

YPSILANTI COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

Administration Building, Professional Development Room * 1885 Packard Rd.; Ypsilanti, MI 48197

MINUTES: REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Monday, February 17, 2020

The meeting was called to order by President Dr. Celeste Hawkins at 6:34 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, led by Dr. Hawkins. Students were not scheduled to lead the Pledge of Allegiance; it was a no-school day.

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION PRESENT

President Dr. Celeste Hawkins, Vice-President Brenda Meadows, Secretary Sharon Lee, Treasurer Gillian Ream Gainsley, Trustee Ellen Champagne

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION ABSENT

Trustee Maria Sheler-Edwards, Trustee Meredith Schindler

ACCEPTANCE OF "AMENDED" AGENDA, and, RECOGNITION: Accepted as amended, with two additions. **#1: Introduction of New Varsity Football Head Coach**, Daniel Brown, who was introduced and recognized by YCHS Principal Cory Gildersleeve. Gildersleeve also recognized Athletic Director Lawrence Reeves for the search process and results. Reeves stated the search was nationwide, and spoke of Brown's history with YCS, acknowledging he is well-respected. Brown shared comments, including of "coming back home". **#2: Presentation of National African American Parent Involvement Day (NAAPID) at Night 2020 video.** Technology Resource Specialist Jerilyn Lynn shared this video - in recognition of Black History month - which was also presented at the NAAPID at Night event. Superintendent Alena Zachery-Ross presented a NAAPID plaque she received on behalf of the District: A Dedicated Spirit Award.

Motion by Lee, supported by Ream Gainsley

Action Recorded: 5/Yes; 0/No

PRESENTATIONS

Sex Education Advisory Board (SEAB): SEAB Committee Member Bonnie Wessler presented an annual update. Presentation included: 1) What SEAB Is/What It Does; 2) Metrics and Tracking; 3) Curriculum Recommendations/Status; 4) Teacher Certification & Certification Tracking/Reporting; 5) Administrative Support, and; 6) Looking Forward, 2020/21. Requests for Board approval on curriculum items are presented to the Board after agreement from the committee. Items come to the committee after they have been vetted through the Washtenaw ISD.

Budget Update: Director of Business/Finance Priya Nayak presented a budget update, sharing year-to-date information. Dialogue on the Budget to Actual report. This report includes the support staff ratification.

Goal Progress Update: Assistant Superintendent Dr. Carlos Lopez presented an update on where we are currently with District Goals: 1) Student Achievement; 2) Culture and Climate; 3) Community Involvement; 4) Academic Programs, and; 5) Facilities. This was a snapshot of information.

PUBLIC COMMENTS #1

Gilda Myles shared comments on Ypsilanti Community Middle School, and, shared history of Ypsilanti schools/NAAPID.

CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION TO approve the: 1) February 3, 2020 Special Meeting Minutes; 2) February 3, 2020 Regular Meeting Minutes; 3) February 3, 2020 Closed Session #1 Meeting Minutes; 4) February 3, 2020 Closed Session #2 Meeting Minutes, and ... 5) personnel matters as per the attached list dated February 10, 2020: New Hires & Resignations.

Motion by Lee, supported by Ream Gainsley

Action Recorded: 5/Yes; 0/No

ACTION ITEMS, Student Affairs

Donation, District: Donor – Chain Drug Marketing Association | Quality Choice

MOTION TO accept a donation of approximately 2,496 2-ounce bottles of hand sanitizer from Chain Drug Marketing Association on behalf of the District.

Motion by Meadows, supported by Lee

Action Recorded: 5/Yes; 0/No

Donation, Ford ELC: Donor – David Sadler

MOTION TO accept a piano donation from David Sadler on behalf of Ford Early Learning Center, with an estimated value in excess of \$1,000.

Motion by Meadows, supported by Lee

Action Recorded: 5/Yes; 0/No

Donation, District: Donor – Toyota

MOTION TO accept donations of tables and chairs from Toyota on behalf of the District, with an estimated value in excess of \$1,000.

Motion by Meadows, supported by Ream Gainsley

Action Recorded: 5/Yes; 0/No

Donation, Beatty ELC: Donor – Washtenaw Promise

MOTION TO accept a donation of funds from Washtenaw Promise to aid in student support at YCS/Beatty Early Learning Center to provide additional behavior support for students; funds for the donation are estimated at \$4,698.24.

Motion by Meadows, supported by Lee

Action Recorded: 5/Yes; 0/No

Notes: Hawkins made note the motion was cut off in the packet.

