

REGULAR MEETING Agenda | Electronic Meeting VIA Zoom; see "IMPORTANT MESSAGE(S) REGARDING THIS MEETING" (Monday, September 13, 2021)

Generated by Julie Haines on Monday, September 13, 2021

Members present

Dr Celeste Hawkins, Gillian Ream Gainsley, Ellen Champagne, Sharon Lee, Meredith Schindler, Yvonne Fields, Maria Goodrich

Meeting called to order at 6:30 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. IMPORTANT MESSAGE(S) REGARDING THIS ELECTRONIC MEETING

Information: A. Electronic Meeting (via Zoom) In Accordance with DHHS Emergency Order and PA 254 of 2020; COVID-19

IMPORTANT MESSAGE: This meeting of the Ypsilanti Community Schools Board of Education will proceed electronically in accordance with DHHS Emergency Order and PA 254 of 2020.

If participants do not have technology access, please contact our Director of Technology Nik Jackson for accommodation: techdirector@yoschools.us.

Public viewers please use the following link to watch the live stream: <https://www.facebook.com/ypsilanticommunityschools>

-or join directly on Zoom-

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83401100127>

The public can register their attendance at the following link. If they would like to ask a question or make a public comment to the Board, there is a place for that, as well:

- Live form: http://bit.ly/YCS_BOE_Comments
- Call in to speak during public comments time: **734-221-1204**

As public comments come in, they will be collected in the order received in the following spreadsheet. Board and Cabinet are the only ones with access:

- Formatted Public Comments: https://bit.ly/YCS_BOE_FormattedComments
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Information: B. Electronic Meeting Guidelines

ELECTRONIC MEETING GUIDELINES: Because electronic meetings are new to the Ypsilanti Community Schools Board of Education, it is appropriate to outline those procedures which may vary from typical meeting procedures.

#1: Board members will be asked to state their name when making motions and seconds for the benefit of the audience.

#2: All votes are urged to be taken by roll call for clarity.

#3: The Chair will strive to recognize Board members by name before they speak. In the event this does not happen, trustees are encouraged to announce their own name or may be reminded to do so.

#4: Audience members will be muted until recognized by the Chair during public comment(s).

#5: People who speak during public comment time will be asked to state their name and topic before speaking.

#6: If there is a closed session in a meeting, it will take place in a separate Zoom session. The regular meeting will remain open until the Board returns from closed session.

#7: Board members must avoid using email, texting, instant messaging and other electronic forms to communicate with each other or with members of the public during the meeting.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Dr. Celeste Hawkins, Board President

4. ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA

Action: A. Acceptance of Agenda

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

Motion by Maria Goodrich, second by Meredith Schindler.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Dr Celeste Hawkins, Gillian Ream Gainsley, Ellen Champagne, Sharon Lee, Meredith Schindler, Yvonne Fields, Maria Goodrich

5. PRESENTATION

Ms. Germany, Chair and President Germany Ballintyn Education Foundation is honored to present to the Ypsilanti Community School Board of Education The Germany Ballintyn Scholars Program. This program is proposed to begin this fall with (20) 4th-grade students within our (4) elementary buildings. selected by the district.

The goal of the Scholars Program is to provide supplemental STEM education to students whose aspiration is a college education.

Ms. Germany is a proud 1974 graduate of Ypsilanti Community Schools having also attended George Elementary School and East Junior High School. She earned a BS in Chemical Engineering from the University of Michigan in 1979 and an MBA in Finance from the University of Connecticut in 1988. Her career spanned 40 years...10 years as a material scientist, 15 years as a partner at Booz

Allen Hamilton, and 15 years as Chief Strategy & Marketing Officer and President China and India at Honeywell. She is now retired and serves as a member of five company Boards of Directors. She spends much of her time mentoring young students and is also on the University of Michigan Engineering School Chemical Engineering's Advisory Board. [Click here to view presentation.](#)

6. PUBLIC COMMENTS #1: Electronic Participation

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.

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Public caller on the line: I was calling because I have put in an application with you guys for bus monitoring and every time I keep calling I'm getting the run around about my application being hired. I just want to get your feedback on my application.

