

YPSILANTI COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

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

MINUTES: REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Monday, March 9, 2020

The meeting was called to order by President Dr. Celeste Hawkins at 6:31 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, led by Washtenaw International Middle Academy (WIMA) students and Principal Nhu Do.

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION PRESENT

President Dr. Celeste Hawkins, Vice-President Brenda Meadows, Secretary Maria Sheler-Edwards (6:41 arrival), Treasurer Gillian Ream Gainsley, Trustee Sharon Lee, Trustee Meredith Schindler

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION ABSENT

Trustee Ellen Champagne

ACHIEVEMENTS, AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

WIMA Points of Pride included: 1) Black History Month Celebration & Participation; 2) EMU Mentoring Partnership; 3) Place Out of Time Partnership with the University of Michigan; 4) WIMA & WIHI Annual Career Day; 5) WIMA Field Trips for All Grade Levels; 6) Healthy Schools Own-A-Bike Program, and; 7) Design Technology Submissions Beyond the Walls of WIMA.

Acknowledgement: Superintendent Alena Zachery-Ross honored each Board member with a carnation. The flower was in recognition of Women's History Month. Zachery-Ross recognized the Board's tenacity, dedication, leadership, support and dedication.

ACCEPTANCE OF "AMENDED" AGENDA: Accepted as Amended

Motion by Lee, supported by Schindler

Action Recorded: 5/Yes; 0/No

(Sheler-Edwards arrival)

PRESENTATIONS

Read by Grade 3, An Overview of the Law: Assistant Superintendent Dr. Carlos Lopez gave an overview of the "Read by Grade Three" law, including the five components of this law. This legislation, passed in Michigan in 2016, is Public Act 306. Lopez provided the following information/packets: 1) Read by Grade Three (RBG3) Introduction; 2) RBG3, Board Presentation; 3) RBG3 M-Step Criteria; 4) RBG3 Facts for Families, and; 5) RGB3 Facts, Good Cause Exemption. There was also dialogue on a RBG3 family letter, which was distributed to parents on Friday.

Request for Proposal (RFP): Director of District Operations Aaron Rose, at the request of the Board of Education subcommittee, explored cost savings opportunities for energy performance. Currently, there are 14 buildings in the District that we are managing, including five different platforms (some which come as a result of the Willow Run:Ypsilanti Public consolidation). Rose gave a presentation regarding the results of the RFP for our energy management system. He requested this item be considered as an action item later in the agenda due to the timeline in order to have the work completed prior to summer work. An approval by the Board tonight, will result in Rose working with Thrun Law Firm to develop the agreement; the agreement would be presented to the vendor so that work may begin in early April.

PUBLIC COMMENTS #1

Debra Stevens commented on summer school

CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION TO approve the: 1) February 17, 2020 Regular Meeting Minutes; 2) February 17, 2020 Closed Session Meeting Minutes, and ... 3) personnel matters as per the attached list dated March 2, 2020: Retirees, New Hires & Resignations.

Motion by Gainsley, supported by Schindler

Action Recorded: 6/Yes; 0/No

PUBLIC COMMENTS #2: None

ACTION ITEMS, Student Affairs

Grant Award: College Football Playoff Foundation | MAC 2019/20 School Grants

MOTION TO accept a \$5,000 2019/20 school grant award from the College Football Playoff Foundation | Mid American Conference.

Motion by Meadows, supported by Schindler

Roll Call Vote: 6/0 Yes

Yes: Meadows, Gainsley, Schindler, Sheler-Edwards, Lee, Hawkins

Donation: District, Donor - Unite Church

MOTION TO accept an anticipated \$2,000 cash donation from Unite Church on behalf of the District for the 2020 Family and Community Empowerment (F.A.C.E.) Conference.

Motion by Meadows, supported by Lee

Action Recorded: 6/Yes; 0/No

Donation: District, Donor - NAMI

MOTION TO accept an anticipated \$1,000 cash donation from the National Alliance on Mental Illness on behalf of the District for the 2020 Family and Community Empowerment (F.A.C.E.) Conference.

Motion by Schindler, supported by Meadows

Action Recorded: 6/Yes; 0/No

Donation: District, Donor - Chartwells Schools Dining Services

MOTION TO accept an anticipated \$2,000 cash donation from Chartwells Schools Dining Services on behalf of the District for the 2020 Family and Community Empowerment (F.A.C.E.) Conference.

Motion by Lee, supported by Schindler

Action Recorded: 6/Yes; 0/No

ACTION ITEMS, Business/Finance

RFP Recommendation: Energy Management System

MOTION TO approve the bid award to Trane Inc. to serve as the District's Energy Management System Contractor.

Motion by Meadows, supported by Lee

Roll Call Vote: 6/0 Yes

Yes: Meadows, Gainsley, Schindler, Sheler-Edwards, Lee, Hawkins

Lease: Hope Community Church

MOTION TO approve the lease with Landlord Hope Community Church, 2100 Ellsworth - Ypsilanti, MI 48197, and YCS as Tenant at this building for a lease period of October 11, 2020 - October 10, 2021.

