

Board of Education Tom Buffett President, 2025-2026	Okemos Public Schools board@okemosk12.net http://okemosk12.net	4406 Okemos Road Okemos, Michigan 48864 Phone: 517-706-5010
---	--	---

This agenda is for general informational purposes only. Based on board policy, the board of education may revise this agenda and may take up other issues at the meeting.

6:30 PM

**MEETING AGENDA
Monday, April 13, 2026**

Community Conference Rm

CALL TO ORDER

Tom Buffett, Jason Burns, Katie Cavanaugh, Shulawn Doxie, Andrew Phelps, Leeni Shrestha and Jillian Winn

WELCOME AND MEETING FORMAT (2 Min)

Welcome to this regular meeting of the Okemos Board of Education held in public for the purpose of conducting the business of the school board.

There are two opportunities for public comment: Citizens who wish to address agenda or non-agenda items will have an opportunity at the beginning of the meeting, as well as near the end of the meeting. In-person individuals who wish to address the board must complete a blue form, located with the agendas near the room entrance, and present it to the board’s secretary prior to the start of the agenda item. Virtual participants must submit their name and address in a message through the chat box located in Zoom’s meeting controls prior to the start of the agenda item.

At the appropriate point in the agenda, the board president will call upon individuals who have submitted a blue card or chat message and that individual’s microphone will be un-muted for their comments.

ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE (CLOSED) SESSION - CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS

Pursuant to Section 8(c) and 8(1)(h) of the Open Meetings Act, the board of education may adjourn to Executive Session for the purpose of contract negotiations and to review attorney-client privileged information.

That the board adjourn to Executive Session pursuant to Section 8 (c) of the Open Meetings Act for the purpose of discussing contract negotiations (Roll Call).

RECONVENE (1 Min)

Tom Buffett, Jason Burns, Katie Cavanaugh, Shulawn Doxie, Andrew Phelps, Leeni Shrestha, and Jillian Winn

DISCUSSION MOVED FORWARD: Business Professional's of America Okemos Chapter Student Trip

OHS Assistant Principal Joe Schmidt will provide information regarding a business student trip, led by Sharon Murchin, to Business Professionals of America's National Leadership Conference in Nashville, TN on May 6-10, 2026.

MISSION MINUTE/AROUND THE PACK (5 Min)

An opportunity for individual board members to highlight events, activities, and other items of interest.

CITIZENS ADDRESS AGENDA AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS

At this time in the meeting, citizens have an opportunity to address the board regarding items of interest that that may or may not be part of the evening’s agenda. Citizens are required to limit comments to three minutes, except when this requirement is waived by the board president during the meeting. A designated timekeeper will communicate to the individual who is addressing the board at three minutes. The board highly values public comment and input; however, the board meeting format is designed to facilitate the evening’s agenda and, therefore, restricts board members from engaging in conversation with speakers or immediately responding to

questions. Questions and concerns may be addressed by the board later in the agenda and may be assigned for follow-up by the board or superintendent at a later date.

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT REPORTS/REQUESTS (5 Min)

The high school student representatives will highlight events and issues of interest and take questions from the board.

INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT REPORTS/REQUESTS (10 Min)

The Interim Superintendent will highlight events and issues of interest and take questions from the Board.

BOARD REPORTS/REQUESTS (10 Min)

The Board will acknowledge receipt of correspondence.

Individual board members may request follow-up on other matters of concern.

Board subcommittees may present their reports or deliver updates.

ACTION ITEMS

Within Action Items, there is a Consent Agenda to expedite the business of the board which groups a number of items together to be dealt with by one action of the board. However, items in the consent agenda may be extracted by individual board member request for further discussion or clarification.

CONSENT AGENDA (5 Min)

In an effort to expedite the business of the Board of Education, but in no way meant to diminish the importance of each item, a Consent Agenda has been developed.

That the board approve items 1 through 3 for immediate implementation and appropriate action.

Item 1: Approval of the Minutes of the Executive Session Meeting of March 23, 2026. Item 2: Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of March 23, and Item 3: Acknowledge receipt of the March financial statement and approve payment of bills for March 2026.

ADEQUATE INFORMATION TO PROCEED

Board policy 2503A (Adequate Information to Proceed) indicates that it is the policy of the Board not to take action on an item for first time it is brought to the attention of the Board at a public meeting. The board may waive this requirement by motion.

AOA CONTRACT APPROVAL (2 Min)

The Board of Education has concluded negotiations with the AOA and has reviewed the final contract language.

That the board waive the reading and approve the contract between the Okemos Board of Education and the Association of Okemos Administrators effective July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2027 (Roll Call Vote).

OCMFS CONTRACT APPROVAL (2 min)

The Board of Education has concluded negotiations with the OCMFS and has reviewed the final contract language.

That the board waive the reading of Board Policy 2503(a) and approve the contract between the OCMFS effective July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2027 (Roll Call Vote).

