

REGULAR MEETING (Monday, April 14, 2025)**Members present**

Sharon Lee, Yvonne Fields, Maria Goodrich, Jeanice Townsend, Talisha Sutton-Kennedy, Dawn Espy, Celeste Hawkins (arrived 7:08 p.m.)

Meeting called to order at 6:35 PM

1. CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL OF BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Sharon Lee, Board Vice President

Action: A. Roll Call of Board of Education Members

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Maria Goodrich, Board Secretary

3. ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA

Action: A. Acceptance of Agenda

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

Motion by Dawn Espy, second by Yvonne Fields.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Sharon Lee, Yvonne Fields, Maria Goodrich, Jeanice Townsend, Talisha Sutton-Kennedy, Dawn Espy

4. ACHIEVEMENTS, AWARDS & RECOGNITION

Recognition: A. Achieving College & Career Education (ACCE) 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 ACCE (Achieving College & Career Education) High School.

Principal Leslie Davis and her students presented. The students who presented were Surisa, Nafari, Jalaya, Kaniya, Dalila, and Michael.

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

5. ACTION ITEMS: Student Affairs

Action, Procedural: A. Acceptance of Field Trip Request: Grizzly Scholars After School Program Trip to Canada - June 14, 2025

The Germany Ballintyn Education Foundation is funding a trip to Windsor, Ontario, Canada, for the Grizzly Scholar after-school program. This is giving them the opportunity to obtain a passport and will be a first small step in expanding the scholars' horizons beyond home, state, and country. The trip will tie in with their financial literacy learning by exchanging American money for Canadian money and using it. It will tie in with their Under the Sea program by attending Belle Isle Aquarium in the morning and Adventure Bay Water Park in the afternoon.

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

... MOVE THAT the Board of Education approve the field trip request for the Grizzly Scholars to Windsor, Ontario, Canada, on June 14, 2025.

Motion by Maria Goodrich, second by Jeanice Townsend.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Sharon Lee, Yvonne Fields, Maria Goodrich, Jeanice Townsend, Talisha Sutton-Kennedy, Dawn Espy

Action, Procedural: B. Acceptance of Field Trip Request: Erickson 5th Grade Overnight Trip to Jackson, MI - May 21 - 23, 2025

The Erickson 5th Grade Team is proposing an overnight trip to YMCA Storer Camp for our 5th-grade students. This exciting experience will give them the opportunity to explore the outdoors, build teamwork skills, and expand their learning beyond the classroom. The trip will connect to our curriculum in meaningful ways—students will engage in hands-on environmental science lessons, participate in leadership-building activities, and develop independence through this overnight adventure. By immersing themselves in nature and working together, students will take an important step in broadening their horizons beyond home and school.

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

... MOVE THAT the Board of Education approve the field trip request for the Erickson 5th Grade Overnight Trip to Jackson, MI on May 21 - 23, 2025

Motion by Dawn Espy, second by Yvonne Fields.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Sharon Lee, Yvonne Fields, Maria Goodrich, Jeanice Townsend, Talisha Sutton-Kennedy, Dawn Espy

Action, Procedural: C. Acceptance of Field Trip Request: Ypsilanti Connected Community School, June 7 - 8, 2025 (Chicago, IL) Chicago Trip – Shedd Aquarium & Museum of Science and Industry

Our proposed trip to Chicago offers students an immersive, hands-on learning experience that aligns with K-8 science and environmental standards. At the Shedd Aquarium, students will explore aquatic ecosystems and engage with real-world conservation efforts, while the Museum of Science and Industry provides interactive STEM experiences,

including a guided tour of the Coal Mine exhibit. This trip fosters curiosity, supports environmental awareness, and helps students see themselves in STEM careers. The overnight component encourages independence and deepens the impact of experiential learning.

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

... MOVE THAT the Board of Education approve the overnight field trip of Ypsilanti Community Connected School to Chicago, IL on June 7 - 8, 2025.

Motion by Yvonne Fields, second by Talisha Sutton-Kennedy.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Sharon Lee, Yvonne Fields, Maria Goodrich, Jeanice Townsend, Talisha Sutton-Kennedy, Dawn Espy

Action, Procedural: D. Acceptance of Field Trip Request: Ypsilanti Connected Community School, May 8, 2025 (Sandusky, Ohio)
Cedar Point Engineering Day

The Engineering Day trip to Cedar Point is an exciting opportunity for students to connect classroom science and math concepts to real-world engineering. Through direct interaction with industry professionals and behind-the-scenes presentations, students gain insight into how roller coasters and theme parks are designed using physics, energy, and technology. This experience not only reinforces critical STEM principles, but also inspires interest in future STEM careers by showing students how science and innovation shape the world around them.

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

... MOVE THAT the Board of Education approve the field trip of Ypsilanti Connected Community School to Sandusky, Ohio on May 8, 2025.

