

REGULAR MEETING (Monday, August 21, 2023)

Members present

Dr Celeste Hawkins, Gillian Ream Gainsley, Yvonne Fields, Maria Goodrich, Jeanice Townsend

Members absent

Sharon Lee, Meredith Schindler

Meeting called to order at 6:33 PM

1. CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL OF BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Dr. Celeste Hawkins, Board President

Action: A. Roll Call of Board of Education Members

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Dr. Celeste Hawkins, Board President

3. ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA

Action: A. Acceptance of Agenda

... MOVE THAT the Board of Education accept the agenda, as presented.

Motion by Yvonne Fields, second by Jeanice Townsend.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Dr Celeste Hawkins, Gillian Ream Gainsley, Yvonne Fields, Maria Goodrich, Jeanice Townsend

4. PRESENTATIONS

Presentation: A. Gun Safety and Safe Gun Storage Presentation

Allie Suffety, a resident of Ypsilanti Township, is a volunteer for Everytown USA, a grassroots group advocating for gun safety after the Sandy Hook shooting. It has grown into a national group for adults and students, with chapters in every state. He is also the Be SMART Lead for Washtenaw County. Be SMART is a program focusing on Secure Safe Storage. He will provide a presentation to the board of education about adopting a Resolution in Support of Gun Safety and Safe Gun Storage.

Presentation: B. MICIP/Performance Management Presentation

Dr. Carlos Lopez, Assistant Superintendent, will provide an explanation of YCS' Michigan Integrated Continuous Improvement Process (MICIP). MICIP is a pathway for districts to improve student outcomes by assessing the needs of the whole child. All Michigan districts are required by the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) to develop plans and coordinate funding around the data reviewed by the MICIP team.

Click [here](#) to view the presentation.

Presentation: C. AERA Presentation

Paula Sizemore and Debra Stevenson, both retirees of the district, will provide a brief presentation on their participation at the prestigious AERA conference in April 2023. They were very proud to be able to represent our District as teacher-researchers, and will share the process highlights with the Board and larger community.

This research was commissioned by Ypsilanti Community Schools (YCS) to provide insights from educators that would assist decision-making to help identify and fund the most impactful efforts to support teachers as part of YCS' SEEK: Supporting Educator Excellence & Knowledge grant. SEEK funds were obtained as part of a USDOE funding competition called the Teacher and School Leader Incentive Program¹ which was meant to support high need systems in examining and improving their Human Capital Management Systems (HCMS).

AERA Team, we first want to thank Superintendent Dr. Alena Zachery-Ross, Assistant Superintendent Dr. Carlos Lopez, with Project Director Dr. Mark Coscarella, and the Ypsilanti Community Schools District for inviting our research team to discover teacher insights that will help the district retain and attract educators. The district's commissioning of this study and your willingness to hear the perspectives of your teachers shows confidence, as well as support and respect for your staff.

The greatest opportunity was the establishment of a paradigm where YCS teachers are valued and, thanks to EMU nurtured and supported as researchers.

YCS Teacher Researchers

This study was led by a select group of teachers (approved by the administration at the outset of the project) in the Ypsilanti Community School District. The EMU interdisciplinary SPEAK UP research team worked in support of these teachers and their peers, on behalf of the students of YCS.

Click [here](#) to view the presentation.

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS #1

Information: A. Guidelines for Public Comment

Public Comment Protocol | Pursuant to Board of Education Policy 0167.3

*The Board recognizes the value of public comment on educational issues and the importance of allowing members of the public to express their view.

*Please limit statements to three (3) minutes duration.

*Participants shall direct all comments to the Board and not to staff or other participants; no person may address or question Board members individually.

*Remarks shall be made in a respectful and professional manner.

No public comments.

6. CONSENT AGENDA

Action (Consent), Minutes, Report: A. Consent Agenda

Seeking Board approval of the presented meeting minutes and personnel matters; see attachments below.

