

REGULAR MEETING (Monday, October 7, 2024)**Members present**

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

Members absent

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 Sharon Lee, second by Jeanice Townsend.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

4. ACHIEVEMENTS, AWARDS & RECOGNITION

Recognition: A. Estabrook Elementary 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 Estabrook Elementary.

1. Library Grand Re-Opening

2. WIDA and MLL Success

3. Climate and Culture Positive IMPACT and Enrollment Growth

4. Community Partnerships

5. Addition of a second Newcomer Classroom

6. Dual Language Immersion has expanded into Third Grade

7. Music Partnerships

Principal Ryan Johnson and his students presented. The students were **Kaitlyn Kubiaki, Mustafa Khalili, Zaraia Colbert-Cheatham, Alan Varela Gomez, Halee Garcia, Kenneth Williams, and John Carlo Morales Wojan.**

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

Recognition: B. National Custodial Day - October 2nd

National Custodian Day is commemorated every year on October 2nd.

On October 2, National Custodial Worker's Recognition Day encourages appreciation to the employees who keep our schools and workplaces across the nation running smoothly.

Custodial workers operate behind the scenes. They are often under-appreciated for the hard work they do day after day, too.

These are the personnel keeping schools, hospitals, office buildings, museums, churches, and other buildings clean and well maintained.

While delivering outstanding services and running a well-maintained building, they contribute to critical first impressions and the success of any business. They're the people we call on to give our brick and mortar businesses a polished look. The bank, schools, and office buildings look organized and presentable because custodial workers efficiently keep everything in top condition.

Additionally, their skill saves businesses and organizations money. Well-maintained carpets and surfaces last longer. Seasonal updates and maintenance help buildings to run more efficiently, too. Custodial workers make sure buildings are ready for each season and running correctly. As a result, the buildings are safer and healthier for those entering them. They also free-up time for the rest of the organization to focus on growing a business, teaching students, or caring for others.

The work is physically demanding. Depending on the position, custodial workers may work varying shifts and possibly in several locations. They may be part of a team or work independently. No matter where they work, this day recognizes their dedication and hard work.

At Ypsilanti Community Schools, we honor, respect, and value our custodial staff. Thank you for all that you do for our students, staff, and community!

Recognition: C. National School Bus Safety Week - October 21-25

National School Bus Safety Week is October 21 - 25.

Held during the third full week of October each year, National School Bus Safety Week is an active and evolving public education program and an excellent way for parents, students, teachers, motorists, school bus operators, school administrators, and other interested parties - to join forces and address the importance of school bus safety. Designed to promote school bus safety, school districts throughout the country observe School Bus Safety Week.

At Ypsilanti Community Schools we honor, respect, and value our transportation staff. Thank you for all that you do for our students, staff, and community!

Recognition: D. October is Recognized as National Principal's Month
Celebrating the principalship nationwide



Each October, National Principals Month recognizes the essential role that principals play in making a school great. Principals are among the hardest working, yet often least recognized individuals in education. Principals set the academic tone for their schools, and it is their vision, dedication, and determination that provide the mobilizing force for achieving student success. Each October, NASSP, NAESP, and AFSA seek to honor these unsung heroes for their tireless efforts in pursuit of excellence in education.

National Principals Month is a widely recognized celebration of the principalship, marked by national and state resolutions supporting the event, as well as acknowledgements from U.S. Senators and Representatives, and top government officials. However, the most important National Principals Month celebrations are the ones that take place in schools and communities across the country.

At Ypsilanti Community Schools we honor, respect, and value our Building Administrators. Thank you for all that you do for our students, staff, and community!

5. ACTION ITEM: Other

Action: A. Acceptance of National Principal's Month Resolution

Seeking the Board of Education approval to approve the National Principal's Month Resolution, as presented.

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

... MOVE THAT the Board of Education approve the National Principal's Month Resolution as presented.

Motion by Yvonne Fields, second by Sharon Lee.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

6. PRESENTATIONS

Presentation: A. Grizzly Scholar Program Presentation

Grizzly Scholars is a program that was started in the fall of 2021. We are very excited to now have three cohorts of scholars in the program. The 4th graders focus on aeronautics, the 5th graders focus on nautical, and the 7th graders are working on a program that has them working with CAD and 3-D printing. The founder of the program, Nic Ballintyn, and some of the Grizzly Scholars will be presenting on the program.

Nic Ballintyn and some Grizzly Scholars students presented. The students who presented were **Anthony Dominguez-Ventura, Miriam Khalili, Mustafa Khalili, Rosey GorgEffen, Nevaeh Townsend, and King Robinson.**

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

Presentation: B. Ghana, Africa Presentation

From June 27 to July 2, 2024, a group from Ypsilanti Community Schools including the Superintendent, secondary Principals, and students from middle and high schools embarked on an educational trip to Accra, Ghana. The team departed from Detroit Metro Airport to Amsterdam, then to the Kotoka Airport in Accra on June 28, 2024.

