

Okemos Board of Education Okemos, Michigan 48864
SPECIAL MEETING JULY 22, 2024

The special meeting of the Okemos Board of Education was called to order by President Gebara at 6:00 p.m.

Members Present: Tom Buffett, Katie Cavanaugh, Shulawn Doxie, Mary Gebara, Melanie Lynn, and
Andy Phelps

Members Absent: Jayme Taylor

Administration: Superintendent John Hood

No one addressed the board.

Superintendent Hood reported on the following: summer technology, security and bond work; senior center access during construction and update; upcoming policy committee; board operating procedures update; student-parent handbook update; start times advocacy update; teacher negotiations; security plan approval; expressed congratulations to student Caleb Bonemer who was drafted to the MLB; no political signs on district property; upcoming opening day assembly; cell tower inquiry; and grounds upkeep.

Members discussed the following: CMS construction and screens; board discussion regarding the board operating procedures; cell phone policy; upcoming student survey and possible staff survey.

President Gebara acknowledged correspondence from the following: Stacy Tapscott and Sarah Greene concerning school grounds; and Jason Wolf regarding the cell phone policy.

Athletic Director Ken Hintze presented information regarding a potential MHSAA Hockey co-op in collaboration with Charlotte and Owosso Public Schools. The board reviewed the agreement developed by the Michigan High School Association as a co-op solution. Director Hintze reviewed the reason why a new co-op is needed, participation by each school involved, and cost involved.

Members inquired as to the cost and accessibility for students.

MOVED by Katie Cavanaugh, SUPPORTED by Shulawn Doxie 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 June 24, 2024; and Item 2: Approval of the minutes of the Special Meeting of July 15, 2024.

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

Revise minutes to include screen time comment by Member Buffett.

MOVED by Tom Buffett, SUPPORTED by Katie Cavanaugh that the board establish the dates of regular meetings of the board of education to generally be the second and fourth Monday of each month, adjusted for Mondays with no school; the time of each meeting to begin at 7:00 p.m., with no new discussion after 10:00 p.m.; and the place of meetings to be the Community Conference Room at Central School; and that the board direct administration to publish the date/time/location of these meetings on the district's web site.

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

MOVED by Shulawn Doxie, SUPPORTED by Melanie Lynn that the board designate the superintendent of schools or designee to post all regular and special school board meeting notices for the 2024-2025 school year in accordance with the Open Meetings Act.

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

MOVED by Katie Cavanaugh, SUPPORTED by Shulawn Doxie that the board retains Thrun Law Firm, P.C. as legal counsel for the 2024-2025 school year.

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

MOVED by Andy Phelps, SUPPORTED by Melanie Lynn that the board retain Maner Costerisan P.C. as auditor for the 2024-2025 school year.

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

MOVED by Tom Buffett, SUPPORTED by Katie Cavanaugh that the board designates Michigan School District Liquid Assets Fund Plus, Fifth Third Bank, and PNC Bank as depositories for school funds for the 2024-2025 school year, which includes Accounts Payable, Payroll, Debt Retirement Activity, Food Service, Student/School Activity and Building & Site Sinking Fund.

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

MOVED by Andy Phelps, SUPPORTED by Melanie Lynn that the board approve the employment of Kelly Nobles, 2nd Grade Teacher at Bennett Woods at Step 10, Division II; Katie Thorington, 3rd Grade Teacher at Bennett Woods at Step 1, Division I; and Anna Weigle, Language Arts Teacher at Chippewa Middle School at Step 1, Division I 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.

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

Annually, school districts may elect to have the plan review of school construction projects and inspections conducted by local building departments. For this to happen, both the school district and the unit of government(s) must execute the application, Request for Annual Delegation of School Plan Review and Inspection Authority to a Local Unit of Government Enforcing Agency. The board is being asked to designate a local inspector, Meridian Township to be the primary inspector for upcoming bond projects, building, and renovations. Action will be taken at the August 6th meeting.

The Board discussed the upcoming retreat and a tool to prioritize agenda items and due dates. Members will use a survey using the recommendations provided by the MASB consultant after the recent work session and answer three questions regarding each to help assess and prioritize the recommendations and determine if they should be discussed or developed at a board meeting or during the board retreat. The retreat will be held at The Christman Company.

Members asked for an opportunity to allow for open ended responses.

- The board established August 6th at 6 p.m. and August 26th at 7 p.m. as their next meeting dates.
- Discussed that several meetings regarding the superintendent eval are needed. The board will attempt to roll these into regular meetings.

President Gebara adjourned the special meeting at 7:06 p.m.

Andy Phelps, Secretary