2 Boy Scouts were present at the meeting:

Will Edwards: Well, I know that we're both working on our Citizenship in the Community merit badges attending a public meeting to learn about an issue that we want to talk about. I went to WIHI and graduated last year, so I'm very interested to see what it's like on the inside of these meetings to see how stuff gets put into school, so thank you guys so much for everything you do.

Reed Maes: Hello board, to start off, thank you for letting me be here tonight, my name is Reed Maes and I am from troop 290 in Ypsilanti, Michigan. Currently I'm a life scout and I'm a sophomore going to WIHI, and I am part of the YCS varsity baseball team and the YCS varsity swim team and also doing marching band for YCS. So relating to swim team, I know that the pool is under renovation right now. I am asking if I can get a timeline update on that to see if it's going to be finished before the boy season starts in late November/early December.

Dr. Hawkins read public comments.

Amanda Smith - Every year, I become increasingly appreciative of the sheer amount of logistics our district faces. I am grateful no decisions are made lightly, and that equity is at the root of everything this district does. With COVID, this year is no exception, and at no fault of yours, the rule book continues to rewrite itself throughout. Thank you for everything you have done to put protocols in place to keep our kids, staff, and community safe.

There are a few things I'm learning through the lens of my almost 7-year-old, that give me pause and makes me wonder if there are breakdowns in communication that lead to less than full implementation of these protocols. 1. I would love some clarity on how you are tracking community spread when cases arise. It seems there is assigned seating in my daughter's classroom, but not at lunch when the children are unmasked. I'm hearing from my daughter that she sits with different children every day at lunch and even some kids from other classrooms. How are you keeping track of which children are eating near each other? 2. How are we defining close contact? There is a definite disconnect between parent expectation and the implemented policies. Most parents I've spoken with would like to know if there has been a positive COVID case identified in our child's classroom. Parents who are able would happily keep their kids home and/or increase testing at home to decrease spread of COVID. We aren't able to take extra steps if we don't have good information. 3. Are we taking full advantage of these last few weeks of good weather? Are there additional opportunities in which lunch or class could be done outside? Spread of COVID is significantly reduced when folks are outside. 4. We were told classroom windows will be open. I'm hearing from my child that windows have been closed. 5. Similarly, I expected bus windows to be open. I have never seen bus windows open any of the times I've been at the bus stops. Today, my daughter was asked to share a seat with another child when I was under the impression that seats would only be shared by siblings. I would appreciate any clarity on the protocols you set up, and additional communication within your team because these protocols will be zero percent effective if they are not implemented.

I am very anxious about what this fall will bring, but remain extremely appreciative of the entire YCS team. Thank you.

Foster - In what ways is the Germany Ballintyn Education Foundation project coordinating with the district around current district/MDE academic standards and/or planning to adapt in the event that those standards change over time?

7. CONSENT AGENDA

Action (Consent), Minutes, Report: A. Consent Agenda

Resolution: ... MOVE THAT the Board of Education approve the: 1) August 16, 2021, Regular Meeting Minutes 2) Personnel matters as per the presented list dated 9/7/21; New Hires and Resignations.

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

- 1) August 16, 2021, Regular Meeting Minutes
- 2) Personnel matters as per the presented list dated 9/7/21; New Hires and Resignations.

Motion by Sharon Lee, second by Maria Goodrich.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Dr Celeste Hawkins, Gillian Ream Gainsley, Ellen Champagne, Sharon Lee, Meredith Schindler, Yvonne Fields, Maria Goodrich

8. PUBLIC COMMENTS #2: Electronic Participation

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9. BOARD/SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS

Trustee Fields: I attended the hall of fame ceremony on Friday evening. It was really, really nice and beautiful to see all the inductees that they had. It was a welcome invitation. They gladly welcomed having board presence there. It was very interesting listening to the bios from all of their different inductees and we even had one that went back as far as 1921. He passed but that was just really great to hear that they take some thought and planning into how they elect the different inductees. I also attended the football game. I wasn't excited because we didn't win but that was nice and they also did a ceremony again during the halftime at the football game.

