

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

Generated by Julie Haines on Tuesday, April 13, 2021

Members present

Dr Celeste Hawkins, Ellen Champagne, Meredith Schindler, Yvonne Fields, Maria Goodrich

Members absent

Sharon Lee, Gillian Gainsley

Meeting called to order at 6:32 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.

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 Yvonne Fields.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

5. ACHIEVEMENTS, AWARDS & RECOGNITION

Recognition: A. Formal Recognition of the Modern Governance 100 for Community Boards - YCS Board of Education

We are recognizing today's modern leaders in community governance. Even in times of uncertainty, these individuals find opportunities for growth. Often working behind the scenes, modern governance leaders drive their organizations towards greater diversity, sustainable practices, and sharper insights for company leadership. Ypsilanti Community Schools Board of Education has received this honor.

Recognition: B. Formal Recognition of the Modern Governance 100 for Community Boards - Technology Department

We are recognizing today's modern leaders in community governance. Even in times of uncertainty, these individuals find opportunities for growth. Often working behind the scenes, modern governance leaders drive their organizations towards greater diversity, sustainable practices, and sharper insights for company leadership. Ypsilanti Community Schools Technology Department has been recognized. Members from the technology department present: Nik Jackson, Solomon Zheng, Clark Rodeffer, Jerilyn Lyn, Jaclyn Mullins, Kendra Wilson, Jacob Henriksen, Melissa Dubiel, Charles Stevenson

6. PRESENTATIONS

Presentation: A. YCS Homeless Report 2021 by Marquan Jackson

YCS Homeless Liaison, Marquan Jackson, will share new resources and enhanced supports that have been established in efforts to support YCS homeless families during the pandemic. Jackson will also provide an update on the YCS Resiliency Center and share current homeless demographics. [Click here](#) to view presentation.

Dr. Hawkins - how are families made aware of these resources? **Mr. Jackson** - working closely with the Office of Community Economic Development as they are gearing up to push out the flier and campaign to get it to all our families, we need to cast a wide net and get it out to as many families as possible (48 to 53% of the families that YCS serves will be looking for that resource). **Dr. Hawkins** - how do we advertise, refer families to the Resiliency Center? **Mr. Jackson** - there is a link on the website that families can click on and make requests, then he sends the referral to the Resiliency Center so the order can be filled within 48 hours and then the coordinators reach out to let the families know when and how to pick up the order.

Presentation: B. Three Year Budget Projection by Priya Nayak

YCS Director of Business Services and Finance, Priya Nayak, will share the Budget Projection for the YCS from FY2021 through FY2024. [Click here](#) to view presentation.

Trustee Schindler - excellent presentation and helpful to know the clear logical thinking that is behind the numbers. **Dr. Hawkins** - thank you for this very digestible presentation.

Presentation: C. Planning for ESSER II Funds and Summer Programs by Priya Nayak and Mark Coscarella

YCS Director of Business Services and Finance, Priya Nayak, and YCS Director of State and Federal Programs, Mark Coscarella, will share the Planning of ESSER II fund allocation for YCS and 8-9 weeks Summer programs that will be offered by YCS during summer school. District's ESSER II spending plan for YCS must be established and submitted to MDE no later than April 15, 2021. [Click here](#) to view presentation.

Dr. Hawkins - loves this approach to summer school. With literacy and math as a focus, how might the data influence the offerings as we try to recover from the learning loss that many of our students have had? **Superintendent Zachery-Ross** - MICIP has administration and staff not only looking at the data but asking why is the data this way. They have been using this and the EAB research to see what is needed which is high dosage tutoring because it is what is working. Don't do remediation for high school but do acceleration and high dosage tutoring. **Dr. Lopez** - summer literacy component for K-3, the programs that they are doing is mirroring what we are working on with MICIP. Instead of looking at it through the lens of learning loss, looking at it as Learning Just Is. Looking at our students from an assets base and removing the labels, finding out what they know and don't know to get them the services they need. Making sure our approach is research aligned. Combining science and social studies with literacy. Helping the students with their social skills and how do we embed it in the program in a safe way. Commend Mr. Coscarella for the vision to help our students. **Mr. Coscarella** - using a wide variety of data to make sure we are meeting our students needs. How will we evaluate in the end so we are gathering the data from the beginning.

