

REGULAR MEETING Agenda | Electronic Meeting VIA Zoom; see "IMPORTANT MESSAGE(S) REGARDING THIS MEETING" (Monday, October 25, 2021)

Generated by Julie Haines on Wednesday, November 3, 2021

Members present

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

Meeting called to order at 6:31 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 Solomon Zheng for accommodation: **techdirector@ycschools.us**.

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

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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. ACHIEVEMENT, AWARDS & RECOGNITION

Recognition: A. October 18 -22 is National School Bus Safety Week

Held during the third full week of October each year, National School Bus Safety Week is an active and evolving public education program and an excellent way for parents, students, teachers, motorists, school bus operators, school administrators, and other interested parties to join forces and address the importance of school bus safety. Designed to promote school bus safety, school districts throughout the country observe School Bus Safety Week.

5. 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 Maria Goodrich.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

6. PRESENTATION

Presentation: A. Talent Management Presentation

YCS Human Resource Director, Sue McCarty will present to the board. [Click here](#) to view the presentation.

7. 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:

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Dr. Hawkins read comments:

Tamara Darlene Larson - "What will the district do with the busing issues? The district should be embarrassed about this. Without the bus a lot of our students cannot get to school. Which leaves parents in a place where they have to be late for work or find a new way to work. I understand that we are in a pandemic, but something needs to change quickly.

Also, we need better guidelines for children when they are sick. Being told that it's a case by case situation is not ok. Some kids go home if they show 1 symptom, while there are children who show 2 and they are still able to stay at school. It should be the same across the board. Not case by case. "

8. CONSENT AGENDA

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

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

- 1) October 11, 2021, Regular Board Meeting Minutes
- 2) October 11, 2021, Special Board Meeting Minutes
- 3) October 18, 2021, Special Board Meeting Minutes
- 4) Personnel matters as per the presented list dated 10/20/21; New Hires and Resignations.

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

- 1) October 11, 2021, Regular Board Meeting Minutes
- 2) October 11, 2021, Special Board Meeting Minutes
- 3) October 18, 2021, Special Board Meeting Minutes
- 4) Personnel matters as per the presented list dated 10/20/21; New Hires and Resignations.

Motion by Maria Goodrich, second by Sharon Lee.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

9. ACTION ITEM: Other

Action: A. Selection of Board Member

The Ypsilanti Community Schools' Board of Education will confirm M. Jeanice Townsend to fill the Board of Education vacancy.

...MOVE THAT the Board of Education appoint M. Jeanice Townsend to fill the vacant set on the Ypsilanti Community Schools' Board of Education.

Motion by Maria Goodrich, second by Yvonne Fields.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

The board conducted a ceremonial swearing in of our new trustee, Jeanice Townsend.

Dr. Celeste Hawkins: We have invited Miss Townsend to this portion of our meeting. We have the Honorable Erane C. Washington, who is going to perform the symbolic oath this evening and then the official oath of office will take place at the administration building this week Thank you so much, Judge, for being here, taking time out of your very busy schedule to perform this symbolic oath of office with our newly appointed trustee.

Dr. Alena Zachery-Ross: Congratulations to our new trustee Ms. Jeanice Townsend. This is just such an honor to have you as a part of the team that has been really working to develop the district and move the district forward. And Honorable Washington, thank you for taking time tonight. We appreciate your work in service to this county and we especially appreciate your special bond that we have with you here at YCS. Thank you very much.

Hon. Erane C. Washington: Thank you so much, Dr. Zachery-Ross. It is actually my honor to be here. It's always a privilege when I get the call to say to come and do a swearing in especially for this board and especially for Miss Jeanice Townsend. Jeanice and I ran during the campaign together and Jeanice showed the strength of who she is by continuing to work and give back to the Community in so many ways, I couldn't even keep track of them. As I watched her moving all over the county through her Facebook posts and just continuing to do what she does - love to give back to the Community. You're going to be a great asset and I am just ecstatic that I get the opportunity to be the person to swear you in so with that please raise your right hand and repeat after me: I do solemnly swear or firm.

Jeanice Townsend: I do solemnly swear or affirm.

Hon. Erane C. Washington: That I will support the constitution of the United States.

Jeanice Townsend: That I will support the constitution of the United States.

Hon. Erane C. Washington: And the constitution of this state

M. Jeanice Townsend: And the constitution of this state

Hon. Erane C. Washington: And that I will faithfully discharge the duties

M. Jeanice Townsend: And I will faithfully discharge the duties

Hon. Erane C. Washington: Of the office of member of the board of education

M. Jeanice Townsend: Of the office of member of the board of education

Hon. Erane C. Washington: Of the Ypsilanti Community Schools

M. Jeanice Townsend: Of the Ypsilanti Community Schools

Hon. Erane C. Washington: According to the best of my abilities.

M. Jeanice Townsend: According to the best of my abilities.

Hon. Erane C. Washington: Congratulations to you. I'm so honored to be here. Thank you for having me. You're doing great job.

M. Jeanice Townsend: Thank you so much.

Dr. Celeste Hawkins: Yes, thank you, Judge Washington. It is always a pleasure to have you with us and just take the time out of your day. We don't take it lightly, that your schedule is busy, and so, to be able to join us and perform this symbolic oath of office at our board meeting today. We are very humble and very grateful for your service, for your commitment to this community and to our school district, so thank you so much. Miss Townsend, welcome aboard. We are so honored to have you here.