Motion by Dawn Espy, second by Maria Goodrich.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Sharon Lee, Yvonne Fields, Maria Goodrich, Jeanice Townsend, Talisha Sutton-Kennedy, Dawn Espy

Action, Procedural: E. Acceptance of Field Trip Request: Ford Early Learning Center, May 6, 2025 (Toledo, Ohio)
Ford Early Learning Center would like to attend the Toledo Zoo.

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

... MOVE THAT the Board of Education approve the field trip of Ford Early Learning Center to Toledo, Ohio on May 6, 2025.

Motion by Talisha Sutton-Kennedy, second by Yvonne Fields.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Sharon Lee, Yvonne Fields, Maria Goodrich, Jeanice Townsend, Talisha Sutton-Kennedy, Dawn Espy

Action, Procedural: F. Acceptance of Field Trip Request: Ford Early Learning Center, May 8, 2025 (Toledo, Ohio)
Ford Early Learning Center would like to attend the Toledo Imagination Station.

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

... MOVE THAT the Board of Education approve the field trip of Ford Early Learning Center to Toledo, Ohio on May 8, 2025.

Motion by Talisha Sutton-Kennedy, second by Yvonne Fields.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Sharon Lee, Yvonne Fields, Maria Goodrich, Jeanice Townsend, Talisha Sutton-Kennedy, Dawn Espy

6. DISCUSSION

Discussion: A. Second Reading of Neola Policy Updates - Vol. 39, No. 2 - February 2025 - PO 8510

Re: NEOLA of Michigan Local Templates/Policy Updates - Vol. 39, No. 2 - February 2025 - PO 8510

The Board of Education shall adopt bylaws and policies for the organization and operation of this Board and the District. The Policy subcommittee has recently reviewed the following policies and is now submitting these to begin the approval process.

7. PRESENTATION

Presentation: A. Budget Update Presentation - Damien Butler

Business and Finance Director, Damien L. Butler, will present a budget amendment to the Board of Education for consideration.

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

Vice President Lee: I have questions on transportation.

Mr. Butler: Contracted transportation for special needs and homeless students. We are trying to step up more bus routes so we are less dependent on contracts. We need to look at a new way to meet the challenges.

Vice President Lee: Does it also include the additions to the buses.

Mr. Butler: Yes, but the biggest part is the contracting.

Vice President Lee: You mentioned paying on the bonds.

Mr. Butler: Yes, we pay on the bonds in November and May.

Trustee Espy: You need an amendment for transportation because you can't estimate what it will be at the beginning of the year?

Mr. Butler: Yes, it has moved in a different direction.

Dr. Zachery-Ross: Homeless and special needs because those are per IEPs especially the outsourced.

Trustee Sutton-Kennedy: Could you explain the updates for the facilities section?

Mr. Butler: The field maintenance and building infrastructure.

Dr. Zachery-Ross: A secure vestibule at YCHS, signs, combining things with other funds.

8. 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.

Veronica Bodary - Thank you for addressing my son's issues. We're good now. Self contained classrooms are not being included in field trips and that is not inclusion. Have more PDs on inclusion and change it up for people in special ed.

Jazzmine Hubbard - Parapro at Ford and Perry

Erica Vonyea - SAC youth organizer for Youth Action Michigan, bridge gap between students and the school board

9. 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) March 17, 2025, Regular Board Meeting Minutes 2) Personnel matters as per the presented list dated 4/7/25; New Hires and Resignations.

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

1) March 17, 2025, Regular Board Meeting [Minutes](#)

2) [Personnel matters](#) as per the presented list dated 4/7/25; New Hires and Resignations.

Motion by Sharon Lee, second by Talisha Sutton-Kennedy.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Sharon Lee, Yvonne Fields, Maria Goodrich, Jeanice Townsend, Talisha Sutton-Kennedy, Dawn Espy, Dr. Hawkins

10. ACTION ITEMS: Business and Finance

Action: A. Approval and Adoption of the Amended Budget

Damien Butler, Director of Business and Finance presented earlier in the meeting the recommended amended budget to the Board of Education. District Administration is requesting the Board approve and adopt the amended budget.

... MOVE THAT the Board of Education approve and adopt the Amended Budget as presented.

Motion by Yvonne Fields, second by Jeanice Townsend.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Sharon Lee, Yvonne Fields, Maria Goodrich, Jeanice Townsend, Talisha Sutton-Kennedy, Dawn Espy, Dr. Hawkins

Action: B. Adoption of Resolution to Consider Designation of Electoral Representative for the WISD June 2, 2025 Biennial Election
The WISD is requesting that the YCS Board of Education adopt a resolution to select it's voting representative.

The election will take place on **Monday, June 2, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.** at the Washtenaw Intermediate School District at 1819 South Wagner Rd., Ann Arbor, MI 48106.

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

...MOVE THAT the Board of Education adopt the Washtenaw Intermediate School District Resolution to Consider Designation of Electoral Representative for the June 2, 2025 Biennial Election, appointing Trustee Espy as the designated representative on behalf of this Board, and Trustee Townsend as an alternate in the event the designated representative is unable to attend.