Trustee Goodrich - Thank you for making summer school engaging and fun, for sustained engagement and for doing project based learning opportunities.

Dr. Hawkins - I saw that some of the funding will be going to bridging the gap between middle school and high school. Unapologetic acceleration.

Presentation: D. Class Size Report by Sue McCarty

YCS HR Director, Sue McCarty, will share the 2021-22 Staffing Plan. The Staffing Plan is an annual process that allows the administration to conduct a thorough audit of our student enrollment and align it to the staffing projections that will impact academic and non-academic success for our students. [Click here](#) to view presentation.

Dr. Hawkins - thank you.

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 the public comments:

1. Judith Blomquist, I live within the boundaries of the Ypsilanti Community Schools, Dr. Rochelle Walensky, the director of the Centers for Disease Control today, said about the rapidly rising COVID rates in Michigan and I quote: "The answer to that is to really close things down, to go back to our basics, to go back to where we were last spring, last summer, and to shut things down, to flatten the curve, to decrease contact with one another, to test to the extent that we have available to contact trace."

Since the decision as to keep Elementary schools seems to directly contradict the advice from their director, could you comment as to what specific metrics the Board is basing this decision on? What watermarks, if any, would be used to determine that Elementary schools should be shut down?.

2. Anonymous, With numbers rising and schools having to make classes online due to rising numbers, when is the district going to go remote again? I understand the governor suggested that high school go remote, but some of those high school students have younger siblings. With numbers rising, I find it very unacceptable that the district keeps pushing for in person.

3. Debra Stevens, Early Childhood Special Education Teacher, Summer Program sounds great and exciting! I don't think we need to be afraid of using the word "Camp" when promoting it. That term might convey a more positive reaction to attending "summer school". Just because you're having fun doesn't mean you are not learning! We need to encourage as many families as possible to participate.

8. CONSENT AGENDA

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

Resolution: ... MOVE THAT the Board of Education approve the: 1) March 22, 2021, Regular Meeting Minutes 2) personnel matters as per the presented list dated 4/12/21; New Hires, Termination, Resignations, and Retirements.

Seeking Board approval of the presented meeting minutes and personnel matters.

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

1) March 22, 2021, Regular Meeting Minutes,

[View Minutes for Mar 22, 2021 - March 22, 2021 REGULAR MEETING Agenda | Electronic](#)

2) personnel matters as per the presented list dated 4/12/21; New Hires, Termination, Resignations, and Retirements. [Click here to see document.](#)

Motion by Maria Goodrich, second by Ellen Champagne.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

9. ACTION ITEMS: Other

Action: A. Ypsilanti District Library Resolution

Seeking the Board of Education approval to approve the YCS Resolution of support for the Ypsilanti District Library's new building in Superior Township, as presented. [Click here to see the resolution.](#)

Superintendent Zachery-Ross - YDL has been an exceptional partner. People are looking forward to this new facility. Lisa Hoenig, director of YDL joined the meeting. **Ms. Hoenig** - this new library will put everyone in the district within a ten-minute drive to a full service library. We are excited for the resolution because it will show funders that the school district supports us. Thank you.

Dr. Hawkins - Trustee Gainsley was instrumental in putting this resolution together.

... MOVE THAT the Board of Education approve the YCS Resolution of support for the Ypsilanti District Library's new building in Superior Township.

