



Monday, May 10, 2021

SPECIAL MEETING Agenda: MASB Facilitated Board Sessions | Electronic Meeting VIA Zoom; see "IMPORTANT MESSAGE(S) REGARDING THIS MEETING"

**YCS Board of Education Meeting | Meeting will be held electronically via Zoom in accordance with DHHS Emergency Order and PA 254 of 2020 (COVID-19)
1885 Packard Road | Ypsilanti, MI 48197 | 734.221.1230 | 6:30 p.m.**

1. CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL OF BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Dr. Celeste Hawkins, Board President

2. IMPORTANT MESSAGE(S) REGARDING THIS ELECTRONIC MEETING

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

3. ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA

- A. Acceptance of Agenda

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS: Electronic Participation

- A. Guidelines for Public Comment

5. BOARD OF EDUCATION MONITORING OF DISTRICT PERFORMANCE: Mary Kerwin, Facilitator | Senior Consultant, Michigan Association of School Boards (MASB)

- A. Board Monitoring of District Performance

6. BOARD OF EDUCATION SELF-ASSESSMENT: Mary Kerwin, Facilitator

- A. Board Self Assessment

7. OTHER

8. BOARD/SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS

9. ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

SPECIAL MEETING Agenda: MASB Facilitated Board Sessions | Electronic Meeting VIA Zoom; see "IMPORTANT MESSAGE(S) REGARDING THIS MEETING" (Monday, May 10, 2021)

Generated by Julie Haines on Tuesday, May 11, 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

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.

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:

- Formatted Public Comments: https://bit.ly/YCS_BOE_FormattedComments
- Sheet Collecting Attendance and Comments: 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. ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA

Action: A. Acceptance of Agenda

... MOVE THAT the Board of Education accept the meeting 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

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS: 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:

- Live form: http://bit.ly/YCS_BOE_Comments
- They can also call in to speak during public comments time at **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
- Sheet Collecting Attendance and Comments: http://bit.ly/YCS_BOE_PublicCommentsCollected

Dr. Hawkins read public comments:

Megan Hagenauer, Our daughter attends YCS, We were initially excited when we heard that YCS was considering offering a remote option next year, but after hearing more about the details we are less enthusiastic.

Our daughter is an academically gifted first grader with ADHD and social anxiety. We have been at YCS since preschool (age 3) and have appreciated the highly trained teachers and social work support. However, even with such great support, our daughter struggles in a traditional classroom environment with sensory overload, rapid transitions, and behavioral self-control.

We have benefitted immensely by participating in the YCS asynchronous remote option this year (remote option #3). At home, in a calmer environment, she has been better able to regulate her behavior and we have been able to tailor the curriculum to fit her needs, both in terms of content and timing.

However, this has only been possible because the current YCS remote option #3 is **asynchronous** - a synchronous curriculum (similar to what is being proposed for next year) would introduce many of the same challenges experienced within a traditional classroom environment for a neurodivergent kid (rapid transitions, lack of flexibility in timing and content, social anxiety on zoom).

It would also be difficult for our caregiver to manage, since she is simultaneously watching three other young children and a young child cannot manage a schedule of zoom meetings and school work apps on her own.

I was also dismayed to see that the remote option proposed for next year involves almost a full day of online content. My husband teaches at the high school level (WIHI), and even the high schoolers (and himself!) struggle with being online all day. For a young elementary schooler, it is simply too much, and is not healthy for brain development. The current curriculum (remote option #3) has far few hours of scheduled content per day and seems to be sufficient to keep up (or even exceed) state & national standards. I hope that YCS reconsiders the current plan for remote schooling for next year.

5. BOARD OF EDUCATION MONITORING OF DISTRICT PERFORMANCE: Mary Kerwin, Facilitator | Senior Consultant, Michigan Association of School Boards (MASB)

Discussion: A. Board Monitoring of District Performance

The Board conducted a mid-term monitoring session and Board mini-self assessment facilitated by MASB.

6. BOARD OF EDUCATION SELF-ASSESSMENT: Mary Kerwin, Facilitator

Discussion: A. Board Self Assessment

7. OTHER: None

8. BOARD/SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS: None

9. ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING: 7:41 p.m.

Board Self-Assessment—form revised 2020

Please respond to the statements below using the following rating scale:

- 4 – Always
- 3 – Usually
- 2 – Occasionally
- 1 – Seldom or Never
- 0 – Unsure

___ 1. The Board uses a two-way communication process with the Superintendent whereby neither the board nor the Superintendent is surprised at meetings.

___ 2. The Board ensures that a systematic program is maintained by the staff to orient newly elected or appointed board members to their duties and responsibilities as well as to acquaint them with Board policies and operating procedures.

___ 3. The Board operates according to written policies that are updated on a regular basis.

___ 4. When policy is adopted, both Board and staff adhere to it.

___ 5. The Board acts as a policy-making and governance body. The Superintendent is held responsible for administration and evaluation of school programs.

___ 6. Before making a decision on any matter (other than the Superintendent's contract), the Board allows the Superintendent ample opportunity to develop staff recommendations for action.

___ 7. The Board does not respond to emotional pressure and does not write "instant policy." It provides the Superintendent with an opportunity develop policy proposals.

___ 8. The Board understands and uses rules of order to conduct its meetings.

___ 9. Board members arrive at meetings prepared to contribute to discussions and do not waste valuable meeting time requesting information that has already been provided.

___ 10. Board members are representatives of the entire community, not just of special interest groups, and are committed to public school welfare.

___ 11. When citizen and special interest group recommendations are considered, the Board explains its position and the reasons which may prevent it from implementing all recommendations.

___ 12. The Board and Superintendent work well together in a spirit of mutual confidence. The Board respects the daily executive responsibility of the Superintendent and the Superintendent respects the governance responsibility of the Board.

___ 13. In cooperation with the Superintendent, the Board has received a set of criteria in goals, which are monitored for progress during the course of the year.

___ 14. Fairness and diligence are used by the Board in the Superintendent evaluation process.

___ 15. Official actions of Board members concern the welfare of the school system only. No Board member uses her office for patronage, personal profit, or advancement.

___ 16. Only the entire Board can decide a course of action. Board members are careful to speak publicly on issues only as individuals.

___ 17. Major responsibilities of the Board include establishing priorities and ensuring SMART goals are in place so that the priorities are clear and tracked.

What do you think this Board does particularly well?

What changes would you recommend to improve how the Board functions?