

This meeting was held via remote/electronic participation in accordance with Governor Gretchen Whitmer's Executive Order 2020-129 (COVID-19). The Technology Department navigated Public Comments by a phone line and a Google Doc; instructions were included in the Board packet. All meeting votes were called by "roll call".

**YPSILANTI COMMUNITY SCHOOLS; 1885 Packard Road; Ypsilanti, MI 48197**

**MINUTES: REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION (Meeting #2 of 2)**

**Monday, June 29, 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 President Dr. Celeste Hawkins.

**MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION PRESENT**

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

**MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION ABSENT**

Trustee Maria Sheler-Edwards

**IMPORTANT MESSAGE(S) REGARDING THIS MEETING; See Board Packet for Details**

*Amended with Updated Information* | Electronic Meeting (via Google Hangouts) In Accordance with Governor Whitmer's Executive Order listed above.

Electronic Meeting Guidelines

*Added* | **PROPOSED DISCUSSION: Follow-Up Conversation on Police Contracts**

Regarding follow-up conversation on police contracts. Hawkins asked: follow-up discussion at this meeting, or wait until July? Board consensus to wait until July.

**ACCEPTANCE OF " AMENDED" AGENDA:** The "amended" agenda was accepted. Amendments: 1) *Amended*, Electronic Meeting (via Google Hangouts In Accordance with Governor's Executive Order; COVID-19; 2) *Added*, Discussion: Solidarity Statement on Equity; 3) *Added*, Approval of YCEA Tentative Agreement, and; 4) *Added*, Discussion: Police Contracts.

*Motion by Lee, supported by Schindler*

*Roll Call Vote: 6/0*

*Yes: Meadows, Gainsley, Champagne, Schindler, Lee, Hawkins*

**PRESENTATIONS**

**Recognition of 2019/20 Retirees of Ypsilanti Community Schools:** Director of Human Resources Sue McCarty recognized the retirees. Retirees Kristen Kreiner and Oswaldo Gutierrez shared comments.

Congratulations to ...

**William Burnette:** RCTC Auto Body Teacher, Ypsilanti Community High School

**Bettie Cobbs:** ParaEducator, Holmes Elementary

**Oswaldo Gutierrez:** ParaEducator, Ypsilanti Community Middle School

**Coletcher Johnson:** Food Service Staff, Washtenaw International Middle Academy

**Kristen Kreiner:** Science Teacher, Ypsilanti Community Middle School

**Toyia Martin:** Receptionist, Perry Early Learning Center

**Gilda Myles:** Special Education Teacher, Ypsilanti Community Middle School

**Lynne Settles:** Art Teacher, Ypsilanti Community High School

**Sylvia Spikes:** Media Specialist, Ford Early Learning Center & Holmes Elementary

YCS Online Learning Program: Assistant Superintendent Dr. Carlos Lopez shared a PowerPoint overview on this 2020/21 learning opportunity. Some may need/prefer an online option. There will be a Town Hall next week. Highlights of the presentation included: our YCS vision, general information, online learning programs and coursework. Some lessons will be “live”, some recorded. Mentors will work closely with families. Zachery-Ross shares a caviat of the program: if we do not offer the course as face-to-face instruction, it can not be offered online. Discussion of marketing this program.

Added | DISCUSSION: Solidarity Statement on Equity

Hawkins read the statement aloud (see attached), encouraging all to read the email that was sent out. As a Board and a District, we are committed to provide equity and inclusion to each student and staff member.

Zachery-Ross shared responses, including: Yolanda Ruiz will return to work with staff; there will be a Student Advisory Council; a Youth Teaching Counsel will be introduced; peer-to-peer youth mentoring; home/school/family relationships; deep commitment with equity work; ethnically diverse and valuing each for who they are, and; moving forward to take action.

Board member comments included addressing the trauma of viewing of the George Floyd video, social/emotional piece, strong/clear statements and work to back them up, sources of equity/racism, the statement is timely, appreciation for Hawkins crafting the statement, pursuing racial justice, Black Lives Matter resolution passed, an appreciation in moving this forward and solidarity of the Board, Dr. Dorinda Carter’s work continuing, introduction of a Superintendent’s Student Council

**PUBLIC COMMENTS #1/Electronic Participation:**

Hawkins read protocol. Ms. J. Founder commented on mental health/abuse. Lamar Weir introduced himself as Field Representative/Congresswoman Dingell’s Office; his contact information: [lamar.weir@mail.house.gov](mailto:lamar.weir@mail.house.gov) or 313.320.2307. Gail Wolkoff spoke of School Resource Officers. Ozzie Gutierrez, retiree, stated his thanks for working with students over the years. Kari Safieddine inquired on online teachers.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

MOTION TO approve the: 1) June 8, 2020 regular meeting minutes, and; 2) personnel matters as per the attached list dated June 22, 2020.

