

## REGULAR MEETING Agenda | Electronic Meeting VIA Zoom; see "IMPORTANT MESSAGE(S) REGARDING THIS MEETING" (Monday, July 12, 2021)

Generated by Julie Haines on Tuesday, July 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@ycschools.us](mailto:techdirector@ycschools.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](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](https://bit.ly/YCS_BOE_FormattedComments)
- Sheet Collecting Attendance and Comments: [http://bit.ly/YCS\\_BOE\\_PublicCommentsCollected](http://bit.ly/YCS_BOE_PublicCommentsCollected)

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 Sharon Lee, 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. 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.

### Virtual Public Comment Information:

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:

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No public comments.

### 6. CONSENT AGENDA

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

Resolution: ... MOVE THAT the Board of Education approve the: 1) June 21, 2021, Regular Meeting Minutes 2) Personnel matters as per the presented list dated 7/1/21; New Hires and Resignations. 3) E.C.O.L. June 2021 Report

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

- 1) June 21, 2021, Regular Meeting Minutes
- 2) Personnel matters as per the presented list dated 7/1/21; New Hires and Resignations.
- 3) E.C.O.L. June 2021 Report

Motion by Sharon Lee, second by Ellen Champagne.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

### 7. ACTION ITEMS: Student Affairs

Action, Report: A. Annual Instructional Material Approval

Seeking Board approval of the continued implementation for the programs associated with the invoices; see attachments below.

- 1.) [Imagine Learning Quote](#). This purchase is district wide. Funded by the Title I Fund.
- 2.) [Apex Learning Quote](#). This purchase is for both Ypsilanti Community High School and our ACCE program. Funded by the At Risk 31A Fund.
- 3.) [McGraw Hill Quote](#). This purchase is for the elementary level. Funded by the General Fund.
- 4.) [NWEA Quote](#). This purchase is district wide. Funded by the General Fund.
- 5.) [American Reading Company Quote](#). This purchase is for the new Spanish Kindergarten class at Ford. Funded by the ESSR II Fund.
- 6.) [HMH Professional Development Quote](#). This purchase is district wide for ELA teachers, principals, coaches, and YC2S online school training. Funded by the ESSR II Fund.
- 7.) [Hope Network/Michigan Educator Corps Quote](#). This purchase is for reading at the elementary level and math at the Middle School level. Funded by the ESSR II Fund.

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

- 1) [Imagine Learning Quote](#), #192046, for a purchase amount of \$142,000.
- 2) [Apex Learning Quote](#), #00014946, for a purchase amount of \$40,000.
- 3) [McGraw Hill Quote](#), #SGODD-05262021-006, for a purchase amount of \$30,965.43.
- 4) [NWEA Quote](#), #00043342, for a purchase amount of \$38,525.
- 5) [American Reading Quote](#), #203608, for a purchase amount of \$15,150.
- 6) [HMH Professional Development Quote](#), #008047767, for a purchase amount of \$101,800.
- 7) [Hope Network/Michigan Educators Corps Quote](#), #100007980, for a purchase amount of \$100,000.

Motion by Ellen Champagne, second by Sharon Lee.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

### 8. Discussion

Discussion: A. First Reading of Neola Policy Updates

Re: NEOLA of Michigan Local Templates/Policy Updates - **Vol. 35, No. 2 - February 2021**, The Edgar Revisions, and Nondiscrimination/Anti-Harassment Policies Update

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, and has now submitted these to begin the approval process.

### 9. PUBLIC COMMENTS #2: Electronic Participation

Information: A. Guidelines for Public Comment

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No public comments.

#### 10. BOARD/SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS

**Vice President Lee:** Last Tuesday I was in the Community and I ran into Miss Sykes, a teacher from Perry School and she wanted me to tell the board of ed thank you very much for passing the pilot program that allowed the teachers to go into the homes of their students to help them. They really love that program. It is very helpful for them to be able to assist their students and their families and she just wanted to say thank you. She appreciates the board and she just wanted to show her appreciation and tell the board thanks.

