

Okemos Board of Education
Okemos, Michigan 48864
REGULAR MEETING JUNE 24, 2024

The regular meeting of the Okemos Board of Education was called to order by President Gebara at 7:00 p.m.	Call To Order
Members Present: Tom Buffett, Katie Cavanaugh, Shulawn Doxie, Mary Gebara, Melanie Lynn, Andy Phelps and Jayme Taylor	
Administrators: Superintendent John Hood; Assistant Superintendent Stacy Bailey; HR Director Mario Martinez; Finance Director Elizabeth Lentz	
Superintendent Hood and Board Members recognized and congratulated employee Matt Ottinger on his upcoming retirement.	Recognition
Building Administrators presented the proposed changes to the elementary, Kinawa, Chippewa Middle School, and Okemos High School student-parent handbooks. All levels reported on the following changes: aligning language and practices across levels; removing former board policies and replacing with new board policies; added language for AI; universal accommodations; safety and security updates; addition of behavioral threat assessment team; secure storage law; revisions to medical forms, AEDs and communicable diseases; and technology updates. Legal counsel has been asked for a policy regarding AI. Additional proposed revisions include language regarding skipping class, LMC information and accessibility at the middle school level; devices in the hallway and LMC information at Kinawa; absence policy, hot and cold day guidelines, communication protocols, volunteer and visitor updates at the elementary level. Additional edits will be made before returning to the board for approval.	K-12 Student Parent Handbooks
Members inquired about the following: screen time resources for expelled students; recess as a right and not a privilege; chain of command flow chart; linking policies; extended absence policy; excused versus unexcused absences; AI visual for elementary handbook; field trip policy; and cell phones in classrooms policy.	
The board reviewed a bid recommendation to remove underground storage tanks at the transportation facilities. Members of the bond team also explained the bid process and timeframes needed to fabricate the new tanks. This is not an emergent project due to need but part of the 2022 bond plans.	Underground Storage Tank Removal
MOVED by Melanie Lynn, SUPPORTED by Katie Cavanaugh that the board waive policy 8344.1 requirements and take action on whether to award the underground storage tank removal project.	Adequate Information to Proceed
AYE: 7 NAY: 0 ABSENT: 0 MOTION CARRIED	
Representatives from TowerPinkster, Christman, and Veridus Group provided an update on the 2022 Bond Program including summer bond work, timelines, and forecast future bid packages that are underway. An overview of the project schedule was provided. GMP was explained and reviewed. GMP is the contract delivery method that provides for the fees for insurance, and construction manager services. The board has already approved the trade contractors. Completion or progress on current projects was reported on, as well as communication plans regarding projects. Bid package #7 (the new Cornell) and #8 are getting started with design.	2022 Bond Update
Members discussed adjusted scope items, escalation, and communication with the community.	

Assistant Superintendent Stacy Bailey presented social emotional learning growth data, as well as supports and initiatives throughout the district. Mrs. Bailey reported on the following: MTSS team assessment of the district's MTSS and data systems; vision of Tier II; help to explain the why behind students who met growth goal and those who didn't. The SEL data was broken down by risk distribution by gender. SEL supports described include: Tiered academic interventions and evaluation of interventions; developing an MTSS handbook for parents; other examples such as good fit groups and time, TASK class, after-school and summer tutoring. Next steps were described and include new data collection and analysis tools; Munetrix; selection and abandonment of interventions; data access; best practices; building capacity; and communication with families. It was discussed that buildings may receive different supports and tools to meet the needs of their students.

SEL Screener
Data

Members discussed training for staff; supporting teachers; what can families expect; and goals versus reality.

Susan Metcalf addressed the board regarding Hiawatha car and bus loop meetings and playground updates.

Citizens Address
Agenda & Non-
Agenda Items

Superintendent Hood reported on the following: board retreat date; federal security grant; cell tower proposal; data and survey tool; recent Senior Center meeting; legislative advocacy regarding State retirement system; recent conversations with religious leaders regarding academic and athletic schedules; MSU local deer and tick research and collaboration; board operating procedure update; Meridian Township request for street lights on Hulett Rd.