ACTION ITEMS, Business/Finance

Bond Ratification Resolution: 2020 Refunding Bonds

MOTION TO adopt the Bond Ratification Resolution.

Motion by Meadows, supported by Ream Gainsley

Roll Call Vote: 5/0 Yes

Yes: Meadows, Ream Gainsley, Champagne, Lee, Hawkins

Notes: Attending this meeting were Attorney Mike Gresens, Bill Roche - Managing Director/Public Finance at Hutchinson, Shockey, Erley & Co. and RJ Naughton - Director of PFM Financial Advisors. There was dialogue and Board question-and-answer time regarding the bonds. This process began in November and went to market last week. The Bonds are being issued for the purpose of refunding certain outstanding indebtedness of the former Willow Run Community Schools 2011 Refunding Bonds dated September 2011, which are due and payable May 1 in the years 2022 through and including 2031. The savings, to "Willow Run taxpayers", is expected to be approximately \$2.7 million. (Additional details are available in the Resolution, found in the Board packet attachments.)

ACTION ITEMS, Human Resources

Administrative Contract: Principal, Ypsilanti Community Middle School

MOTION TO approve the administrative contract with Turquoise Neal to serve as Principal of Ypsilanti Community Middle School with a start date of February 24, 2020 and a contract expiration date of June 26, 2020. (Ms. Neal was also introduced.)

Motion by Lee, supported by Ream Gainsley

Roll Call Vote: 5/0 Yes

Yes: Meadows, Ream Gainsley, Champagne, Lee, Hawkins

PUBLIC COMMENTS #2: *None*

OTHER: *None*

BOARD/SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS

- *Meadows* attended NAAPID at Night. Great event, and she is proud of the students.
- *Hawkins* echoed *Meadows* comments.
- *Ream Gainsley* echoed *Meadows* comments. Expressed appreciation to those who were engaged in the project, which is a national movement that started in Ypsilanti. Also, there are raffle tickets available for purchase for the YIES PTO | Blooming YIES Event.
- *Hawkins* shared her daughter was an emcee at NAAPID, and she did a wonderful job.
- *Zachery-Ross* commented on NAAPID, thanking the staff and committee who participated in the event. Acknowledgement of the refunding bonds. Thanks to those who put time in on the refunding/approval of the refunding: Priya Nayak, the Board of Education and to those who prepared us: Attorney Mike Gresens, Bill Roche of Hutchinson, Shockey, Erley & Co. and RJ Naughton of PFM Financial Advisors. This will be impactful to the community. This demonstrates the work of the Sinking Fund being done behind-the-scenes. Lastly, comments on Turquoise Neal and her time spent in the buildings, and, days spent with Board members; she comes with confidence as principal to the YCMS staff/students.
- *Taryn Willis* (Communication/Marketing Coordinator) gave a brief update on the upcoming March F.A.C.E. Conference. Currently, we are at 80% capacity. Encouraged those who plan to attend to register, sooner than later. Registration can be completed on our website.
- *Zachery-Ross* recognized Director of District Operations Aaron Rose and his staff for the recent deep cleaning of surfaces/classrooms for the health and well-being of our students/staff.
- *Hawkins* commented on a WIHI event with Mr. Fox. Comments on the upcoming February Equity Challenge Summit. Acknowledgement of Black Lives Matters (ie, resolution, flag) and other events that have been incorporated into curriculum.

RECESS: Approximately 8:00 – 8:04 p.m.

RECESS TO CLOSED SESSION – Section 8 (a) OMA, Employee Requested

MOTION TO convene in closed session under Section 8(a) of the OMA: Employee- Requested session.

Motion by Lee, supported by Ream Gainsley

Roll Call Vote: 5/0 Yes

Yes: Meadows, Ream Gainsley, Champagne, Lee, Hawkins

The meeting was called to closed session at 8:04 p.m. The meeting reconvened to open session at 8:25 p.m.

ACTION ITEM/Employment Consideration


MOTION TO approve the employment of the presented paraeducator candidate.

Motion by Meadows, supported by Champagne

Roll Call Vote: 5/0 Yes

Yes: Meadows, Ream Gainsley, Champagne, Lee, Hawkins

Meeting Adjourned: 8:26 p.m.

Minutes Prepared by: Paula Gutzman 

Date Approved: March 9, 2020



Sharon Lee, Secretary
Board of Education
Ypsilanti Community Schools