**Maria Goodrich:** I just wanted to quickly express my appreciation for the opportunity to attend the Culturally Responsive School Leadership Institute. There's so much I'd like to say about those three days, I don't want to take too much time here but it's striking how much this resonates with the work that this board has been doing well before I got here and really introduced for me some great additional vocabulary and framing, thinking about the work that we need to do. One striking through line that I found from the CRSLI to the public engagement session that took place this past week is just the importance of relationships and how consistent that is with the compassion before compliance emphasis that our district takes. Also how critical it is to recognize and reject the deficit framing that can happen throughout the educational system and how much we need to value and celebrate the strengths of our families and our learners and to tie in how much this is showing up and how much praise I've heard from both teachers and Community members in the way that the Grizzlies Learning Camp model is being rolled out this summer and just how amazing it's been to be able to tap into both educator and learner passions and interests and what an incredible difference that is making for everyone involved. Thank you for all the work that's gone into those things and the opportunity to learn with such an amazing community of people during the CRSLI.

**Yvonne Fields:** I've been able to make it out to a couple of the events they've been having on Wednesdays and my most recent one was the one at Holmes School on June 30, which was to me, one of the best ones that we've had this year. There was a lot of participation at that particular school, not quite sure what the advertising was for that one but I'm just saying it would be nice for the other ones, because that was one of the biggest ones that I attended and I was really impressed. The other ones weren't too well attended but I'm not sure, but I'm just wondering whatever we did for that one. I was so impressed. I really was. We had a lot of turnout from their neighborhood at that one. It was really nice. The tacos were good. The DJ was good, as well, but I just wanted to say I wasn't sure what we did for that one to make it a big Community thing but we might want to take a look at that just as the other ones could be as well attended as that particular one was.

**Alena Zachery-Ross:** We had the Chartwell food truck which we only get once or twice a summer.

**Celeste Hawkins:** I would just add one to what Trustee Goodrich shared about the Culturally Responsive Leadership Institute, the three-day workshop that we attended - very powerful, lots of great takeaways. I concur that there are a lot of things that we learned in that workshop that align with the work that we are already kind of advancing in the district and I really, really look forward to see how we can use what we learned from that workshop to then build on to the equity work, the anti-racism work, all of the great things that we're doing in this district to really make sure that our kids not only get what they need, but that we see our kids and see our families, we understand how important those relationships are when we think about just how we engage them in our education system and really I appreciated how the workshop talks about how we don't need to just do things in practice, but we really have to examine our systems and do our systems really promote this sense of equity and inclusion and diversity that we espouse and are we living that through and out in our actions and in our practices so I look forward to see what's next. It was a wonderful, powerful three days. Great speakers, great workshops, great breakout sessions. It was wonderful, so I just look forward to see what's next.

**Alena Zachery-Ross:** First of all I like to again thank you both, Trustee Goodrich and President Hawkins, for attending. Not all the districts had board members present, so thank you for taking the time out of your busy schedules to attend and to represent YCS. I think that just does set the district apart, when our board members are present, our board members are participating in these professional development. Even if it wasn't this one, many of you have attended so many others and so that just really does show support and the fact that we are a learning system not just about our students learning, but it starts with our board, so thank you. Then I wanted to thank the board and community for participating in the Community engagement event. It was excellent. The one positive thing again and I know Mary doesn't know all of what we're doing, but so many things when you see this list you're gonna be like, "Somebody was watching what just what we are doing," because they were literally saying, "Oh, I wish we could do this" and we are. We just have to keep on doing it and I think that's the one thing that will be helpful and I know it is what Trustee Gainsley would like to see as you mentioned, to see the notes, because then it can confirm what do we need to continue doing, what do we need to expand on, and maybe what we don't need to spend time and abandoned doing. So I just appreciated hearing it and we'll be scheduling the virtual one, so that we can be able to meet some of the other folks right where they are because that's the other thing we keep hearing and learning is listening to the Community. Thank you to the board members and everybody that's been participating with all of the Boots on the Ground events. They are Wednesdays and Saturdays and they've just been amazing. Trustee Fields, if I can get food trucks all the time that'd be great but it's really to be out in the Community. We had a lot of people at Fireman's Park, too, where we have food, but that's just a part of what we do, not everything that we do. So thank you for the groups that have been going. We're gonna be going all summer long so we'll be seeing you at a neighborhood soon, hopefully, if you're watching. Then I know Ms. Willis just sent out a reminder about Jazz in the Parking Lot next Friday, July 23