ALL NON-BARGAINING STAFF MEMBERS (2 mins)

The Board of Education has reviewed recommended salary adjustments for non-bargaining staff member personnel not included in an employee bargaining group. It has been board practice to adjust salary and benefits for this personnel group similar to those agreements reached with employee bargaining units.

That the board approve the changes in salary and benefits for Central Office;

Clerical/Technical/Child Care; and Select Staff personnel effective July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2027 (Roll Call Vote).

OTHER ACTION ITEMS

The Other Action Items require additional discussion prior to board action.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

PRESENTATION: SPECIAL ED MILLAGE (15 min)

Superintendent of Ingham Intermediate School District, Jason Mellama, will present information on the Special Education 2026 Bond Proposal for \$99,960,000.00 to upgrade Ingham ISD's Special Education facilities and the tax impact equal to 0.55 mill increase.

SCHOOL OF CHOICE OPENINGS 2026-2027 (5 min)

BUDGET DEVELOPMENT (15 mins)

Discussion items are intended to provide an opportunity for review of material and interaction concerning the individual items. Action is not taken during the board meeting. Discussion items may be acted upon by the Board of Education at a later date. The Board President may move a discussion item forward in the meeting agenda to facilitate timely discussion and/or community input on that discussion item.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

At this time in the meeting, citizens have an opportunity to address the board regarding any item(s) of interest. Individual comments at this time will be limited to three minutes but may be extended at the discretion of the board president. A designated timekeeper will communicate to the individual who is addressing the board at three minutes. The board highly values public comment; however, our meeting format does not allow the board to engage in conversation with speakers. Questions or concerns may be assigned for follow-up by the board or the administration at a later date.

OTHER MATTERS (5 Min)

ADJOURN

NOTE - Nashville is on CENTRAL TIME. ALL TIMES in Nashville are CT!!

DOWNLOAD → FULL CONFERENCE PREVIEW GUIDE

<p><u>May 5</u></p>	<p>Charter bus - leaves Okemos approximately 11:30 a.m. (EST.)</p> <p>Abbott Romig Krishaan Shah Ishitha Chandrapatla Ayan Arora Eshaan Shenoy Aditi Sreekanth Manvi Pudota</p> <p>Hotel: Gaylord Opryland Resort and Convention Center</p>
<p><u>May 6</u></p>	<p>WSAP Open Events: Wednesday, May 6 • 12–5 p.m.</p> <p>Ishi: Voting Delegate 3:00 - 4:00 Candidate/Head Voting Delegate/Voting Delegate Briefing Meeting (for Michigan’s head voting delegates only)</p> <p>Opening General Session: 8:30 pm - 10:30 p.m.</p> <p>-The opening session and awards sessions will be streamed live at https://bpa.org/nlc/.</p> <p>Curfew: Midnight</p>
<p><u>May 7</u></p>	<p>WSAP Open Events Thursday, May 7 • 7 a.m.–12 p.m.</p> <p>MURCHIE - <u>proctor</u> Ethics and Professionalism 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.</p> <p>CERTIPORT CERTIFICATION: 1:00 - 5:00 p.m.</p> <p>Krishaan - IT Specialist Python Ishi - IT Specialist Databases Aditi - Microsoft Office Specialist</p> <p>GLOBAL MARKETING TEAM: May 7th, 1:30 pm - 5:30 pm</p>

	<p>Krishaan Shah: Python May 7th, 5:30 pm - 8:30 pm</p> <p>Ishi: Voting Delegate 4:00-5:00 PM: Secondary Division Business Meeting 5:00 PM (approximately)/After Business Meeting: Secondary Division Campaign Rally 7:00-10:00 PM: Secondary Division State Caucus</p> <p>HONORS CEREMONY - May 7 5:00-6:30 Ambassador Award Recognition Ishi Manvi Dylan Krishaan Ayan Eshaan</p> <p>Curfew: midnight</p>
<p><u>May 8</u></p>	<p>WSAP Open Events Friday, May 8 • 7 a.m.–12 p.m.</p> <p><u>Eshaan Shenoy</u>: personal financial mgmt May 8th 7:30 - 9:30 <u>Aditi Sreekanth</u>: Fundamental Spreadsheet Apps May 8th 12:30 - 3:30 <u>Ayan Arora</u>: medical coding May 8th, 3:00 - 4:00 <u>Ishi Chandrapatla</u>: SQL / payroll accounting May 8th 3:00 - 5:00</p> <p>GLOBAL MARKETING TEAM FINALS: 10:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m</p> <p>NASHVILLE NIGHTS: 7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.</p> <p>Curfew: midnight</p>
<p><u>May 9</u></p>	<p>WSAP Open Events Lab: 7:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.</p> <p>AWARDS CEREMONY: 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. -The opening session and awards sessions will be streamed live at https://bpa.org/nlc/.</p> <p>Curfew: midnight</p>
<p><u>May 10</u></p>	<p>Charter bus departs early AM to Lansing.</p>



EXTENDED FIELD TRIP PERMIT

On rare occasions during a student trip abroad, an emergency requiring hospitalization and/or surgery develops. We request that parents sign the following statement. This is to prevent a delay in case an emergency does occur and we are unable to contact parents.