*Motion by Schindler, supported by Meadows*

*Roll Call Vote: 6/0*

*Yes: Schindler, Lee, Gainsley, Meadows, Champagne, Hawkins*

**ACTION ITEMS, Student Affairs**

**Imagine Learning**

MOTION TO approve the Imagine Learning purchase, Quote #153368, in the amount of \$115,000.

*Motion by Lee, supported by Gainsley*

*Roll Call Vote: 6/0 Yes*

*Yes: Lee, Gainsley, Meadows, Champagne, Schindler, Hawkins*

**NWEA Purchase**

MOTION TO approve the the NWEA purchase, Sales Order #00029020, in the amount of \$42,136.

*Motion by Gainsley, supported by Schindler*

*Roll Call Vote: 6/0 Yes*

*Yes: Champagne, Gainsley, Lee, Meadows, Schindler, Hawkins*

**ACTION ITEMS, Business/Finance**

**RESOLUTION, 2019/20 Year-End Budget Amendment**

MOTION TO approve the presented resolution for the 2019/20 June budget amendment, with a projected \$5,994,240 fund balance ending June 30, 2020.

*Motion by Schindler, supported by Gainsley*

*Roll Call Vote: 6/0 Yes*

*Yes: Gainsley, Lee, Schindler, Champagne, Meadows, Hawkins*

**RESOLUTION, 2020/21 Initial Budget**

MOTION TO approve the attached 2020/21 General Appropriations Resolution.

*Motion by Gainsley, supported by Schindler*

*Roll Call Vote: 6/0 Yes*

*Yes: Lee, Schindler, Champagne, Meadows, Gainsley, Hawkins*

**RESOLUTION, GASB 84**

MOTION TO approve the adoption of the presented resolution for fiscal year 2020/21 due to the Mandatory Implementation of GASB 84 Rule.

*Motion by Lee, supported by Champagne*

*Roll Call Vote: 6/0 Yes*

*Yes: Meadows, Gainsley, Champagne, Schindler, Lee, Hawkins*

**RESOLUTION, State Aid Anticipation Note**

MOTION TO approve the Resolution Authorizing Issuance of Notes in Anticipation of State School Aid (August 2020 Borrowing Through the Michigan Finance Authority), authorizing the issuance of up to \$6,500,000 of state aid anticipation notes through the Michigan Finance Authority's state aid anticipation program.

*Motion by Schindler, supported by Lee*

*Roll Call Vote: 6/0 Yes*

*Yes: Gainsley, Champagne, Schindler, Lee, Meadows, Hawkins*

**Millage Rates | L-4029s**

MOTION TO approve the millage rates of the 2020 Tax Rate Request | L-4029s, as presented, for Superior Township, Ypsilanti Township and the City of Ypsilanti.

*Motion by Gainsley, supported by Schindler*

*Roll Call Vote: 6/0 Yes*

*Yes: Champagne, Schindler, Lee, Meadows, Gainsley, Hawkins*

**FSMC Fixed Price Contract Renewal**

MOTION TO accept the Contract Renewal Agreement – FSMC Fixed Price Contract for the period of July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021.

*Motion by Gainsley, supported by Champagne*

*Roll Call Vote: 6/0 Yes*

*Yes: Schindler, Lee, Meadows, Gainsley, Champagne, Hawkins*

**ACTION ITEMS, Human Resources**

**Consideration of Hire**

MOTION TO authorize the hire of employee.

*Motion by Lee, supported by Champagne*

*Roll Call Vote: 6/0 Yes*

*Yes: Lee, Meadows, Gainsley, Champagne, Schindler, Hawkins*

Added | **YCEA Tentative Agreement**

MOTION TO approve the tentative agreement for the YCEA bargaining unit.

