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**OKEMOS PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
**John J. Hood, Superintendent**

TO: Board of Education

FROM: John J. Hood

DATE: January 23, 2025

January is the time of year the school of choice process is initiated for the Okemos Public Schools K-8 Montessori program as it allows parents who are considering a Montessori program for their children to consider Montessori options across the area before committing to a specific school. Our timing intentionally aligns with registration processes implemented at other area Montessori schools to allow parents this consideration.

It is our intent to advertise school of choice openings in the Lansing State Journal on February 16, 2025. To adhere to that timeline, the administrative recommendation is being brought to the board for discussion on January 27th and board action on February 10th.

The following considerations guided our review:

- Elementary class sizes limits established at 27 for PPK-K; 30 for grades 1-4.
- Class sizes for 5<sup>th</sup> -6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> shall not exceed 32 students.
- Maintain enough seats at the kindergarten level to accommodate most or all of the Okemos residents interested in a Montessori approach.
- Establish the number of kindergarten enrollments at a level that will ensure the “controlled growth model”.
- Utilize the information received from parent surveys regarding intent for the 2025-2026 school year prior to final Board action.
- The district can always take more than the number of school of choice vacancies advertised, but we cannot take less if there are applications that meet the criteria.
- Initially, at grades 1-8, Montessori experience may be required.

Please note that the recommendations below will not result in hiring additional teaching staff. Our school of choice numbers are utilized to “fill in the gaps” within our existing program, while currently enrolled Montessori students are promoted between grade levels. As always, within the advertisement, we encourage new families to indicate their interest in the program despite the limited number of openings listed.

After reviewing and analyzing current enrollments, the administration is tentatively recommending the following number of openings to be advertised for Montessori school of choice:

Kindergarten = 1 openings

Grades 1 and 2 = 0 openings

Grades 3 and 4 = 0 openings

Grades 5 and 6 = 8 openings

Grades 7 and 8 = 10 openings

Once approved by the board, the school of choice window would be established for 15 days at the beginning of March.

If you have specific questions, please let me know.