Resolution: ... MOVE THAT the Board of Education approve the: 1) July 26, 2023, Special Board Meeting Minutes 2) Personnel matters as per the presented list dated 8/16/23; New Hires, Resignations, Retirements and Educational Sabbatical.

... MOVE THAT the Board of Education approve the:

- 1) July 26, 2023, Special Board Meeting Minutes
- 2) [Personnel matters](#) as per the presented list dated 8/16/23; New Hires, Resignations, Retirements and Educational Sabbatical.

Motion by Jeanice Townsend, second by Yvonne Fields.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Dr Celeste Hawkins, Gillian Ream Gainsley, Yvonne Fields, Maria Goodrich, Jeanice Townsend

7. ACTION ITEM: Student Affairs

Action: A. Approval for Annual Instructional Material

Seeking Board approval of implementation for the programs associated with the invoices; see attachments below.

1.) Beable Quote. This purchase is for the Ypsilanti Community Middle School - 8th Grade. Funded by the D3C3 for a purchase amount of \$46,445.

2.) Beable Quote. This purchase is for the Ypsilanti Community Elementary Schools - 5th Grade. Funded by the General Fund for a purchase amount of \$51,670.

Click [here](#) to view the 8th grade Beable quote.

Click [here](#) to view the 5th grade Beable quote.

... MOVE THAT the Board of Education approve the:

- 1.) Beable Quote, for a purchase amount of \$46,445.
- 2.) Beable Quote, for a purchase amount of \$51,670.

Motion by Maria Goodrich, second by Gillian Ream Gainsley.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Dr Celeste Hawkins, Gillian Ream Gainsley, Yvonne Fields, Maria Goodrich, Jeanice Townsend

8. ACTION ITEMS: Business and Finance

Action: A. MISEC Solar Farm Power Purchase Agreement

MISEC (Michigan School Energy Cooperative), is seeking partners in a solar energy opportunity. Unlike other Solar energy projects that often require the partner to install solar panels on their property or the roofs of buildings (not optimal for the facilities), this project is associated with a large Michigan solar farm off site. The benefit is twofold, we are increasing the percentage of electric energy we consume from a renewable energy source and financially we receive guaranteed energy rates over a period of time. The rates are comparable with our current rates and this rate will become even more advantageous over the duration of the contract period. This is a great opportunity to provide stability on the financial side and reduce our district's carbon footprint. It is our recommendation that we secure this opportunity through this resolution.

Click [here](#) to view the Solar energy resolution.

... MOVE THAT the Board of Education approve MISEC, as Agent on behalf of the District, enter into a 15-year Power Purchase Agreement for 60% of the districts annual electricity usage with NorthStar Clean Energy at a fixed rate not to exceed \$0.075/kWh for the generation and delivery of solar electricity, with commercial operation expected to begin in June, 2025.

Motion by Gillian Ream Gainsley, second by Yvonne Fields.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Dr Celeste Hawkins, Gillian Ream Gainsley, Yvonne Fields, Maria Goodrich, Jeanice Townsend

Action: B. Head Start 2023-24 Cost of Living Adjustment and Quality Improvement

The 2023/24 Head Start Cost of Living Adjustment and Quality Improvement budget is \$109,482. Last month the board of education approved \$45,830.40. This month the additional resolution for the Board includes the purchase of professional development for all GSRP and Transportation support personnel. We will also conduct CPR training/renewal and our three Early Education Principals will become part of the School Superintendent's Early Childhood Cohort. Our Early Childhood Principals will be given a budget to meet the wellness needs in their individual buildings. The additional amount will equal \$63,651.60.

... MOVE THAT the Board of Education approve the Head Start Cost of Living Adjustment and Quality Improvement for the period of July 1, 2023- June 30, 2024, balance for \$63,651.60 resulting in the final amount of \$109,482.