Trustee Goodrich: I just wanted to quickly express appreciation for the district's presence at the Parkridge summer festival and say how great it was to see everybody out and representing our district and helping to get out great information and connecting families and students with the opportunities that our district has to offer.

Superintendent Zachery-Ross: I want to thank our Community for their patience and support during this time as we start up while still in a pandemic especially with our buses. We know that the bus schedules have changed and they have been late and parents have given us such grace. So I want to just thank you all. I've seen some of you while we've been going around on the routes so we can at least talk to parents and try to mitigate some of the angst, because not knowing where your child is would be just terrifying and I certainly apologize and just want to ensure that we are working diligently just to continue to make sure that we make the corrections. We've added routes. People have given us that some routes have been too far and some routes have had to be moved and we are doing those things, every day. The transportation department has been working every weekend to ensure that they tie up all of the loose ends that are created during the week. They have to be then be uploaded so thank you for your patience and know that they continue to work so we have a quicker delivery of your students. I want to thank our staff because, due to our first tier so oftentimes being late, our staff have kept students in the classroom after school. So thank you to our staff who have joined in, pitched in, some have even gone to the bus depot because all of the office staff are working on the buses, so they go to answer the phones. I again thank our YCS Community for all working together. The food Service staff - when buses are late, they ensure that there is food and they've extended their breakfast hours which then impacts their lunch hours and packing food, so this is not only a transportation concern. It does impact the entire organization, so thank you to all of you. It is a priority. We are working to find out what we can do at the first tier so that those can be on time because it then will impact the second and third tiers. That is the priority, so when we have somebody saying they're applying to be a monitor as soon as we get you through (there's an entire process at the state level that's well beyond the district level) the process, you can be with us, so please be patient. Apply. We need people in food service, custodial, and transportation. We want to encourage you to apply. We need you and we can work together to ensure that our students are safe and that our students are back home on time.

The health department is working on understanding what these changes are in terms of the new MDHHS order. We are meeting with the health department and said they are waiting on their attorneys to get direction on what to tell us to do so at this point we are staying the course. Things could change in terms of testing, in terms of quarantining, in terms of close contact, in terms of vaccine requirements. At this time, we are still following the previous Washtenaw County Health Department orders. We have partnered with Michigan Medicine. They will be doing a training with Eastern Michigan University nursing students to offer PCR testing twice a week in district and antigen testing Monday through Thursday in district. Part of the quarantine rules are, if you are close contacted, you receive a letter that was created by the health department and it's individualized per student for the close contact and if persons want to attend school or be able to work they have to be tested twice a week. We know the MDHHS order says, three times a week and then there's part of it, where there's every day there's testing and so that's the part of clarification, but right now any close contact receives the phone call. They receive the close contact letter. The building gets a building letter. There's no classroom letter

and we use the letters that come from the health department. Those are the only approved letters and we use those letters that are approved from the health department and they are close contact letter and they are the whole school letter. In addition, with close contacts, we call the health department every time and they go through the class list and we confirm, if there's a positive case that all of those are noted in their system and the close contact list. We call, as a courtesy, it is supposed to be the health department that calls, but sometimes their call is late, so we want to call, because we know parents, staff members want to know as soon as possible, and so we call to make sure that that is a timely phone call. You might receive an additional call from the health department because that is their responsibility. We take it personally and want to make sure we're making the call. Again the PCR tests and antigen tests will be offered in district. People can go anywhere, they can go to CVS, Walgreens. It's just not accepted to do the at-home testing kits. Those are not approved by the health department. This process with Michigan Medicine, we are working through that and the communication. It again is directly Michigan Medicine and their college students who they train and approve that are in nursing programs or other medical programs through the university. We do not want our staff to administer those tests. More details about that will be coming in a communication, I just wanted to make sure that we clarify that we are working to do that starting next week. They are by appointment only because they don't want to backup systems They're offering it throughout the district and rotating in all of our elementary, middle, and high schools. So it'll be about once a month and there's a rotation and a calendar will be provided so that if a parent, if a staff member, if anyone just wants testing or is a close contact, they can make an appointment. The one thing is, if people are sick, they are not to be tested here. They are to stay home. We know that allergy season is coming and all these other things, but it's for people who are either close contacts, or just want to have those weekly checks who wants to be proactive. It is not for "if I'm sick, I come to the school." They have other drive up clinics and other clinics that they can direct people to with the link that we will be able to give out in our letter that is coming out. The letter will be from Michigan Medicine and from us, just to clarify the process. It is their process. I just want to share those things today as that is something that just everyday this COVID is changing. What we learn, the processes, the procedures and once we receive the final information from Washtenaw county health department, I will bring that and share that with parents and the board and our staff.