Jeanice Townsend: Thank you, Madam President. I just want to first acknowledge the board in all the hard work that you all do for the Community, our administration, especially Dr. Zachery-Ross and all her work. Ms. Haines and I are becoming best buddies. I want to acknowledge her as well. And then, of course, I want to say thank you to my family, close friends, sorority members of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority Incorporated, my church family, and, most importantly, the staff, children of Ypsilanti Community Schools and as well as the entire Ypsilanti community. This has been a long journey and it's just a testament that it was delayed, but not denied and so I'm just thankful for this opportunity and I look forward to working for my new employer who are the children of Ypsilanti schools. So thank you very much and I'm ready to work.

Vice President Lee: Welcome aboard. Happy to have you here. Thank you.

Trustee Schindler: Thank you for all that you do on behalf of the community already and I'm really glad you are onboard.

Trustee Fields: Welcome aboard and you couldn't have said it better when you said "delayed but not denied." I love that.

Trustee Goodrich: Welcome to our newest board member. When we were all running during the last election, I often said I would be honored to serve with either of my opponents and I am thrilled that I now get to serve with both of you.

Trustee Gainsley: I don't want to be left out so welcome. We are so excited to have you here. I love seeing you out in the community and it was really wonderful last Friday at the football game to have our whole board of seven together in person supporting our students.

Dr. Celeste Hawkins: I just want to thank all the Community Members who are here. I know there are a lot of people are here to support and see you be sworn in symbolically this evening, so I just want to thank those members of the public who joined our meeting this evening to have a chance to be able to celebrate with you and make it official as you joined the board of education for our district.

10. ACTION ITEM: Business and Finance

Action, Recognition: A. Donation - Donation for bike racks at YCS buildings

Peri and Matt Stone-Palmquist donated \$1296 to Ypsilanti Community Schools for bike racks for YCS buildings. Thank you so much, Student Advocacy Center! Your donation impacts the students of Ypsilanti.

.... MOVE THAT the Board of Education accept a donation of \$1296 made by Peri and Matt Stone-Palmquist for bike racks at YCS buildings.

Motion by Sharon Lee, second by Gillian Ream Gainsley.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

Action, Recognition: B. Donation - Donation for Academic Tutoring

Ypsilanti Community Schools has received a grant for \$20,000.00 from the KLA Foundation to assist with academic tutoring for our students. Academic tutoring would consist of having tutors work with students and receive stipends for tutoring. The grant will cover the costs of the stipends and the learning kits for the high dosage tutoring.

.... MOVE THAT the Board of Education accept a donation of \$20,000.00 from KLA Foundation of Ann Arbor for Academic Tutoring.

Motion by Gillian Ream Gainsley, second by Maria Goodrich.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

11. PUBLIC COMMENTS #2: Electronic Participation

Information: A. Guidelines for Public Comment

Public Comment Protocol

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Dr. Hawkins read comments:

Taryn M.R. Willis - Congratulations to Jeanice Townsend on this new role in the community! I know you will do well and I am routing for you! Your work with YCS and the realtor events, community events plus support through our sorority Zeta Phi Beta Sorority Inc and the Rotary Club of Ypsilanti---thank you! Good Luck :)

12. BOARD/SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS

Vice President Lee: There was a pre-school meeting on October 18th and there were three in attendance. There will be another meeting soon and Ms. Skinner will inform me of that meeting. The YCS Foundation wanted me to invite all the board members to an event on Friday, October 29th 5:30 p.m. at the Ypsilanti Commerce parking lot with cider and donuts and everyone is invited. I am personally invited everyone on behalf of Kathy Beal to this fundraiser.

Trustee Gainsley: The entire board was at the YCHS football game on Friday and I just wanted to say thank you to the city of Ypsilanti for their generous contribution and to Councilman Anthony Morgan in particular who spearheaded the effort to have the city support our athletic department.

Trustee Fields: I teach free adult classes open to anyone in the community on Wednesday nights from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. teaching computer skills, basic computer, how to get on social media, internet, and it is all free. I also teach seniors on Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Dr. Hawkins: Thank you to the bus drivers. It's a hard job and we are experiencing a difficult time right now with shortages and I just want to say thank you to all the staff that is getting up early every day and doing the very best job that they can to get our students to school on time. Congratulate again, Ms. Townsend. It has been a pleasure going through this process with you and see things come full circle.

Dr. Zachery-Ross: Congratulations also to Ms. Townsend. Congratulations to the board for having a smooth, transparent process. Well done. The board is so committed.

Our bus drivers are out there and they get the brunt of it because of the ones who don't show up but for the ones who do I just want them to know how much they are appreciated. They have picked up the slack and done extra routes. There are 17 interviews set up this week for bus drivers and monitors. Thank you to Solomon Zheng, Trustee Goodrich and Trustee Gainsley for working on the transportation app. There are still glitches but we are hoping to roll it out this week. There are simple instructions for the parents to you and you will be able to follow and see where the bus is and see when your student gets on and off the bus. There is a back order for the swipe cards. And the whole system had to be upgraded and he has done a wonderful job picking up the pieces. We know it is important. We believe that these strategies will help in the transportation department. Safety first is the focus. If drivers or monitors aren't feeling well, they cannot come to work because we want to keep everyone safe.

Next it is parent/teacher conference week. If you are doing it by zoom, please remember your time. If you are in person, you need to wear a mask in the building.

November 2nd – no school. There will be PD trainings all day. Thank you for the support of our staff.

Starting next week the HRAs (health resource advocates), will be in the district. They have been hired by the WISD and we will have one full time and one part time nurse. They will be the ones doing the contact tracing. They are medical people. They have the background and they are working directly with the health department.

Dr. Hawkins: Appreciate the flexibility and grace of our families. We never want to inconvenience families and I know that the district is doing everything they can to right the ship, to have the proper staffing to make sure kids are in school on time.

13. ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

Meetin adjourned at 7:44 p.m.