

REGULAR MEETING (Monday, December 4, 2023)**Members present**

Dr Celeste Hawkins (left at 7:27 p.m.), Gillian Ream Gainsley, Yvonne Fields, Maria Goodrich, Jeanice Townsend

Members absent

Sharon Lee, Meredith Schindler

Meeting called to order at 6:40 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 Gillian Ream Gainsley.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

4. ACHIEVEMENTS, AWARDS & RECOGNITION

Recognition: A. Ypsilanti International Elementary School Points of Pride

The YCS Board of Education is excited to share wonderful things that are happening in our schools by reading our school's points of pride. Today's school is Ypsilanti International Elementary School.

Click [here](#) to view the YIES points of pride.

Presentation: B. Michigan School Business Officials Certified Facilities Director - Aaron Rose

Aaron Rose has met the requirements for certification under the Michigan School Business Officials Voluntary Certification Program and has earned the Certified Facilities Director certification. This is a commitment of 90 hours of professional development established by the MSBO Board of Directors through their Professional Development Committee.

We are celebrating Mr. Rose's accomplishment.

Congratulations, Mr. Rose!

Click [here](#) to view the letter from the MSBO.

5. STRATEGIC PLANNING/MONITORING/EVALUATING: Mary Kerwin, Facilitator | Senior Consultant, Michigan Association of School Boards (MASB)

Discussion: A. Board Self Evaluation/Superintendent Progress Monitoring

The YCS Board of Education engages quarterly in progress monitoring of the Superintendent. They also provide an opportunity to self-assess. The Board, facilitated by MASB Consultant, Mary Kerwin, will participate in a progress monitoring and self-evaluation workshop.

Click [here](#) to see the Board of Education Self-Assessment.

Discussion: B. Pre-Organizational Meeting Discussion

Trustee Gainsley: Will be happy to serve again or willing to give it up if anyone else wants it. The goals we set out with have been accomplished (relieving the debt and getting the district into a stronger financial position).

Mary Kerwin: Anyone else who wants to be treasurer?

Trustee Townsend: Would consider it. 25 years in banking and finance. Served on several boards as treasurer. I have the experience and the skill set.

Trustee Goodrich: I am detail and process-oriented and am happy to continue as secretary but am also willing to let someone else do the job.

Mary Kerwin: Does anyone else want to be secretary?

Trustee Gainsley: I don't want to be secretary but we have two board members who are not here so we will need to continue this discussion.

Mary Kerwin: We do have a current trustee who is the vice president, Sharon Lee. Does anyone know if she wants to continue? Does anyone else want to be vice president?

Mary Kerwin: Dr. Hawkins, are you interested in continuing as president?

Dr. Hawkins: Interested in continuing as the president.

Mary Kerwin: Anyone else interested in the presidency? You have a month to think about it. Being proactive.

Mary Kerwin: a joy from this year, an aspiration for next

Dr. Hawkins: Joy - debt relief, aspiration - seeing how the debt relief impacts the students

Trustee Townsend: Joy - debt relief and speaking at the national level about the board to other boards, aspiration - move the legacy of the district forward and being mindful of where we are going

Trustee Goodrich: Joy- debt relief, aspiration - support all the students and staff in an equitable way

Trustee Gainsley: Joy - 10 years since the consolidation and we are stronger, recognized by COGNIA, gotten lots of grants, aspiration - value our educators and invest in them, that families will choose YCS

Trustee Fields: Joy - being recognized at the national level

Dr. Zachery-Ross: Joy - innovation, other districts have benefited from our proactivity with the debt, we are pushing and asking, we aren't getting pushed around, we are holding our ground and doing it our way, aspiration - the impact of STEM and IB being in the buildings and the funds supporting our staff

Took an 8-minute break from 7:27 p.m. to 7:35 p.m.

Dr. Hawkins left. Trustee Goodrich presided over the rest of the meeting.

6. PRESENTATION

Presentation: A. Relocation of Ypsilanti Community Middle School Presentation

The Ypsilanti Community Schools Board of Education discussed the possibility of relocating Ypsilanti Community Middle School to the Willow Run Complex at the November 6th board meeting at the recommendation of the Financial and Operational Subcommittee, Director Rose, and Principal Davis. Tonight, we will finish the discussion with a presentation and vote on whether to move forward with the recommendation.

Click [here](#) to view the YCS Middle School Survey results.

Click [here](#) to view the Facilities and Technology recommendations.

7. 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.

Lynette Findley - Eastside rec center

Jan Piert - advocate for community center

Kelly Goolsby - advocate for community center

Marsha R. Moore - advocate for community center

Tad Wysor - advocate for community center

Shane Barber - need to work on communication, head lice in school and what is the protocol

TC Collins - name the middle school after a black woman

8. CONSENT AGENDA

Action (Consent), Minutes: A. Consent Agenda

Resolution: ... MOVE THAT the Board of Education approve the: 1) November 6, 2023, Regular Board Meeting Minutes 2) November 7, 2023, 5:30 p.m. Special Board Meeting Minutes 3) November 7, 2023, 6:30 p.m. Special Board Meeting Minutes 4) November 15, 2023, Special Board Meeting Minutes 5) Personnel matters as per the presented list dated 11/28/23; New Hires and Resignations.