<p><i>"I hereby authorize whatever treatment is deemed necessary for my child (insert name) _____, including the administration of an anesthetic and surgery."</i></p> <p>Signature - Parent/Guardian: _____</p> <p>Date: _____</p>	
Primary Guardian:	Secondary Guardian:
Name:	Name:
Address:	Address:
Phone:	Phone:

Please list any health condition your child has and /or any medication your child must take which should be known by the faculty sponsor.

CODE OF CONDUCT The Okemos High School Disciplinary Regulations as published in the [OHS Student-Parent Handbook](#), complete with the consequences stated therein, apply to students during the entire time students are on the field trip. The following points are especially emphasized:

1. No use of alcohol
2. No use of illicit drugs
3. No smoking or use of tobacco products
4. Proper decorum appropriate to a representative of the Okemos Public Schools required.

Be advised that when traveling out of the country, Okemos students might encounter cultures, customs, and practices that differ from that of the United States. In foreign countries, there may be more liberal, permissive

attitudes toward alcohol/drug use (alcohol and other drugs might even be legal for teenagers in some foreign countries), sexual behavior and the use of tobacco products. Also, foreign countries may have different health standards and may be more permissive with regard to body image alteration e.g. tattoos, body piercing, etc. **It is emphasized that all the activities referenced in this paragraph are strictly forbidden while on an OHS field trip, BOTH DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN.**

Additionally, while on a domestic or foreign field trip, **students may not use or purchase for use or as a souvenir, or accept as a gift, any product or service that is disallowed or illegal for a high school student** in the United States, and/or illegal to import into the United States, and/or disallowed under the Okemos High School Disciplinary Regulations as stated in the OHS Student-Parent Handbook. Furthermore, the sponsor will make the final decisions on any and all activities that could be construed as having an element of danger, not worth risking while a student is away from parents.

With regard to the matters stated above and others, while on an OHS field trip, all students will be subject to the jurisdiction of the faculty sponsor, the chaperones and all rules made by the sponsor. **Failure to comply with rules and direction given and decisions made by the sponsor and chaperones will be considered grounds for insubordination and grounds for the student to return home early from the trip.**

STUDENT:

"I understand and agree to abide by the above stated Code of Conduct, realizing that violation of the Code will be interpreted as insubordination and can result in my being sent home and/or suspended from school."

Student Signature _____

Date _____

PARENT/GUARDIAN:

"We give permission for _____ to go on the field trip traveling to _____ from _____ (date) to _____ (date). We understand that our child will be expected to obey the Code of Conduct as stated above, and we feel that our student completely understands the limitations of the above Code. We understand that failure to comply with the stated Code will be grounds for disciplinary action and can result in the student being suspended from school and/or sent home at the parent/guardian's expense. We further understand that all expenses of the trip must be borne by the student.

Signature of Parent/Guardian

Signature of Faculty Sponsor

Date _____

Date _____

[Certiport Parental Consent Form](#)

Business Professionals of America's National Leadership Conference will be held in Nashville, TN May 6-10.

Okemos' chapter of BPA currently has 136 members. 67 students travelled to Grand Rapids March 12-15 and competed at States.

States Results: 19 students have qualified for nationals.

- Global Marketing Team
- Payroll Accounting
- Spreadsheet Applications
- Personal Financial Management
- Python
- SQL Database Fundamentals
- Medical Coding

There are several ways to qualify to attend Nationals:

1. Medal at States-
2. Complete the top level Torch Award - earn a total of 70 points in each of the 6 service categories- Leadership, Service, Cooperation, Knowledge, Friendship, Love/Hope/Faith, Citizenship

2022 - 3 students attended Nationals in Dallas, Texas

2023 - 6 students attended Nationals in Anaheim, California

2024 - 6 students attended Nationals in Chicago, Illinois

2025 - 12 students attended Nationals in Orlando, Florida

2026 - 10 students are attending Nationals in Nashville, TN

At Nationals, students will:

- Attend the opening ceremony
- Participate in a service project
- Compete in their event(s)
- Compete in "open" events
- Attend the Awards ceremony

We are required to stay at the sanctioned hotel – Michigan's hotel is Gaylord Opryland resort.

Cost to attend:

\$1200 per person

Hotel: \$6051.06 (including all taxes and fees)

Bus: :\$2125 (including gratuity and hotel room for driver)*

Registration: \$2038.40 (including certiport lab and testing passes)

*This price is for 11 seats on the bus. We are currently sharing the bus with Clare High School, St. Johns High School, Novi High School, Branch ISD, and Mt. Pleasant GI-TEC. Our bus cost will drop if we can get another school to join us.