Dr. Hawkins: I wanted to thank Dr. Zachery-Ross for that additional context. All of us know that the guidance is changing almost every day and I just appreciate the district's hard work and commitment and dedication to making sure they are responding, and they are sharing information with us as quickly as they can, as the guidance changes.

Vice President Lee: Allergy season is coming. If they do have allergies and they flare up, are you letting them come to work or are they coming to work or are they staying home?

Superintendent Zachery-Ross: We still have the screener and that is in place with the Washtenaw county health department and it does ask if you're not feeling well for you to stay home, that is one of the questions. So a person should use their pto days and stay home. There's so much unknown about this delta variant, Lambda variant, and now mew that we want to error on the side of caution. I just really urge everyone at this point not come into work sick. I've done it so many times but I can't do that anymore. I need to check myself. Every single one of us is doing this for each other. We doing it for our students, for our colleagues, for our whole community, because we don't want to Community spread. We don't want to school spread and I just encourage if someone's not feeling well to please stay home – students, staff alike.

Trustee Schindler: For the paid time off, if they're not feeling, are we doing anything to, if we want teachers to stay home if they're not feeling well like if they have to quarantine for COVID, eventually when you're at the end of your paid time off, then you can really stay home, we are helping teachers.

Superintendent Zachery-Ross: Last year we did. This year we don't have the funding to do that. Last year, there was a 40 or 80 hours program, it was call EFMLA or ETSLA but they're both now no longer valid. So we just went through an audit, how would we pay that. Last year we paid it through those two programs. It would be like we would give people days that aren't in the contract.

Trustee Schindler: I totally get that. It just seems hard to ask people to stay home if they're feeling sick, which is exactly what they should do, but they run out their pto because they have the sniffles. I just hate to see the teachers penalized, even though I understand that we have our hands tied, and I know you know that too. So I'm just hoping that we can find some funding that can help the teachers stay home without penalty when they need to.

Trustee Gainsley: I did attend the strategic planning session that featured the students that Mary facilitated. It was a good session, really important to hear from students and I just want to suggest and mention that it was really refreshing and fulfilling to hear directly from students on what they thought of the district, and one of the things I started thinking is is there a way that we could start to incorporate some of that feedback more formally into our board process so I'm just going to throw that out there as an idea, right now but it was just really, really great to hear from students. There were students there from WIHI, from AC tech, from STEM. There were not any students from ACCE and I really wish that they had been represented as part of that that event.

Superintendent Zachery-Ross: We invited students from each of the schools and the middle school.

Trustee Gainsley: There was one student from the middle school. I was glad that she arrived. Trustee Goodrich and I both attended the opening of the new YC2S online school and there was just the enthusiasm. It's a great team. They're really incredible folks that I've like known from other buildings who have come together to make that school possible and so it's just a ton of enthusiasm and I just really commend the district for seizing the opportunity to launch this program that I think is going to be a valuable program for a long time.

Dr. Hawkins: I echo your sentiments. I think engaging student voice is always a great thing for any school board to do, any district to do, and I know that Dr. Zachery-Ross has a whole plan around that and she is moving forward and at some point will share all of that with the board so you are your timing is perfect. I think having a formalized way to be able to get that on going feedback from our young people is exactly what we should be doing as a board of education, so thank you so much for bringing that forward.

10. ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING
Meeting was adjourned at 7:47 p.m.