Motion by Maria Goodrich, second by Yvonne Fields.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Dr Celeste Hawkins, Gillian Ream Gainsley, Yvonne Fields, Maria Goodrich, Jeanice Townsend

Action: C. Acceptance of the Lambert Global Public Relations Firm Contract

YCS has asked Lambert to provide integrated public relations services including internal and external communications, media relations, social media, content development, issues management, and video support where applicable. Lambert will provide these services, as defined and outlined in the attached and incorporated proposal, for a monthly service fee of \$5,000.

Click [here](#) to view the Lambert Proposal.

... MOVE THAT the Board of Education accept the Lambert Global Public Relations Firm contract for a monthly service fee of \$5,000.

Motion by Yvonne Fields, second by Maria Goodrich.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Dr Celeste Hawkins, Gillian Ream Gainsley, Yvonne Fields, Maria Goodrich, Jeanice Townsend

Action: D. Donation: Best Asphalt

Seeking Board approval for a donation made from Best Asphalt for \$2000 to update our Sinking Fund signs. The "Pardon Our Dust" signs need updating.

Thank you, Best Asphalt, for making our parking lots and drives so much nicer and refreshing our signs!

.... MOVE THAT the Board of Education accepts a donation of \$2000 from Best Asphalt to update our "Pardon Our Dust" signs.

Motion by Gillian Gainsley, second by Jeanice Townsend.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Dr Celeste Hawkins, Gillian Ream Gainsley, Yvonne Fields, Maria Goodrich, Jeanice Townsend

9. ACTION ITEM: Other

Action: A. MASB Delegate Election

The Board of Education will vote on its delegate and alternate to MASB's 2023 Delegate Assembly which will begin Thursday, Nov. 9 at 7 p.m. at the Lansing Center in Lansing. Delegates selected by boards of education across the state will decide MASB's positions on a wide variety of issues affecting education.

... MOVE THAT the Board of Education approve the MASB Delegate Election.

Motion by Yvonne Fields, second by Gillian Ream Gainsley.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Dr Celeste Hawkins, Gillian Ream Gainsley, Yvonne Fields, Maria Goodrich, Jeanice Townsend

Action: B. Resolution in Support of Gun Safety and Safe Gun Storage

A presentation was made for the board of education earlier in the meeting. The board of education will now vote on the resolution. A sample resolution is included in this action item.

Click [here](#) to view the resolution.

... MOVE THAT the Board of Education accept the Resolution in Support of Gun Safety and Safe Gun Storage.

Motion by Maria Goodrich, second by Gillian Ream Gainsley.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Dr Celeste Hawkins, Gillian Ream Gainsley, Yvonne Fields, Maria Goodrich, Jeanice Townsend

10. PUBLIC COMMENTS #2

Information: A. Guidelines for Public Comment

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No public comments.

11. DISCUSSIONS

Discussion: A. Board of Education Subcommittee Reports

No reports

12. BOARD/SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS

Discussion: A. Board/Superintendent Comments

Trustee Townsend: Wonderful Back-to-School bash, a great board retreat, the first football game of the season is this Friday.

Dr. Hawkins: Thank you for the board retreat, excited about the new year, thanks to the board for all their hard work and the background work they do such as supporting the community after a shooting because you are all involved in the community. This board is active, engaged, and shows up to do the work. Thank you also to Cherisa Allen. The CUBE Conference is coming up in September in Chicago. The board will be presenting.

Dr. Zachery-Ross: Thank you to Taryn Willis and her whole team, and to all the volunteers who helped at the Back-to-School Bash. Opening Day for staff is tomorrow at 8:00 a.m. First day of school is August 28th. Thank you to the custodial team. Bus routes are almost complete, the routes will be on the website by Wednesday. We are excited about the Grizzly Sunrise Club. You can sign up now. Please pre-enroll. Thank you to the board for their support.

13. ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

Meeting adjourned at 8:18 p.m.