Board of Education
EXECUTIVE SESSION
March 23, 2026

President Buffett called the Executive Session to order at 6:32 p.m.

Present: Board members Jason Burns, Katie Cavanaugh, Shulawn Doxie, Andrew Phelps, Leeni Shrestha, and Jillian Winn

Absent: Tom Buffett

Attorney-Client Privileged Communication & Contract Negotiations

The board reviewed updated attorney-client privileged information regarding contract negotiations.

The Executive Session was adjourned at 7:08 p.m.

Shulawn Doxie, Secretary

Tom Buffett, President

**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

**Okemos Public Schools
Board Expenditures at 3/31/26**

	2025-26		
Description	Budget	Actual	Available
Legal Services	185,000	143,985	41,015
Audit Services	44,500	38,850	5,650
Contracted Services	20,000	13,057	6,943
Travel and Conferences	4,200	2,760	1,440
	<u>253,700</u>	<u>198,652</u>	<u>55,048</u>

**Okemos Public Schools
General Fund Budget vs. Actual
Year to Date as of March 31, 2026**

	2025-26		
	Revised Budget	Actual YTD	% Budget Rec'd/Used
Revenues			
Local	14,361,099	12,414,609	86.4%
State	51,250,444	30,434,936	59.4%
Federal	359,134	215,145	59.9%
Transfers - ISD	5,156,000	2,691,508	52.2%
Other Financing Sources	238,240	268,026	112.5%
Total	71,364,917	46,024,224	64.5%
Expenditures			
Elementary Instruction	9,927,880	6,207,417	62.5%
Middle School Instruction	9,056,047	5,661,902	62.5%
High School Instruction	9,373,454	5,930,328	63.3%
Montessori (PPK-8)	3,676,548	2,356,077	64.1%
Summer Programs	34,650	(274)	-0.8%
Special Education	10,744,876	6,835,612	63.6%
Compensatory Education	2,005,552	1,132,933	56.5%
Gifted Programs	149,821	91,951	61.4%
Guidance Services	1,614,769	1,022,463	63.3%
Other Pupil Services	613,671	527,293	85.9%
Improvement of Instruction	1,863,014	1,210,091	65.0%
Educational Media Services	599,758	410,689	68.5%
Direction of Special Education	333,166	237,165	71.2%
Other Instructional Staff Services	162,763	114,066	70.1%
Board of Education	253,700	198,652	78.3%
Executive Administration	655,762	431,740	65.8%
School Administration	3,941,897	2,766,738	70.2%
Fiscal Services	725,815	526,501	72.5%
Internal Services	130,810	73,460	56.2%
Other Business Services	218,600	230,643	105.5%
Communication Services	199,104	146,812	73.7%
Staff/Personnel Services	346,901	255,342	73.6%
Technology Services	1,710,768	1,360,203	79.5%
Operations & Maintenance	6,402,012	5,120,479	80.0%
Pupil Transportation	1,486,181	1,150,845	77.4%
Athletics	970,985	690,893	71.2%
Community Education	3,543,897	2,260,158	63.8%
Other Financing Uses	66,244	58,108	0.0%
Total	70,808,645	47,010,370	66.4%
	556,272	(986,146)	



Bond 2026 Presentation

Election Day - May 5, 2026



What is on the May 5 Ballot?

- Special Education bond proposal for \$99.96 million to upgrade Ingham ISD's special education facilities
- Tax Impact = 0.55 mill increase



Why Now?



3 Key Reasons

1

Ingham ISD's special education facilities average 53 years of age (Heartwood School and Beekman Center)

2

The upgrades needed have significant costs in order to comply with current educational, accessibility, and safety standards

3

Programs require specialized spaces designed to support mobility, medical needs, and individualized instruction

Legacy & Community



- Founded in 1968 by a dedicated community members for students in the Ingham ISD service area
- Marvin E. Beekman was the architect, along with the school's first principal, John Breough
- At that time, there were no laws mandating formal education for students with special needs, making the establishment of the Beekman Center a pioneering effort to provide educational opportunities for children with disabilities
- Ingham ISD provided approximately \$1.4 million for the construction of the building
- Pat Nixon visited the Beekman Center in 1970. Her visit was part of her broader efforts to promote education
- No significant renovations except for a roof replacement in 2014
- Student enrollment grew to nearly 300 students from all over the county after opening the Beekman Center in 1968
- This growth prompted the opening of a second center-based school in 1978, Heartwood School in Mason that would be operated by Ingham ISD