During the trip, the students had the opportunity to explore various historical and cultural sites in Accra, such as the Cape Coast Slave Castle, the Abeadze Traditional Village, Aburi Mountains, WEB Dubois/Marcus Garvey Center, Kwame Nkrumah Memorial Park & Mausoleum, Independence Square and Black Star Gate, the US Embassy, Accra Academy, and Makola Market.

Additionally, the group savored a variety of cuisines including Turkish, Nigerian, and traditional Ghanaian food. The trip provided a unique learning experience and cultural immersion for the students, broadening their perspectives and knowledge beyond the classroom.

Dr. Chelsea Harris-Hugan, Leslie Davis, and Charles Davis and students who went to Ghana presented.

7. ACTION ITEM: Student Affairs

Action: A. Acceptance of Field Trip Request: Ypsilanti Community High School, November 12, 2024 (Toledo, Ohio)

This proposal comes from biology teachers, Delaney Garcia and Laurel Wiinikka-Buesser of Ypsilanti Community High School. Students will go to the Toledo Zoo as part of a research project into animal adaptations and evolution. This will provide an important opportunity for hands-on project-based learning and supports the district vision for moving toward STEM-aligned learning.

Click [here](#) to view the field trip request.

... MOVE THAT the Board of Education approve the field trip of the Ypsilanti Community High School to Toledo, Ohio on November 12, 2024.

Motion by Sharon Lee, second by Jeanice Townsend.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

8. DISCUSSION

Discussion: A. Safe Schools Discussion

Started at 7:27 p.m.

Chief Kirk Moore from the City of Ypsilanti spoke with the board about school safety. Board members asked questions and Chief Moore and Dr. Zachery-Ross answered them.

Ended at 8:14 p.m.

9. 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.

Jereme Haled - Black Lives Matter flag. If you are going to have that, have the Ten Commandments in the the schools

Heather Martin - 2nd Grader at YIES, was involved in the active shooter event on September 13th. Is concerned about the response and is offering to help.

Eric Nicholson - kindergartener at YIES, wants a full transparent explanation of what happened on September 13th.

Debra Stevens - we need a lot more paraprofessionals. People are doing their best but they need a lot more support.

10. REQUEST FOR CLOSED SESSION

Action: A. Request for Closed Session- Pursuant to Sections 8(f) of the Open Meetings Act to review and consider the content of an application for employment

The Board of Education will be going into closed session pursuant to Section 8(f) of the Open Meetings Act to review and consider the content of an application for employment.

Went into closed session at 8:37 p.m.

... MOVE THAT the Board of Education go into closed session pursuant to Section 8(f) of the Open Meetings Act to review and consider the content of an application for employment.

Motion by Sharon Lee, second by Jeanice Townsend.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

11. RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

Procedural: A. Reconvene to Open Session

The Board of Education will return to Open Session.

Returned at 8:55 p.m.

12. REQUEST FOR CLOSED SESSION

Action: A. Request for Closed Session- Pursuant to Sections 8(h) of the Open Meetings Act to consider material exempt from discussion or disclosure by state or federal statute

The Board of Education will go into closed session pursuant Section 8(h) of the Open Meetings Act to consider material exempt from discussion or disclosure by state or federal statute.

Went into closed session at 8:56 p.m.

... MOVE THAT the Board of Education go into closed session pursuant Section 8(h) of the Open Meetings Act to consider material exempt from discussion or disclosure by state or federal statute.

Motion by Sharon Lee, second by Yvonne Fields.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

13. RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

Procedural: A. Reconvene to Open Session

The Board of Education will return to Open Session.

Returned at 9:31 p.m.

14. REQUEST FOR CLOSED SESSION: Section 8(1c) OMA, Collective Bargaining Strategy

Action: A. Request for Closed Session - Pursuant to Section 8(1c) of the Open Meetings Act to consider a Collective Bargaining Strategy, Negotiations

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(1c) of the Open Meetings Act, Collective Bargaining Strategy/Negotiations.

Went into closed session at 9:32 p.m.

... MOVE THAT the Board of Education convene in closed session under Section 8(1c) of the OMA to consider a Collective Bargaining Strategy, Negotiations.

Motion by Sharon Lee, second by Yvonne Fields.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

15. RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

Procedural: A. Reconvene to Open Session

The Board of Education will return to Open Session.

Returned at 10:10 p.m.

16. CONSENT AGENDA

Action (Consent), Minutes: A. Consent Agenda

Resolution: ... MOVE THAT the Board of Education approve the: 1) September 9, 2024, Regular Board Meeting Minutes 2) Personnel matters as per the presented list dated 10/2/24; New Hires and Resignations.

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

1) September 9, 2024, Regular Board Meeting [Minutes](#)

2) [Personnel matters](#) as per the presented list dated 10/2/24; New Hires and Resignations.

Motion by Maria Goodrich, second by Sharon Lee.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

17. ACTION ITEMS: Human Resources

Action: A. Approval of the YCSESPA Collective Bargaining Agreement: Sue McCarty, Director of Human Resources

The attached Tentative Agreement with the Ypsilanti Community Schools Educational Support Professionals Association (YCSESPA)/MEA/NEA. This tentative contract is for "July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2027." We are seeking Board approval of this Agreement.