Motion by Yvonne Fields, second by Sharon Lee.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Sharon Lee, Yvonne Fields, Maria Goodrich, Jeanice Townsend, Talisha Sutton-Kennedy, Dawn Espy, Dr. Hawkins

Action: C. Acceptance of a Donation: Puffer Reds

Puffer Reds donation of approximately \$3,500 of Adidas Tennis uniforms for girls and boys tennis, plus warm-ups and court shoes for girls tennis were donated to the YCS Tennis Teams. This also included warm-ups and shoes for the coaches.

Thank you, Puffer Reds, from all the students that you are impacting with this donation!

.... MOVE THAT the Board of Education accepts a donation from Puffer Reds for \$3,500 to the boys and girls tennis teams.

Motion by Dawn Espy, second by Yvonne Fields.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Sharon Lee, Yvonne Fields, Maria Goodrich, Jeanice Townsend, Talisha Sutton-Kennedy, Dawn Espy, Dr. Hawkins

Action: D. Acceptance of a Donation: Old National Bank

Old National Bank was the breakfast sponsor for the Realtor Breakfast for \$1900.

Thank you, Old National Bank, for your donation!

.... MOVE THAT the Board of Education accepts a donation from Old National Bank for \$1,900 for the Realtors Breakfast.

Motion by Sharon Lee, second by Jeanice Townsend.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Sharon Lee, Yvonne Fields, Maria Goodrich, Jeanice Townsend, Talisha Sutton-Kennedy, Dawn Espy, Dr. Hawkins

11. ACTION ITEM: Neola Policy Updates

Action: A. Adoption of the NEOLA Policy Updates

Re: NEOLA of Michigan Local Templates/Policy Updates - Vol. 39, No. 2 - February 2025 - PO 8510

The Board of Education shall adopt bylaws and policies for the organization and operation of this Board and the District. The Policy subcommittee reviewed the NEOLA policies and the Board had its first reading at its previous board meeting. The second reading occurred earlier in the meeting and pending no additional changes or discussion required, the board will consider adopting the policies.

...MOVE THAT the board of education adopt the NEOLA policy update, as presented: Vol. 39, No. 2 - February 2025 - PO 8510.

Motion by Jeanice Townsend, second by Talisha Sutton-Kennedy

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Sharon Lee, Yvonne Fields, Maria Goodrich, Jeanice Townsend, Talisha Sutton-Kennedy, Dawn Espy, Dr. 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 public comments.

13. DISCUSSION

Discussion: A. Board of Education Subcommittee Reports

Trustee Townsend: The YCS Foundation met and they are in the process of updating their bylaws. We will be meeting this week to go over the scholarships. The finance and operational planning subcommittee will be meeting next week. The WASB meeting to discuss the budget will be coming up this month on April 24th. There have been conversations about having a town hall

Vice President Lee: We are having our first BTN meeting this Thursday at 6:00 p.m. We are having a head start meeting on April 24th.

Trustee Espy: Strategic Planning Subcommittee will be meeting in this week.

Trustee Fields: Community Relations Subcommittee is meeting on April 22nd.

Dr. Hawkins: Thank you, board members, who put the time in to chair these committees and to do the work.

14. BOARD/SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS

Trustee Townsend: The annual Easter egg hunt is this Saturday. We have a lot of new partners and it is going to be larger than ever. Will be attending the naming ceremony on Friday.

Trustee Espy: April 29th, the Michigan Education Coalition for Justice will be having their advocacy day in Lansing.

Dr. Hawkins: Excited about the events this week. MASB conference is happening at Mackinac Island on May 2 - 4. Dr. Zachery-Ross is speaking this week on Thursday.

Trustee Espy: The Perry ELC spring concerts are on April 29 and May 1.

Trustee Sutton-Kennedy: Looking forward to seeing everyone at the naming ceremony on Friday and thank everyone for coming today, especially the students and everyone who spoke at public comments. Remember to leave comments on the artwork.

Dr. Zachery-Ross: Thank you to all the board members because it has already been a busy season for you. The YCHS AI Conference is on April 24 for parents and the community. NAACIP will be recorded. Thank you, Jerilyn Lynn, for being part of that committee. Our culinary students have been part of the NACA challenge. You are invited to be a VIP to watch the Ten80 team at MCity. We are running several scenarios for the budget. We are continuing to put things into place to make sure our scholars can get the best education. We have Head Start funds right now. We are working towards the best interest of our scholars and staff. We have to remain calm and be the leaders. On Friday, there will be a program for naming the track. They want it before the invitational.

Dr. Hawkins: Signing day at the high school and scholarships on May 2nd at 9:00 a.m. Thank you to Dr. Zachery-Ross, staff, cabinet, for being constant and leading.

15. ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

Meeting adjourned at 7:58 p.m.