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

1) November 6, 2023, Regular Board Meeting Minutes

2) November 7, 2023, 5:30 p.m. Special Board Meeting [Minutes](#)

3) November 7, 2023, 6:30 p.m. Special Board Meeting [Minutes](#)

4) November 15, 2023, Special Board Meeting [Minutes](#)

5) [Personnel matters](#) as per the presented list dated 11/28/23; New Hires and Resignations.

Motion by Jeanice Townsend, second by Yvonne Fields.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

Not Present at Vote: Dr Celeste Hawkins

9. REQUEST FOR CLOSED SESSION: Section 8(h) OMA, Attorney-Client Privilege

Action: A. Attorney-Client Session

In accordance with Michigan's Open Meetings Act (OMA), enacted in 1976 as Public Act 267, all closed meetings must be called by a motion at a public meeting of the Board of Education followed by a roll call vote. The Board of Education needs to meet in closed session under Section 8(h) of the Open Meetings Act, Attorney-Client Privilege.

In order for the board to go into closed session, 2/3 of the board must be present. That would require five trustees to be at the meeting. There are only four. As a result, the board can not go into closed session. After consulting the Open Meetings Act with the attorney from Thrun, Kirk Herald, Dr. Zachery-Ross explained what could happen next.

Dr. Zachery-Ross: The attorney can explain how we could proceed with the action item.

The board agreed to proceed this way.

Attorney Herald: Can't go into closed session but could discuss what we would have discussed in closed session in open session, or you could just go to the action item to allow the superintendent or her designee to negotiate on behalf of the school district.

Trustee Townsend: This gives the superintendent the ability to start the process but in the end the board would see the final result and vote on it.

Attorney Herald: The board could do that or just give the superintendent the ability to handle the whole thing.

Trustee Gainsley: 3 parcels question

Attorney Herald: Part of the negotiation, waiting on the county

Trustee Townsend: This give the superintendent the ability to negotiate, modify, and execute a purchase and we just need to decide if the board would have a final vote or not.

Attorney Herald: Yes.

Trustee Gainsley: My understanding was we were deciding on giving the superintendent the authority to negotiate and complete the agreement and I feel comfortable moving forward with that tonight.

Trustee Fields: Closing costs?

Trustee Gainsley: Number 8.

Trustee Townsend: So we just need to add language to the motion that will include final board approval?

Attorney Herald: The board has two options: you can authorize the superintendent to negotiate and finalize the agreement or you can have the superintendent negotiate and finalize an agreement that has to come back to the board for final approval.

Dr. Zachery-Ross: If you go with the latter, we would have to have another board meeting.

Trustee Goodrich: I am comfortable with the motion before us to have the superintendent negotiate, modify, and execute the agreement. It is in line with our goals.

10. RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

Procedural: A. Reconvene to Open Session

This did not take place as the board never went into closed session.

11. ACTION ITEM: Business and Finance

Action: A. Authorize Negotiation of Purchase Agreement

The Board of Education will vote on whether to authorize the Superintendent or her designee to negotiate, modify, and execute a purchase agreement for the former Cheney School property in substantially the form provided to the district, in the best interests of the district and subject to legal review.

...MOVE that that board of education authorize the Superintendent or her designee to negotiate, modify, and execute a purchase agreement for the former Cheney School property in substantially the form provided to the district, in the best interests of the district and subject to legal review.

Motion by Jeanice Townsend, second by Yvonne Fields.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

Not Present at Vote: Dr Celeste Hawkins

Action: B. Acceptance of the Decision to Relocate Ypsilanti Community Middle School to the Willow Run Complex

The Board of Education will vote on whether to relocate the Ypsilanti Community Middle School to the Willow Run Complex.

...MOVE THAT the Board of Education accept the decision to relocate Ypsilanti Community Middle School to the Willow Run Complex.

Motion by Gillian Ream Gainsley, second by Jeanice Townsend.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

Not Present at Vote: Dr Celeste Hawkins

12. PUBLIC COMMENTS #2

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 comments

13. DISCUSSIONS

Discussion: A. Board of Education Subcommittee Reports

Trustee Gainsley: Finance and Operational subcommittee met and today we have resolved everything that was discussed.

14. BOARD/SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS

Trustee Townsend: Thank you for the opportunity to go to MASB conference, we did a presentation on equity and board leadership, lots of training, congratulations to Charlotte Tillerson, our union president, for the ACCE food pantry being named for her, congratulations to Estabrook for a successful Heritage Night, Perry school gave out food baskets to local families, it has been a pleasure serving with this board for 2023, thank you to the staff and superintendent

Trustee Gainsley: Congrats to Willow Run District, with debt relief, middle school moving back to the Willow Run building, and the opportunity of the Cheney property to become a community center

Trustee Fields: The ACCE luncheon was beautiful, excited about the community center, we are here

Trustee Goodrich: Recognize the trustees who spoke at CUBE and MASB, telling our story and all the amazing things that are happening

Dr. Zachery-Ross: Thank you for the wonderful evaluation, it was a team evaluation, thank you everyone, the MASB conference was great, I presented at NABSE, Dr. Lopez and Mr. LaPorte will be presenting at MUCUL, district is showing up all over the place, transportation is being acknowledged by the WISD, Head Start driver, Chris Sturdivant, received the honor for his driving, keeping our students at the forefront, the middle school tone has been full of scholarly excitement and excitement because of the sports teams

Trustee Goodrich: So much to celebrate

15. ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

Meeting adjourned at 8:47 p.m.