Plan Developed with Local District Partners



Current Special Education Facility Challenges

- Storage spaces do not accommodate mobility devices
- Class and therapy spaces are not appropriate for student needs
- Entryways are exposed to the weather and lack compliance with current ADA standards
- Hallways and common areas are cramped and struggle to accommodate students with many different needs

Beekman
was built in
1968

Heartwood
was built in
1978

Goals of the 2026 Special Education Bond Proposal

Create classrooms and support spaces that allow all students to learn in safe environments that promote comfort, dignity, and independence



Address critical and urgent upgrades identified in Beekman and Heartwood facilities



Through thoughtful, creative, and impactful design, create spaces to engage and inspire students and staff



Accessible

Engaging

Safe

New Beekman Center



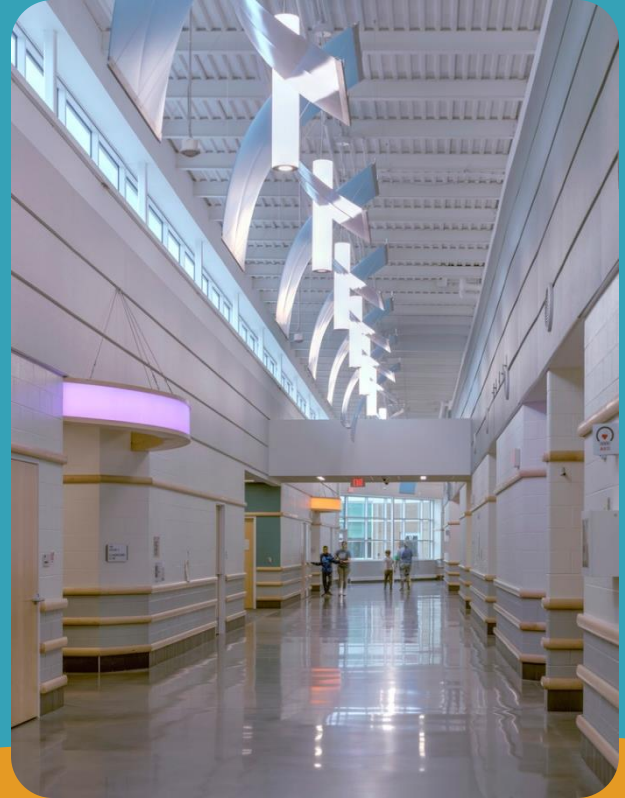
Safety and Security Enhancements

- Secure entryways to control visitor access
- Weather protected sidewalks allowing students with mobility devices to safely enter the building
- Strategically placed bathrooms to increase functionality, and to provide a secure location if a catastrophic event happens
- New and renovated spaces will align with current building codes for egress, fire protection, air quality, and building standards

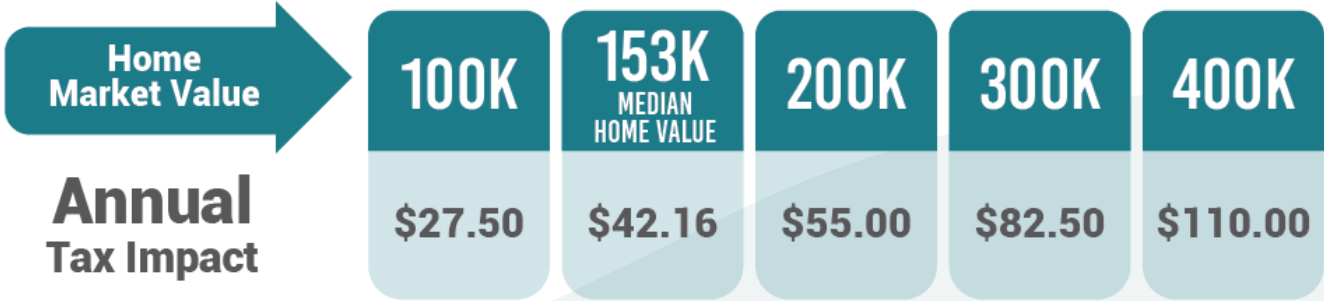


Student-First Environments

- Spacious and secure vestibule
- Easily supervised main circulation pathway flooded with natural light
- Interactive Streetscape supporting life skill development
- Universally designed classrooms with adjacent restrooms and storage components
- Easy access to outdoor spaces
- Enhanced outdoor play areas, patios and walking paths
- Accessible interactive touchscreens for instruction, flexible data/power in learning spaces, and security system/cameras throughout buildings



Taxpayer Impact – 0.55 Mill Increase



Bond Proposal would raise \$99.96 million to fund the construction of the New Beekman Center and the Addition/ Renovation of Heartwood School

The median taxable value per parcel for 2025 in Ingham County is \$76,665 per the equalization office. Typically, the home market value is estimated at a minimum of twice the taxable value.

Where do I vote?

