Okemos Board of Education
Okemos, Michigan 48864
REGULAR MEETING October 12, 2026

The regular meeting of the Okemos Board of Education was called to order by President Tom Buffett at 7:00 p.m.

Roll Call:

Members Present:	Tom Buffett, Andy Phelps, Katie Cavanaugh, Jason Burns, Leeni Shrestha, Shulawn Doxie, and Jillian Winn
Members Absent:	None
Administration:	Superintendent Matt Olson, Jennifer Shattuck, Interim Director of Finance,
Assistant	Matt Wallinga, Assistant Director of Media & Technology

Mission Minute:Around the Pack: Andy Phelps highlighted homecoming and the community coming together; he also represented the board at the National Merit Scholars Semi-Finals. Okemos Public Schools was well represented with six students; President Buffett spoke on how clubs will be funded by the OEA for the 2026-227 school year.

Steve Piesko, CPA and principal of Maner Costerian, P.C., presented the 2025-2026 draft audit report of the district.

Christina Alighire, Interim Early Childhood Coordinator and Jennifer Shattuck, Interim Director of Finance gave a presentation on the Edgewood Tuition Infant/Toddler Programs. Superintendent Olson also spoke on this, as we have a possible option to maximize funds and a path forward for sustainability of these programs.

Okemos Resident Ryan Kunzelman addressed the board regarding the current approach to school district facility access.

Maddie Idema and Finn Regan are the 2026-27 high school representatives to the board. Senior events including senior sunrise, senior tie-dye, and painting senior parking spots started off the school year; clubs are up and running smoothly; Connect has been working hard to get freshman acquainted to the high school; ACTION had their big member meeting and are continuing to be a part of community events; WILL and Leadership and Legacy have been working at the MSU football games; a new club this year, Wolves for Teachers, is partnering with Kroger to stock teacher lounges with snacks and drinks throughout the year. Boys soccer is currently ranked 3rd in the state for Division 1;girls'volleyball defeated Holt this week on youth night and plays their Black-out against Cancer on Oct.13; Girls Golf won Division 1 Regionals; In performing arts the marching band competed in the Grand Ledge Marching Band Exhibition and the choir fall concert will be held on Oct 14th, homecoming theme was decades and was a great week.Trustee Cavanaugh asked how the student reps are chosen. Superintendent/Principal Advisory Council, teacher recommendations were given and recommended students were asked if they had interest in doing so.

Superintendent Matt Olson reported that the Meridian Township Board took a tour of new Chippewa; bond steering committee is up and running and exploring where do we go from here with

our facilities, they have toured Chippewa and OPM and will have a meeting this Wednesday at Edgewood and tour it as the district's oldest building; Lauren Schefke has been hired as the Director of Technology along with Matt Wallinga moving to Assistant Director of Technology; Tracy Ojerio will be returning as interim principal at Bennett Woods for the 2026-27 school year.

President Buffett acknowledged correspondence from the following: Joanna Purkiss**,** inquiring about Cornell Woof Pack Facility Dog; Courtney Castilla, Ryan Kunzelman, and Chris Chiou, regarding OHS/Field Usage; Valencia Anderson, regarding Schools of Choice denial; Amanda S, Okemos Public Schools Technology Safety Concern; and Michael Callahan, notice of resignation from OPM PTO board.

Trustee Shrestha shared that tickets are are sale for the OEF dinner which will be held on November 18, 2026; ISOA Legislative Breakfast was held on October 7, 2026 and was attended by Trustee Shrestha, Trustee Cavanaugh, Trustee Phelps, and Superintendent Olson; Trustee Phelps brought to attention future discussion of the scope and size of the Montessori program for future with steering committee, facilities, etc. More discussion and attention is needed for this topic. Trustee Cavanaugh spoke also on Montessori questions; she has spoken with some Montessori families and the need for uniting the whole program Pre-K through 8. Trustee Winn spoke on the need for a fourth elementary school that is a safe building not only for Montessori programs, but for the need for all students and programs.

MOVED by Jillian Winn, **SUPPORTED** by Katie Cavanaugh, that the board approve items 1 through 2 for immediate implementation and appropriate action.1: Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 14, 2026; Item 2: Approval of the Minutes of the Special Meeting on September 21, 2026; and Item 3: Approval of the Minutes of the Executive Session on September 21, 2026.

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

MOVED by Andy Phelps, **SUPPORTED** by Leeni Shrestha, that the board endorse the OHS Baseball Spring Training trip to Ft. Myers, FL, scheduled for March 24 - April 1, 2027, with the understanding the students will abide by all school policies and procedures

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

No public comment.

President Buffett adjourned the regular meeting at 8:42 p.m

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Shulawn Doxie, Secretary