*Motion by Lee, supported by Schindler*

*Roll Call Vote: 6/0 Yes*

*Yes: Meadows, Gainsley, Champagne, Lee, Schindler, Hawkins*

**ACTION ITEMS, Other**

**Michigan Association of School Boards, Membership Renewal**

MOTION TO approve the 2020/21 renewal of membership with the Michigan Association of School Boards, at a cost of \$6,759.

*Motion by Schindler, supported by Lee*

*Roll Call Vote: 6/0 Yes*

*Yes: Meadows, Gainsley, Champagne, Schindler, Lee, Hawkins*

**PUBLIC COMMENTS #2/Electronic Participation:** *None*

**OTHER**

- *Zachery-Ross* invited Dr. Mark Coscarella to share comments with the Board.

**BOARD/SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS**

- *Meadows* commented on the: 1) superintendent and staff for the budget and crafting it into three tiers; 2) solidarity statement crafted by Hawkins; 3) equity work of the Board; 4) the work of the teaching staff during COVID-19, and the tireless commitment to our students, and; 5) our Seniors and graduation.
- *Schindler* echoed many comments of Meadows.
- *Gainsley*: 1) echoed many comments of Meadows, 2) commented on YCHS staff and students, and; 3) just received an alert on her phone – governor announced budget for next year.
- *Zachery-Ross* commented on: 1) the Senior celebration; missing a ceremony at EMU; 2) congratulations to the YCHS student nominated in the Ann Arbor news for his passion of community service; “Washtenaw County’s 2020 Young Citizen of the Year”, and; 3) Town Halls on July 8<sup>th</sup> and August 5<sup>th</sup>, hoping parents join in online; conversation on safety, learning models, technology, finances, food service, and, athletics.
- *Hawkins* comments included: 1) echoed many comments; 2) the Class of 2020 will be remembered; they will be resilient, and, thanked teachers and parents.

*Meeting Adjourned: 8:27 p.m.*

*Attachment: Statement of Solidarity, June 29, 2020*

*Minutes Prepared by: Paula Gutzman*



Sharon Lee, Secretary  
Board of Education  
Ypsilanti Community Schools

June 29, 2020 board meeting remarks (discussion)

Hello YCS Community,

By now, you all should have received an email that includes a statement of solidarity and action plan that was sent to our YCS community and stakeholders.

I think it is important to read parts of the statement publicly for those of you who are joining us for our meeting this evening. After the statement is read, Superintendent Zachery-Ross will lead a discussion on the YCS call to action and plan moving forward.

Over the past few weeks, most of us have watched in disbelief, outrage, and anger, a series of racial incidents, including the most recent brutal murder of George Floyd in Minneapolis at the hands of police officers. Incidents like these even in our own community, provide moments to act, stand firm, and speak loudly and clearly -- that hate, discrimination, and racism in any form are not acceptable and will not be tolerated. We join with others in condemning the individuals and actions that caused George Floyd's death and commit to an unwavering denunciation of hate, racism, violence, and police brutality that continues to permeate our communities. Unfortunately, we are witnessing how racial violence, racial microaggressions, discrimination, harassment, and willful disregard for humanity has plagued our country for generations and continues to go largely unchecked.

Like all of you, we've witnessed citizens around the world protest racial violence and discrimination and we are inspired to see individuals and communities come together through words and action to stand against our nation's systemic and institutionalized structures of racism that are deeply entrenched in our nation. We are also heart-broken that in the midst of the protests and civil unrest, yet another black life was needlessly taken when Rayshard Brooks was killed by the police in Atlanta. And, while not deadly, the actions of a white San Francisco skincare CEO and her husband captured in a now viral video confronting a man writing Black Lives Matter on his own property, point to the racism prevalent in our society and the common microaggressions experienced by people of color daily. These incidents individually and collectively must be called out as we demand change and justice.

It is our obligation to be part of the solution and not to further inequities, injustices, and racism. It is emotionally exhausting and hard to breathe and exist in a world where we are living through a pandemic and protests simultaneously that largely impact black and brown communities. Black people are constantly under surveillance, suspicion, questioned, doubted, minimized, overlooked, profiled, and killed. The daily microaggressions minoritized people experience is absolutely exhausting and **there is no part of YCS, the School Board, and the Ypsilanti community that is exempt from these experiences.** During this time, we urge folks to not place the burden on black and brown communities to figure this out. If you identify as white, please do not ask what can be done, but instead enter into that conversation as a white person sharing what you are willing to do. We want white people to educate themselves, talk to their white friends, and listen to what people of color have literally been screaming about for years.

