAY 20, 2024**

The regular meeting of the Okemos Board of Education was called to order by President Gebara at 7:01 p.m.	Call To Order
Members Present: Tom Buffett, Katie Cavanaugh, Mary Gebara, Melanie Lynn, and Jayme Taylor	
Members Absent: Shulawn Doxie and Andy Phelps	
Administrators: Assistant Superintendent Stacy Bailey; Finance Director Elizabeth Lentz	
The board recognized and expressed appreciation to the 2023-2024 Okemos High School Student Representatives to the School Board.	Recognition
Superintendent Hood and Finance Director Elizabeth Lentz provided information regarding a possible unballoted bond the district may want to pursue. It was explained that this would be an additional funding source to be considered. It is a non-voted bond for the purpose of energy savings and would offset some bond funding. They reviewed different funding sources for capital projects, explaining there is more discretion for uses with the non-voted bond. This bond would be for energy improvement and savings projects. Only the board makes the decision whether to pursue rather than voters. Director Lentz reviewed the amount the district is able to borrow; financing mechanisms; percentage of our SEV; and how this bond would allow the district to progress on projects that would otherwise wait. Timelines and next steps were described. Administration recommends pursuing the bond noting that it meets the guiding principles for long range planning, and there is no taxpayer impact.	Unballoted Bond
Members inquired about the amount of the 2022 bond that could be defrayed, how it would be impacted, escalation cost, is this a new program, and possible risk.	
David Zin addressed the board regarding the OHS debate team and recent Eurochallenge win; and Alex Sacalis addressed the board concerning the student code of conduct policy and student handbook.	Citizens Address Agenda & Non- Agenda Items
Trustee Phelps arrived at 7:38 p.m.	
Student Representatives reported on various activities at Okemos High School including: recent prom event, spirit week, compete for a cause and sock out suicide events, fine arts performances, AP exams, relocation of main office for construction, upcoming final exams, NHS meetings, senior projects, senior activities, and graduation.	High School Student Report
Assistant Superintendent Bailey reported on the following: Hiawatha carline meetings and current status; graduation ceremony; CMS groundbreaking event; and the Protect the Pack event on June 12 <sup>th</sup> .	Superintendent Report
Members reported on the following: recent education house committee hearing; fine arts performances and Peter and the Wolf production; how to keep the start times discussion going; work session on June 10th with MASB; Bennett Woods block party; and board policy.	Board Reports & Request
MOVED by Katie Cavanaugh, SUPPORTED by Melanie Lynn that the board approve the amended 2023-2024 Budget.	Revised 23-24 Budget

Revised Budget  
Cont.Roll Call Vote

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

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

MOVED by Katie Cavanaugh, SUPPORTED by Tom Buffett that the board waive the reading and adopt first reading of board policy 3202 Budgets and Truth in Budgeting.

Board Policy  
First Reading

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

MOVED by Jayme Taylor, SUPPORTED by Katie Cavanaugh that the board extend the following administrator contracts through June 30, 2026 That the board extend the following administrator contracts through June 30, 2026 Joe Corr - Principal at Hiawatha Elementary; Allison Cironi - Assistant Principal at Okemos High School; Ken Hintze - Athletic Director at Okemos High School; Dan Kemsley - Principal at Okemos High School; Jody Noble - Principal at Chippewa Middle School; Tracy Ojerio - Principal at Cornell Elementary; 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; and Kelly Sundeen - Principal at Central Montessori.

Administrator  
ContractsRoll Call Vote

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

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

MOVED by Melanie Lynn, SUPPORTED by Tom Buffett that the board amend the contract of Assistant Superintendent Stacy Bailey to extend their dates of employment through June 30, 2027.

Asst. Supt.  
Contract  
ExtensionRoll Call Vote

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

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

MOVED by Katie Cavanaugh, SUPPORTED by Tom Buffett that the board read and adopt the resolution directing the superintendent to include secure gun storage information in Student-Parent Handbooks; to create a parent letter explaining the importance of secure gun storage; and to continue working with law enforcement, health agencies and others to increase efforts to inform community members regarding secure storage.

Secure Gun  
Storage  
ResolutionRoll Call Vote

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

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

Assistant Superintendent Bailey presented the new textbook recommendations for 2024-2025. It is not assumed that funds will be available in the general fund to purchase textbooks. The recommendations include: AP Biology; AP Environmental Science; Precalculus Honors; Physical Science; World History and AP Psychology. Materials are available for review by the community in the Curriculum Office.

Textbook  
Recommendation  
s

The board continued its discussion regarding the development of the 2024-2024 budget. Director Lentz briefly presented the current projected 24-25 budget that takes into consideration the recently revised 23-24 budget revision; updated projections including additional speech and language pathologist, a reduction in sections, community education programming and structure improvements; and explained the impact on the fund balance, using \$1.8 million to start the 24-25 year. Pending items were reviewed.

24-25 Budget  
Development

Members inquired about the tuition adjustment to align with market, and childcare enrollment trends.

The board continued their discussion of the next chapters of The Human Side of School Change as part of their book study.

Board Book  
Study

Alex Sacalis addressed the board concerning the student code of conduct policy.

Public Comment

There were no other matters.

Other Matters

President Gebara adjourned the regular meeting at 9:14 p.m.

Adjourn

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Andy Phelps, Secretary

Secure Gun  
Storage  
Resolution