Find helpful information about where to find your clerk, polling place, and sample ballot by searching:

**[mvic.sos.state.mi.us
/Voter/index](https://mvic.sos.state.mi.us/Voter/index)**

April 20, 2026

Deadline to register to vote by mail or online and be eligible to vote in May election

April 21, 2026 through Election Day

a voter can register in person with their local clerk with proof of residency

May 4, 2026 at 4pm

Deadline to vote in person, with an absentee ballot, at your city or township clerk's office

Absentee Voting

View Absentee Voting information on the State of Michigan's website:

**[michigan.gov/sos/elections/
voting/absentee-voting](https://michigan.gov/sos/elections/voting/absentee-voting)**

March 26, 2026

Absentee ballots available

May 5, 2026 Election Day

Deadline to vote is 8pm
on Election Day



For More Information

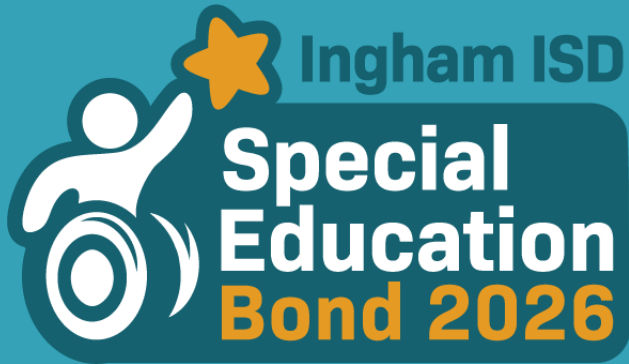


scan me

Please visit the District's website at
www.inghamisd.org/ourimpact/special-education-facilities-bond/

Email your questions about the proposal to

Jason Mellema, Ingham ISD Superintendent
517.676.1051 / communications@inghamisd.org



Thank you!★
& Remember to Vote
May 5, 2026



IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Special Education Bond Proposal

May 5 Ballot Proposal

- Special Education bond proposal for \$99.96 million to upgrade Ingham ISD's special education facilities
- Tax Impact = 0.55 mill increase
- Impacts all Ingham ISD school district residents

GOALS OF THE 2026 SPECIAL EDUCATION BOND



Safe

Address critical and urgent upgrades identified in Beekman and Heartwood facilities



Accessible

Create classrooms and support spaces that allow all students to learn in safe environments that promote comfort, dignity, and independence



Engaging

Through thoughtful, creative, and impactful design, create spaces to engage and inspire students and staff

Why is the bond proposal necessary?

1. Ingham ISD's special education facilities average 53 years of age (Heartwood School and Beekman Center)
2. The proposed upgrades have significant costs in order to comply with current educational, accessibility, and safety standards
3. Programs require specialized spaces designed to support mobility, medical needs, and individualized instruction



Ingham ISD proudly serves our 12 school district communities



FOR MORE INFORMATION
Email Communications@Inghamisd.org

Visit Inghamisd.org/Ourimpact/Special-Education-Facilities-Bond



Election Day is May 5!



Student-First Environments

The proposed new and renovated facilities included in the Special Education Bond prioritize safe, accessible, and engaging learning environments that promote comfort, dignity, and independence for students with disabilities—while extending the useful life of the facilities for the future.

Safe

- Secure entryway
- Weather protected pick-up/drop-off
- Appropriate restrooms
- Code compliant spaces
- Technology and security upgrades

Accessible

- Main entryway oversight
- Larger classroom spaces
- Classroom adjacent restrooms
- Access to external spaces
- Thoughtful, ADA compliant spaces

Engaging

- Essential life skills supporting features
- Interactive instructional devices
- Mobility, OT, and PT spaces
- Natural light and high ceilings
- Common spaces and playgrounds



Ingham Intermediate School District
A Regional Educational Service Agency

A legacy in our community

Founded by dedicated community members in 1968, the Beekman Center provided groundbreaking educational opportunities for children with disabilities before legislation established such rights. Despite its impact, the 58 year old building has not been significantly renovated. Growing enrollment led to the opening of center-based Heartwood School in 1978, which now requires improvements to effectively meet current educational, accessibility, and safety standards.

Beekman Center 58 YRS OLD **Heartwood School 48 YRS OLD**

Current Facility Challenges at Beekman and Heartwood



Weather Exposure: Pick-up and drop-off areas lack weather protection



Mobility Obstacles: Narrow hallways and common areas hinder accessibility and observation



Inadequate Restrooms: Restrooms are small, difficult for mobility devices, and not adjacent to classrooms



Aging Mechanical Systems: Mechanical systems are at their end of useful life



Undersized Classrooms: Limited space restricts therapy and impedes learning



Insufficient Storage: Lacking space for mobility device parking and storage



Small Cafeteria: Cannot accommodate student groups and has limited functionality



Non-Functioning Pool: Pool area is non-operational and unsuitable for water therapy



Lack of Activity Space: Limited space available for events and activities

Financial Impact

Est. Tax Impact of 0.55 mill increase on Home Market Values

Home Market Value	100K	153K MEDIAN HOME VALUE	200K	300K	400K
Annual Tax Impact	\$27.50	\$42.16	\$55.00	\$82.50	\$110.00

Impact to Median Household is approximately \$42 per Year

Note: The median taxable value per parcel for 2025 in Ingham County is \$76,665 per the equalization office. Typically, the home market value is estimated at a minimum of twice the taxable value.