from six to nine, we want to help people push it out, she sent out a flyer today and you can put your own signature on it and invite people. It's a free event. Parking is available at the top lot by YCHS and Estabrook. No parking please on Shadford Field. Over 40 vendors have signed up, nonprofit, small businesses, plus food vendors. All students no matter what school district eat for free. So come on out, students, we will have hamburgers and hot dogs for students only, though. Adults are asked to support the food vendors that will be there, so if you're hungry, support those vendors that are coming out. We have an excellent person, Lynn Roundtree, one of the greatest trumpeters of our generation. We're excited to have him and DJ Superhero for the evening, and most importantly there's going to be enrollment information and giveaways. We're going to give out 100 free Jazz in the Parking Lot posters to guests joining us plus additional T-shirts and other things. So please sign up at an Event Bright link, but all of it is free free free. So please come out.

**Celeste Hawkins:** I think I have been to every Jazz in the Parking Lot event and they are incredible and they are always well attended. The music is fantastic. It was sad that we didn't have it, but we know why we couldn't have it last year so we missed the year, but I think many people are probably very much looking forward to coming to the Jazz in the Parking Lot event this Friday so spread the word. I just want to piggyback, Dr. Zachery-Ross, on something you said that I know you mentioned in our five o'clock session and that is the importance of, our facilitator doesn't really know all the behind the scenes work that we're engaging in but, us getting in front of and telling our story here at YCS which we talk about all the time, we're just kind of in the day to day, sometimes we don't pause and take stock of everything that we're doing so just thinking about as we're thinking about strategic planning and all of that, how might we put together this story that makes up YCS and everything are and everything that we're doing, because it is rich and it's diverse and it's dynamic. It's so many different things, so I just hope that we are being intentional and thinking about ways that we might be proactive about telling that story of YCS because, while we have a lot of work to do, we also need to stop and celebrate all those successes that we have here in this special community.

#### 11. REQUEST FOR CLOSED SESSION

Action: A. Closed Session- Pursuant to Sections 8(h) of the Open Meetings Act to consider material exempt from discussion or disclosure by state or federal statute

... MOVE THAT the Board of Education go into closed session pursuant Section 8(h) of the Open Meetings Act to consider material exempt from discussion or disclosure by state or federal statute.

Motion by Sharon Lee, second by Gillian Ream Gainsley.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

Moved into closed session at 7:34 p.m.

#### 12. REQUEST TO RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

Action: A. Approval to return to Open Session

... MOVE THAT the Board of Education return to Open Session

Motion by Maria Goodrich, second by Gillian Ream Gainsley.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

#### 13. REQUEST FOR CLOSED SESSION

Action: A. Closed Session - Closed session for discussion of pending appeals with the School District's attorney

...MOVE THAT the board of education enter closed session under Section 8(e) of the Michigan Open Meetings Act, so the Board can discuss litigation and settlement strategy with the District's attorney regarding the pending appeals entitled Ypsilanti Community Schools v Harris and Ypsilanti Community Schools v Freeman.

Motion by Maria Goodrich, second by Sharon Lee.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

#### 14. REQUEST TO RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

Action: A. Approval to return to Open Session

... MOVE THAT the Board of Education return to Open Session

Motion by Maria Goodrich, second by Gillian Ream Gainsley.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

Not Present at Vote: Sharon Lee

#### 15. ACTION ITEM: Business and Finance

Action: A. Approval of Settlement Agreements

...MOVE THAT the board of education approve and authorize the Superintendent or her designee to sign the settlement agreements in the appeals entitled Ypsilanti Community Schools v. Freeman and Ypsilanti Community Schools v. Harris.

Motion by Maria Goodrich, second by Yvonne Fields.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

Not Present at Vote: Sharon Lee

16. ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING  
Meeting adjourned at 8:48 p.m.