Superintendent
Report

Members reported on the following: OPS Alum and NFL player Taylor Moton recent football camp; differentiation for special needs students for sex ed; board retreat agenda; and recent Protect The Pack event.

Board Reports &
Request

MOVED by Shulawn Doxie, SUPPORTED by Katie Cavanaugh that the board approve item 1 for immediate implementation and appropriate action. Item 1: Approval of the minutes of the Regular Meeting of June 10, 2024.

Consent Agenda

AYE: 7 NAY: 0 ABSENT: 0 MOTION CARRIED

MOVED by Jayme Taylor, SUPPORTED by Andy Phelps that the board approve the employment of Erica Alexander, Speech & Language Pathologist for the District, at Step 2, Division III of the teacher salary schedule, effective August 12, 2024 in accordance with sections 1230 (2) and 1230 a (2) of the Revised School Code conditioned upon receipt of acceptable criminal history checks and criminal records checks.

Employment –
Certified

AYE: 7 NAY: 0 ABSENT: 0 MOTION CARRIED

MOVED by Melanie Lynn, SUPPORTED by Tom Buffett that as it pertains to the board policy resolution that the board replace the term "entirety" to "those policies that were presented for first and second reading."

Board Policy
Resolution
Revision

AYE: 7 NAY: 0 ABSENT: 0 MOTION CARRIED

MOVED by Shulawn Doxie, SUPPORTED by Melanie Lynn that the board read and adopt the resolution repealing current OPS board policies and adopting the Thrun policies and other as presented for first and/or second reading effective July 1, 2024.

Adopt Thrun
Board Policies

Roll Call Vote

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

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

MOVED by Tom Buffett, SUPPORTED by Melanie Lynn that the board authorize the superintendent to sign the GMP agreement for bond 2022 bid packages 3A and 4.

GMP Agreement

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

MOVED by Katie Cavanaugh, SUPPORTED by Tom Buffett that the board award the purchase of two school buses to Holland Bus Company, not to exceed \$276,624 to be funded through the 2022 Bond.

Bus Purchase

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

MOVED by Andy Phelps, SUPPORTED by Katie Cavanaugh that the board endorse the OHS Band student trip to Hawaii, proposed for March 20-27, 2025 with the understanding that students will abide by all school policies and procedures while abroad.

Band Student
Trip

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

MOVED by Katie Cavanaugh, SUPPORTED by Shulawn Doxie that the board endorse the Orchestra student trip to Chicago, proposed for May 2-3, 2025 with the understanding that students will abide by all school policies and procedures.

Orchestra
Student Trip

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

MOVED by Katie Cavanaugh, SUPPORTED by Melanie Lynn that the board award the underground storage tank removal project to Leak Petroleum Equipment, Inc., not to exceed \$363,172.36, and to be funded through the 2022 Bond.

UST Removal

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

MOVED by Tom Buffett, SUPPORTED by Katie Cavanaugh that the board open the truth in taxation hearing.

Budget Truth In
Taxation Hearing

Roll Call Vote

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

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

The budget truth in taxation hearing was opened at 9:37 p.m.

Director of Finance Elizabeth Lentz provided information regarding the proposed 2024-2025 budget including general fund; debt retirement; building and site sinking fund; capital projects; student/school activity fund; and food service budgets. The projected impact on the general fund balance is a negative \$1,111,764.

24-25 Budget

There were no public comments.

The budget truth in taxation hearing was closed at 9:49 p.m.

MOVED by Jayme Taylor, SUPPORTED by Katie Cavanaugh that the board waive the reading and adopt the general appropriations resolution for the General Fund of \$71,174,201; Debt Retirement Fund of \$11,674,444; Building and Site Sinking Fund of \$1,599,880; Capital Projects Fund of \$40,000,000; Student/School Activity Fund of \$1,019,600 and Food Services Fund of \$2,719,230 for the 2024-2025 fiscal year

Roll Call Vote

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

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

There was no public comment.

Public Comment

The board has a special meeting for the purpose of superintendent evaluation training on July 15th at 6 p.m. The board’s organizational meeting will be July 22nd at 6:00 p.m. The board selected September 28th for their first board retreat.

Other Matters

President Gebara adjourned the regular meeting at 10:04 p.m.

Adjourn

Andy Phelps, Secretary