VOTE ON OR BEFORE MAY 5, 2026



Absentee Voting Info
michigan.gov/sos/elections/voting/absentee-voting



Where do I vote?
mvlc.sos.state.mi.us/voter

OKEMOS PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Stacy Bailey, Interim Superintendent

TO: Board of Education

FROM: Stacy Bailey

DATE: April 9, 2026

RE: OPS School of Choice

This is the time of year that the school of choice process for the Okemos Public Schools, as well as all other districts throughout Ingham County, is initiated. On Monday, April 13, we will discuss potential school of choice vacancies to be advertised in the Lansing State Journal and district website in mid-May. The 15-day window for accepting applications is June 1-15.

The following data was considered and guided administrations' review:

- "Move-up" enrollments (K-12)
- Feedback from parent commitments in process (K-4)
- In-district transfer requests - preliminary
- Out-of-District Employee requests for enrolling children - preliminary
- Thresholds established in the In-District Transfer regulations
- Projected class sizes

Currently, estimated class sizes for grades K-4 are as follows: 1st grade = 20 current enrollment (25 class limit), 2nd grade = 21 (25), 3rd grade = 22 (27), 4th grade = 24 (29). As you are aware, we are very efficient at the middle and high schools, and class sizes in the core curricular areas are generally in the 24-29 range. The purpose of advertising at least one vacancy at each grade level is to accommodate Okemos families who have moved out of the district during the school year, as well as siblings, if possible.

Prior to Board action at the April 27th meeting of the Board of Education, we will recommend a specific number of openings for kindergarten vacancies. Elementaries are in the process of having their kindergarten round-ups. Further, we will continue to monitor enrollments and sections, especially at the elementary level. Therefore, the listed openings may be adjusted to reflect actual enrollment information generated from in-district transfer requests, "out-of-district" employee requests, and updated family commitment information. Our recommendations will be used to "fill the gaps" in our existing program, including secondary Montessori.

After reviewing and analyzing current enrollments, the administration is recommending the following number of openings to be advertised for school of choice, recognizing this is the minimal number that must be accepted:

Kindergarten = 10 openings

1st grade = 10 openings

2nd grade = 10 openings

3rd grade = 10 openings

4th grade = 10 openings

5th grade = 1 openings

6th grade = 1 opening

7th grade = 1 opening

8th grade = 1 opening

9-12th grades = 1 opening per grade

Note: We will continue to monitor and confirm enrollments over the next few weeks and provide the Board with an update should the recommendation change. If you have specific questions, I would be happy to follow up individually with you.

Okemos Public Schools
Preliminary Budget Assumptions
2026-27

Increased Expenditures/Decreased Revenue	Optimistic	Most Likely	Worst Case
Health insurance (MESSA 1/2 yr +8%/est 10%, WMHIP +12.85%)*	542,155	542,155	542,155
ISD Special Education Funding, change in funding formula	700,000	700,000	700,000
Teacher division advancement (15,18,21)	127,950	153,540	179,130
Negotiations, steps + on/off schedule, excludes OEA, subject to Board approval on 4/13/26	216,175	216,175	216,175
Transportation, Temp Cornell (1,2,3)	39,850	79,700	119,550
	\$1,626,130	\$1,691,570	\$1,757,010
Increased Revenue/Decreased Expenditures	Optimistic	Most Likely	Worst Case
Increase in per-pupil Foundation Allowance (\$250,\$175,\$100)	1,173,200	821,220	469,270
Enrollment (Oct 26: +30, +10, -10) Blend 10/90	266,170	88,050	(87,370)
MPSERS Expense rate decrease (-2.4 pts to 27.51%, eff. 10/1/26)	815,000	815,000	815,000
Reduction in Sections (4,2,1)	364,800	182,400	91,200
Savings from OEA retirements, resignations (9,7)	343,215	266,945	266,945
	\$2,962,385	\$2,173,615	\$1,555,045
Projected Impact on General Fund Balance	\$1,336,255	\$482,045	(\$201,965)
Carry forward effect on General Fund Budget (7/1/26)	(955,081)	(955,081)	(955,081)
Total Impact on General Fund Balance	\$381,174	(\$473,036)	(\$1,157,046)

Okemos Public Schools
2025-26 Non-Recurring, 1-Time Budget Items
Effect on 2026-27 Proposed Budget