Motion by Meadows, supported by Lee

Roll Call Vote: 6/0 Yes

Yes: Meadows, Gainsley, Schindler, Sheler-Edwards, Lee, Hawkins

Lease: Frank Norton #1 of 2, Chapelle Rooms 146 & 148

MOTION TO approve the lease with Frank Norton III, for room rentals at Chapelle Business Center, for a lease period of February 1, 2020 – January 31, 2021.

Motion by Schindler, supported by Gainsley

Roll Call Vote: 6/0 Yes

Yes: Meadows, Gainsley, Schindler, Sheler-Edwards, Lee, Hawkins

Lease: Frank Norton #2 of 2, Room #116

MOTION TO approve the Chapelle Business Center lease with Frank Norton III, for a lease period of January 1, 2020 – December 31, 2020.

Motion by Schindler, supported by Meadows

Roll Call Vote: 6/0 Yes

Yes: Meadows, Gainsley, Schindler, Sheler-Edwards, Lee, Hawkins

Lease: Mentor 2 Youth

MOTION TO approve the lease with Mentor 2 Youth at the Chapelle Business Center, with a lease period of December 1, 2019 – November 30, 2020.

Motion by Meadows, supported by Schindler

Roll Call Vote: 6/0 Yes

Yes: Meadows, Gainsley, Schindler, Sheler-Edwards, Lee, Hawkins

OTHER

- *Sheler-Edwards* referenced old lease contracts. *Zachery-Ross*: old contracts on way out. Migrating toward boiler plate agreements; not all leases are aligned at this time.
- *Schindler* was grateful for the donors. She referenced a coronavirus message she sent *Zachery-Ross* today.
- *Multiple Board members* acknowledged the multiple donors and Communications/Marketing Coordinator *Taryn Willis* and Assistant Superintendent *Dr. Carlos Lopez* for their work on the FACE conference. *Willis* shared there are 650 people registered for the conference, plus there is a waiting list; with vendors/volunteers – there will be about 1,000 people in the building.
- *Sheler-Edwards* spoke of the recent realtor breakfast, commenting on hearing our story being told.
- *Board/Superintendent* dialogue on coronavirus/COVID-19 concerns, including our pandemic guidelines (thank you, *Dr. Lopez*). Other dialogue included the extra sanitizing efforts, worse case scenarios, online schooling/instructional models, internet access, update meetings with YCS/WISD/Health Department administration and others, and, spring break travel. We are being proactive; not reactive. There are plans in place, which will be updated as we move forward.
- *Gainsley* commented on those we feed. *Zachery-Ross* shared our Director of Food Service *Tiffany Houston* is applying for an emergency grant.
- *Zachery-Ross* commented on a recent hand sanitizer distribution to buildings. Approximately 3,000 travel size bottles were donated/distributed. Lastly, reminder of the March 19th WASB M. L. King event.

BOARD/SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS

- *Taryn Willis* (Communications/Marketing Coordinator) commented on the Teacher of the Year/E3 award.

REQUEST FOR 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 Meadows

Roll Call Vote: 6/0 Yes

Yes: Meadows, Gainsley, Schindler, Sheler-Edwards, Lee, Hawkins

The meeting was called to closed session at 8:18 p.m. The meeting reconvened to open session at 8:38 p.m.

Added Item: REQUEST FOR CLOSED SESSION – Section 8 (h) OMA, Attorney/Client Privilege

MOTION TO convene in closed session under Section 8(h) of the OMA: Attorney/Client Privilege.

Motion by Lee, supported by Schindler

Roll Call Vote: 6/0 Yes

Yes: Meadows, Gainsley, Schindler, Sheler-Edwards, Lee, Hawkins

The meeting was called to closed session at 8:40 p.m. The meeting reconvened to open session at 8:53 p.m.

ACTION ITEM/Employment Consideration (Potential New Hire: Approval of Employment)

MOTION TO approve the employment of the presented food service candidate.

Motion by Schindler, supported by Sheler-Edwards

Roll Call Vote: 6/0 Yes

Yes: Meadows, Gainsley, Schindler, Sheler-Edwards, Lee, Hawkins

Added Item: ACTION ITEM/Delegate Authority to Superintendent (to sign a Separation Agreement for Release to Superintendent or her Designee)

MOTION TO delegate authority to sign a separation agreement for release to the Superintendent or her designee.

Motion by Lee, supported by Schindler

Roll Call Vote: 6/0 Yes

Yes: Meadows, Gainsley, Schindler, Sheler-Edwards, Lee, Hawkins

Meeting Adjourned: 8:56 p.m.

Minutes Prepared by: Paula Gutzman

Date Approved: March 23, 2020



Sharon Lee, Secretary
Board of Education
Ypsilanti Community Schools