*As we grapple with the myriad of issues facing our country, we must continue to demonstrate leadership, compassion, and advocacy to call attention to the most pressing issues facing America today -- concerns that have often been met with resistance and have afflicted this nation for far too long -- dating back to 1619, as August 20, 2019 marked the 400th anniversary of slavery in this country. On this dark day in 1619, Africans were forcibly brought to Jamestown, Virginia -- marking the beginning of two and a half centuries of slavery in North America. Today we bear witness to the legacy of slavery through mass incarceration, white supremacy, police brutality, racial violence, and profound inequities that permeate our society. The New York Times created the powerful 1619 project and if you haven't already, we hope that you will take the time to read the piece that is attached to this email. 10 days ago we also recognized an important date in our history, Juneteenth. June 19th commemorates the end of slavery and provides us with yet another opportunity to reflect on our past.*

*It is important to acknowledge that we need to move beyond just emphasizing how this history and recent events make us feel and be compelled to do something different. We serve a district of students who are predominately from minoritized communities. Our board of education and staff are majority white -- this is our reality in YCS. It is up to us to examine if our actions, policies, and practices reflect the values we espouse and hold each other accountable. It is time for us to get honest about white privilege, white supremacy, and what we can do together to dismantle structures which maintain and perpetuate the status quo in our systems. As shared in a recent article, if we want to show that black lives matter, we should start with making sure education matters for all students, no matter what their zip code is. Superintendent Zachery-Ross shared the important article titled, *If black lives really matter, let's prove it by fixing our schools*, which can be found [here](#). The article highlights the importance of action and if we believe education is the great equalizer, then we owe our students every chance, opportunity, and resource available to move towards a more just world. This moment and movement charges us all with a responsibility to act. We can begin by asking if the way we view ourselves is reflected in how we engage with others, our policies and practices, and the ways we advocate for change. A compelling and powerful question for us all to ponder is: **How have I managed to be a full functioning professional adult and not know what to do about racism?***

*As a school system, we can often be viewed by our community as anchors during times of crisis. As an institution of learning we must commit to more listening, learning, and the promotion of greater awareness and understanding surrounding racism and demands for accountability, change, activism, and social justice. We hope this continues to be a major focus of our work and commend all of you for your engagement and actions as we prepare for the months ahead.*

*The mission and values of Ypsilanti Community Schools includes, but is not limited to respect for all individuals, inclusiveness, responsibility, and equity. The school board and administrative team are charged with meeting and monitoring the educational, social, and emotional needs of students, authentically engaging families, supporting our teachers and staff, setting and adopting policy, being good stewards of the district's resources, and serving our community. Individually and collectively, we have much work to do, and admittedly there are times when we fall short in aligning our values with our actions, but it is imperative to recommit to this important work if we want better outcomes.*

*The commitments we make to be anti-racist will show up in our work and service every day, no matter what our roles are.*

*As schools across the country prepare for a new academic year in the Fall, we know that many of our students will return to school with increased social, emotional, and educational needs. Although we will not be able to fully anticipate the level of impact and trauma on our youth and families, we must be prepared. This is a time for us to reflect, look internally, and work collectively to root out and dismantle the inequities and injustices that threaten our livelihoods. It will be difficult and we will experience setbacks, but if we continue to remain steadfast, dedicated, and unwavering in always doing what is right, our society and importantly our children, will be the beneficiaries of leading and inheriting a world where everyone matters. So in closing, we want to offer, in the spirit of the reggae prophet Bob Marley, who said, "he who feels it knows it," and prolific poet and author Maya Angelou, who said, "people will forget what you said, but people will never forget how you made them feel." The words of people of color who know and feel what it means to suffer through too often die from the disease of white supremacy and racism. Together, if we speak with one voice, we can stand unified against hate, racism, and the police brutality that targets our black and brown communities. We were given two ears and one mouth for a reason. If we want to be a true ally, we must remember to say more than just "I support you" and "this is awful." We must stand in solidarity through our words and action and recognize that caring deeply is simply not enough.*

*It is our hope that all of you will take a stance of solidarity against injustice, racism, and join us in this call to action because Black Lives Matter everyday!*

*As we move forward, our actions will be crucial. We encourage you to review the email in its entirety and Superintendent Zachery-Ross' important statement of action and next steps for YCS.*

*In solidarity,  
YCS Board of Education and Superintendent Zachery-Ross*