	Most Likely
2025-26 Net Change in Fund Balance, Budget Revision #1	556,272
Preliminary 2nd Budget Revisions	0
Negotiations: steps & 1x/structural increases, subject to finalized negotiations & Board approval	(906,253)
Utilities (gas/electric/water), 1x & on-going	(284,500)
Operations, Supplies & Contracted Services	(120,000)
ISD SE Funding, 25-26 estimate	310,000
	(444,481)
2025-26 Non-Structural, 1x revisions, do not repeat (removed from 26-27 preliminary assumptions)	
Non-Grant Related	
Environmental remediation	300,000
Retirement Revenues, Health Subsidy & 147a(2) Cost Offset	(634,000)
Operations Contracted Services	83,400
Curriculum/New textbooks	(150,000)
ISD SE Funding, addl received for 24-25 final	(310,000)
Legal Services	100,000
Utilities (gas)	100,000
	(510,600)

2026-27 Preliminary Budget Assumptions

Board Meeting • 04/10/2026



2025-26 Preliminary Budget Revision #2 & Carryforward Impact on 2026-27 Budget

	Budget Impact
2025-26 Net Change in Fund Balance, Budget Revision #1	\$556,272
Negotiations: steps & 1x/structural increases, subject to finalized negotiations & Board approval*	(906,253)
Utilities (gas/electric/water), 1x & on-going	(284,500)
Operations, Supplies & Contracted Services	(120,000)
ISD SE Funding, 25-26 estimate	310,000
	(444,481)
2025-26 Non-Structural, 1x revisions	
Environmental remediation	300,000
Curriculum/New textbooks	(150,000)
Retirement Revenues, Health Subsidy & 147a(2) Cost Offset	(634,000)
ISD SE Funding, adtl received for 24-25 final	(310,000)
Legal Services	100,000
Operations Contracted Services	83,400
Utilities (gas)	100,000
Net Impact of Changes	(\$510,600)
Carry forward effect on General Fund Budget (6/30/27)	(\$955,081)

* Subject to finalized negotiations

2026-27 Expenditure Increases/Revenue Decreases

<u>Decreases to General Fund</u>	<u>Optimistic</u>	<u>Most Likely</u>	<u>Worst Case</u>
Health insurance (MESSA 1/2 yr +8%/est 10%, WMHIP +12.85%)*	542,155	542,155	542,155
ISD Special Education Funding, change in formula	700,000	700,000	700,000
Teacher division advancement (15,18,21)	127,950	153,540	179,130
Negotiations, steps + on/off schedule, excludes OEA, subject to Board approval on 4/13/26	216,175	216,175	216,175
Transportation, Temp Cornell (1,2,3)	39,850	79,700	119,550
	\$1,626,130	\$1,691,570	\$1,757,010

2026-27 Revenue Increases/Expenditure Decreases

<u>Increases to General Fund</u>	<u>Optimistic</u>	<u>Most Likely</u>	<u>Worst Case</u>
Increase in Foundation Allowance (\$250,\$175,\$100)	1,173,200	821,220	469,270
Enrollment (Oct 26: +30, +10, -10) Blend 10/90	266,170	88,050	(87,370)
MPSERS rate decrease (-2.4 pts to 27.51%)	815,000	815,000	815,000
Reduction in Sections (4,2,1)	364,800	182,400	91,200
Savings from OEA retirements, resignations (9,7)	343,215	266,945	266,945
	\$2,962,385	\$2,173,615	\$1,555,045

2026-27 Projected Impact on General Fund Budget

	<u>Optimistic</u>	<u>Most Likely</u>	<u>Worst Case</u>
Expenditure Increases/Revenue Decreases	(\$1,626,130)	(\$1,691,570)	(\$1,757,010)
Revenue Increases/Expenditures Decreases	2,962,385	2,173,615	1,555,045
Net Impact on General Fund Balance	\$1,336,255	\$482,045	(\$201,965)
Carryforward effect on GF Budget (6/30/27)	(955,081)	(955,081)	(955,081)
Total Impact on General Fund Balance	\$381,174	(\$473,036)	(\$1,157,046)

Impending Budget Discussion 2026-27

Topics w/financial impact not in assumptions

- **State Aid**
- **Enrollment**
- **Staffing Levels, Contractual Requirements**
- **Negotiations, 25-26 & 26-27**
- **Grants**
- **ISD Special Education revenue**
- **Expenditure Review (curriculum, uniforms, etc)**
- **Other Variable Sources of General Fund Revenue**

Budget Development Tentative Timeline

2025-26 Fiscal Year	
Monitor Revenue and Expense Activity	Feb– May
2 nd Budget Revision	May/June

2026-27 Fiscal Year	
Budget Review & Discussion Leadership	Jan-May
Budget Development & Updated Assumptions	Feb– May (at Board mtg)
Budget Work Session	TBD
Proposed Budget	June 8
Budget Adoption	June 22