... MOVE THAT the Board of Education approve the presented Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Ypsilanti Community Schools Educational Support Professionals Association/MEA/NEA.

Motion by Yvonne Fields, second by Gillian Ream Gainsley.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

Action: B. Potential New Hire: Approval of Employment

The Board will consider the request and determine the employment opportunity.

... MOVE THAT the Board of Education approve the district's employment request.

Motion by Maria Goodrich, second by Yvonne Fields.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

18. ACTION ITEM: Business and Finance

Action: A. Acceptance of Renewal of the iObservation System

iObservation is a web based platform that enhances the teacher and administrator evaluation system paid through the Supporting Educator Excellence and Knowledge (SEEK) grant. This is a renewal as the system has been in place since March of 2022. The total amount for all 5 quotes is \$93,666.63 - \$2,000 for custom forms due to changes in evaluation law, \$9,166.63 for prorated amount from March 2025 through June 2025, and \$82,500 for support through the 2027/2028 school year.

Click [here](#) to view the iObservation Renewal for 24-25.

Click [here](#) to view the iObservation Custom Forms.

Click [here](#) to view the iObservation Renewal for 25-26.

Click [here](#) to view the iObservation Renewal for 26-27.

Click [here](#) to view the iObservation Renewal for 27-28.

...MOVE THAT the Board of Education accepts the attached quote for renewing the iObservation system for the amount of \$93,666.63.

Motion by Jeanice Townsend, second by Maria Goodrich.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

Action: B. Acceptance of Eastern Michigan Writing Project Professional Development

Eastern Michigan Writing Project is a professional development program run through Eastern Michigan University (EMU). They provided over 90 hours of professional development during Grizzly Learning Camp during July. They worked with teachers to promote solid writing instruction for students in GLC. This professional development not only helps students during GLC teachers will also use it throughout the school year. The invoice will be paid out of Title I funds dedicated to GLC.

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

...MOVE THAT the Board of Education accepts the attached invoice for the EMU Writing Project for the amount of \$31,675.00.

Motion by Jeanice Townsend, second by Yvonne Fields.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

Action: C. Approval for Reveal Math Instructional Materials for the Elementary Schools

Seeking Board approval of the additional McGraw Hill Reveal Math materials for the elementary schools, for a purchase amount of \$31,734.30.

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

... MOVE THAT the Board of Education approve the additional McGraw Hill Reveal Math materials for the elementary schools, for a purchase amount of \$31,734.30.

Motion by Maria Goodrich, second by Jeanice Townsend.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

Action: D. Donations: For YCS Events Series

.... MOVE THAT the Board of Education accepts donations from

1.) Puffer Reds for \$40,000 worth of backpacks for the Back-to-School Bash

2.) McDonald's for \$2,500

2.) Ypsi Housing for \$1,000

for the YCS Event Series.

Motion by Jeanice Townsend, second by Sharon Lee.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

19. 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.

20. DISCUSSIONS

Discussion: A. Board of Education Subcommittee Reports

Trustee Goodrich: Attended the WASB Legislative breakfast on September 23rd and discussed the importance of the Grow Your Own pipeline and programs. Celebrate the legislation that was signed putting more money back into the district and going back to our teachers.

Vice President Lee: September 26th pre-school meeting, we discussed the process of the meeting and voted in Ms. Lewis as the secretary. We need a chair and a vice chair. We need a parent for the policy council at the WISD. They are paying a \$20 stipend for that position. There are 45 students on the waitlist for the Head Start program. Principal Young is sending out a survey to the parents to find out what will work for the meeting times.

Trustee Townsend: The YCS Foundation had a big fundraiser on October 3rd. We will have a report at the next meeting. Thank you to everyone for all their work. Dr. Hawkins did an excellent job with her speech. The Special Ed millage renewal is important for all the districts so we don't lose that funding. That is a renewal and not a tax increase.

Trustee Fields: We are working to schedule a communications meeting with Lambert.

21. BOARD/SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS

Vice President Lee: Homecoming Dance was so nice. It took me back The students looked beautiful. They were well behaved.

Trustee Fields: My grandson and niece said they had a nice time at the dance. I went to the Homecoming game and it was really nice although we lost. I took photos. Had a really nice turnout.

Trustee Townsend: A shout out to Cherisa Allen for the great turnout at the alumni tailgate that keeps growing.

Dr. Hawkins: The YCS Foundation event was beautiful. Trustee Goodrich, Trustee Gainsley, and Trustee Townsend were all there.

Dr. Zachery-Ross: Homecoming and Spirit Week were a huge success. The tailgating and the alumni really came out. The audience did a great job supporting the Grizzlies. The Manufacturing Day was great! October 15, 16, 28, 29 we will have SJ Apple in the district for in-person focus groups for the strategic planning and on November 12 and 13th we will have virtual groups. November 5th is election day so please remember to vote on the special ed millage for the county.

22. ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING
Meeting adjourned at 10:26 p.m.