

Okemos Board of Education
Okemos, Michigan 48864
REGULAR MEETING March 23, 2026

The Regular meeting of the Okemos Board of Education was called to order by Vice-President Phelps at 6:30 p.m.

Members Present: Andy Phelps, Katie Cavanaugh, Jason Burns, Shulawn Doxie, Leeni Shrestha and Jillian Winn
Members Absent: Tom Buffett
Administration: Superintendent John Hood

MOVED by Jillian Winn, SUPPORTED by Leeni Shrestha that the Board adjourn to Executive Session pursuant to Section 8(a) of the Open Meetings Act for the purpose of discussing contract negotiations.

Roll Call

Tom Buffett Absent	Andy Phelps Yes
Jason Burns Yes	Leeni Shrestha Yes
Katie Cavanaugh Yes	Jillian Winn Yes
Shulawn Doxie Yes	

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

The Board adjourned to Executive Session at 6:32 p.m.

The Board reconvened the Executive Session at 7:13 p.m.

Members Present: Jason Burns, Katie Cavanaugh, Shulawn Doxie, Andy Phelps, Leeni Shrestha and Jillian Winn
Members Absent: Tom Buffett
Administration: Superintendent John Hood; Assistant Superintendent Stacy Bailey; Director Elizabeth Lentz

Roll Call

Tom Buffett Absent	Andy Phelps Yes
Jason Burns Yes	Leeni Shrestha Yes
Katie Cavanaugh Yes	Jillian Winn Yes
Shulawn Doxie Yes	

Vice President Andrew Phelps presented a Proclamation from the State of Michigan in recognition of Superintendent John Hood. Trustees expressed their appreciation for Superintendent Hood's service to Okemos Public Schools and recognized his leadership and dedication to the district.

Superintendent Hood expressed gratitude and acknowledged the importance of the Board of Education and thanked the Trustees for allowing him to lead in a way to be successful in the district. Superintendent Hood also thanked the Administrative Team and Assistant Superintendent Stacy Bailey. During his time as Superintendent, there have been four Bond Initiatives, Sinking Fund started, three-hundred policies developed, three new schools built, Wolfpack Mascot Therapy Dog Program, and the State recognized MTSS System. Expressed gratitude to teachers, staff, students, parents, and community members. Superintendent Hood also thanked his wife and children for their daily support.

Members shared events happening around the district, including the Okemos High School Collage Concert. The annual event is a fast-paced musical showcase featuring diverse performances from bands, orchestra, and choir students. Chippewa Middle School Montessori students attended Sugar Camp, March 20-21, 2026, for hands-on learning activities of maple syrup harvesting.

No one addressed the board.

Presentation from Bond Partners: Representatives from the Okemos Schools Bond Team presented an update on BP10-New Kinewa SD Overview which included construction updates, design updates, and an overall bond update.

Executive Director of Finance Elizabeth Lentz presented an update of the 2026-27 Preliminary Budget and where our 2025-26 recurring structural finances stand. We know we must do a budget revision for 2025-26. Steps were built for the purpose and will be part of negotiations. Enrollment for the 2026-27 school year, the district has to factor in that the 2025-26 graduating class is the largest class in 20 years, contrasting with the 2025-26 kindergarten enrollment being the third lowest in the past 20 years. This is a county and statewide trend.

Superintendent Hood gave an update on administrative regulation work and had previously shared with the Policy Committee next steps. Executive Assistant Brandt will work with Trustee Winn on gaining accounting and warehousing policies. Preliminary interviews were conducted for the Executive Finance Director candidate. Superintendent Hood has been in contact with Mr. Matt Olson, so that he can be involved in the hiring process. The Facilities Subcommittee established a district standard for commemorative plaques that would include the names of Board members when the bond was passed and when the building was opened. This is meant to honor those that aided in getting the bond passed and secure funding, also for those Board Members that saw the Bond Project through to completion. The Communications Coordinator position has not been reposted. Superintendent Hood and Assistant Superintendent Bailey have been working on a short-term plan for communication support. Cornell staff had the opportunity to walk through the old Chippewa Middle School to see their spaces for the 2026-27 school year. Chippewa staff had their first opportunity to walk through construction to see the future Chippewa Middle School.

Vice-President Phelps acknowledged correspondence from the following: Yingxin Zhou regarding tennis program; Amanda Carmichael concerning Edgewood August closure date; Yi Shi regarding adding pickleball line to tennis courts; Jennifer Eddy regarding student participation in the American Mathematics Competition.

Members discussed the OEF Annual Golf outing on May 30, 2026. The Board will sponsor a hole again this year; Trustee Buffet and Trustee Cavanaugh attended the Finance Committee and saw how the committee works through the budget; Trustee Phelps and Trustee Cavanaugh attended the Negotiations Committee meeting; Trustee Phelps attended the Facilities Committee meeting where they met with the partners from Veridus.

MOVED by Katie Cavanaugh, SUPPORTED by Jason Burns that the Board approves items 1 through 3 for immediate implementation and appropriate action. Item 1: Approval of the Minutes of the Executive Meeting of March 9, 2026; Item 2: Approval of the Minutes of the Executive Session Meeting of March 9, 2026; Item 3: Approval of the Minutes of the Special Meeting of March 17, 2026.

Discussion on Item 3: Approval of the Minutes of the Special Meeting of March 17, 2026, does not include that the Board made a motion to enter into Contract Negotiations with Mr. Matt Olson.

MOVED by Jason Burns, SUPPORTED by Jillian Winn, to approve the Minutes of the Special Meeting of March 17, 2026, as amended. The minutes were amended to include that the Board made and carried a motion to enter contract negotiations with Mr. Matt Olson.

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

MOVED by Leeni Shrestha, SUPPORTED by Katie Cavanaugh, that the Board approve the Interim Superintendent Assignment Agreement for Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction Stacy Bailey, to serve as Interim Superintendent effective March 26, 2026 through no later than July 1, 2026, or until the new Superintendent’s contract begins, as presented, and authorize the Board President and Secretary to execute the agreement on behalf of the Board.

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

MOVED by Jason Burns, SUPPORTED by Shulawn Doxie, that the Board waives the requirements of Board Policy 2503(a) and authorizes the Superintendent or Executive Director of Finance Elizabeth Lentz to establish a brokerage account to transfer stock-based donations that do not comply with MCL 380.1223. Any such donation is to be immediately sold.

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

MOVED by Jillian Winn, SUPPORTED by Katie Cavanaugh, that the Board award the bid to FieldTurf USA as presented, not to exceed \$1,287,646.00, as funded by the 2022 Bond.

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

There was no public comment.

Vice-President Phelps adjourned the Regular Meeting at 8:35 p.m.

Shulawn Doxie, Secretary