

Okemos Board of Education Okemos, Michigan 48864
SPECIAL MEETING AUGUST 6, 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, Andy Phelps and Jayme Taylor

Administration: Superintendent John Hood; DEI Director Lara Slee

DEI Director Lara Slee presented information regarding a proposed SEL curriculum for use by K-4 students to be funded through ESSER funds. Dr. Slee reviewed the following: purpose of the curriculum and how it connects to the Strategic and Equity Plans; process used to evaluate options and the participants involved in the selection process; the strengths and areas of growth for each of the options; and subsequently the recommendation for Everyday Speech.

The board asked that an evaluation plan be developed and the community to have a chance to review the curriculum before adopting the curriculum at their August 12th meeting. The accompanying adequate information to proceed agenda item was no longer needed due to the delay of the vote.

Jan Casey addressed the board regarding the SEL curriculum.

Superintendent Hood reported on the following: anticipated operations report; a reminder of the opening day assembly on August 19th; upcoming instructional leaders retreat; collaboration with Okemos Muslim, Arab American and Jewish American communities regarding communication and scheduling; upcoming board retreat, updated policies and planning calendar; upcoming closed session regarding emergency operations plans; bond update; student-parent handbook update; upcoming SEL curriculum recommendation.

MOVED by Melanie Lynn, SUPPORTED by Katie Cavanaugh that the board approve the employment of Kara Cook, 3rd Grade Teacher at Hiawatha; Matthew Cyrus, 83% Physical Education Teacher at Central Montessori; and Rachael O'Neill, 67% PPK Teacher at Central Montessori, 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: 7 NAY:0 ABSENT 0 **MOTION CARRIED**

MOVED by Andy Phelps, SUPPORTED by Melanie Lynn that the board authorize the superintendent and athletic director to execute the MHSAA application to form a cooperative hockey team.

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

MOVED by Tom Buffett, SUPPORTED by Melanie Lynn that the board approve the 2024-2025 elementary level, Kinawa, Chippewa Middle School, and Okemos High School Student-Parent Handbooks for distribution to students and parents.

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

MOVED by Shulawn Doxie, SUPPORTED by Melanie Lynn that the board approve the delegation of school plan review and inspections to Meridian Charter Township.

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

The vote to adopt the proposed SEL curriculum was postponed until the August 12th special meeting.

Board members discussed their upcoming board retreat and prioritization of agenda items.

A sub-committee of the board has been developing board operating procedures to govern how the board operates and interacts with stakeholders. The board will review the proposed procedures in depth during their upcoming board retreat.

A reminder of the August 26th special meeting beginning at 6:30 p.m. to include a closed session regarding the superintendent evaluation.

President Gebara adjourned the special meeting at 8:34 p.m.

Andy Phelps, Secretary