Motion by Maria Goodrich, second by Yvonne Fields.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

10. ACTION ITEMS: Business and Finance

Action: A. Powerschool Renewal

This is the renewal of the Powerschool license. It is the database that the YCS uses as a student information system. Annually we need to renew the license for PowerSchool SIS Maintenance and Support for 4,228 students at a cost of \$24,480.12. [Click here to see the renewal.](#)

... MOVE THAT the Board of Education approve the annual renewal for Powerschool at the cost of \$24,480.12.

Motion by Maria Goodrich, second by Yvonne Fields.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

Action, Recognition: B. A Book Donation from Give My Books Worth Approximately \$50,000.00

Ypsilanti Community Schools is grateful for the donation of the books which were graciously shared by a service called Give My Books. Part of their mission is to make sure books get back into the community. The books are intended for the students to utilize in their homes and are theirs to keep. This is an ongoing effort. This community service has been in effect since 2008.

Give My Books previously held in-person book sales in order to get books into the community but because of COVID they've had to cancel those. Photos from past book sales can be seen here: <https://www.jlcbooksale.com/about> (also click on the photo gallery for other pictures) They are currently looking for different ways of getting books into the community. One of those ways is by giving books directly to schools to give to students to keep.

They are giving YCS just under 6,800 books. Buying these books brand new would easily cost close to \$50,000 at an average of \$7 a book. There are all types of books for the students. These books are awesome! YCS is grateful for the support of Give My Books.

.... MOVE THAT the Board of Education accept a donation of 6,800 books worth about \$50,000.00 from Give My Books service to give to the YCS students to take home with them.

Motion by Maria Goodrich, second by Yvonne Fields.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

11. PUBLIC COMMENTS #2: Electronic Participation

Information: A. Guidelines for Public Comment

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No public comments or calls.

12. BOARD/SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS

Trustee Fields - the ground-breaking for the library was great. Excited about the new library because it is in her neighborhood and she looks forward to going when it opens.

Trustee Goodrich - grateful to the principals to be able to attend some of the meetings that the schools had virtually and being able to be part of the March Literacy Event. Thank you to the WISD for holding the antigen testing event to help keep the community safe.

Superintendent Zachery-Ross - the antigen testing event was a joint district event and each district had to have a representative there. She appreciates the concerns regarding returning back to school and we look at several things: numbers in the county, the athletic antigen testing numbers, and the number of people who are quarantined and positive cases (many people traveled out of the country that were not vaccinated and they would have had to be quarantined). Washtenaw County is at 7.3% so for every 100 people there are 7 who test positive for Covid. A number of counties with higher numbers are still in school (Macomb at 23.7%, Oakland County at 16.5%, Livingston County at 16.8%). The health department is helping us make this determination. We paused for prevention but to also ensure that we have the number of staff we need - it's not just the educators, we have to make sure there

is food service, transportation, and custodial services - that we have enough to safely operate school. We continued with athletics because the sports are outdoors and we are doing antigen testing on all athletes. The numbers didn't justify stopping them but safety is a priority not sports and if the numbers start going up we will pause sports. We will always work with the health department. She and Ms. McCarty spend their days contact tracing. Kindergarten Round-up is starting. April is Arab American Heritage Month, Ramadan starts tonight.

Dr. Hawkins - Thank you for the explanation regarding the decisions about keeping the schools open, shutting them down. The superintendent is an exceptional leader and she has an exceptional team that is behind her and this board supports and trusts every decision she makes. We know she has incredible thought partners around her, that she uses data not only locally but within our schools guided from the governor working with the health department and that she is engaged in these meetings weekly and that the decisions that she has to make are not taken lightly but there is a lot that goes into it. We trust and support the process that the board is engaged in, we are informed every step of the way as it relates to us being remote, in-person and say thank you. We appreciate the comments and we know people are really concerned but that additional data just breaking it down where we are as a state, we know the numbers are high. We see the news but when we look at that comparison by county, we look at the data within the 48197/48198 zip codes and in our schools we have a more comprehensive picture and helps us to understand where we are and what drives the decisions the superintendent makes. Thank you for keeping us informed, for being transparent, and engaging us in the process that everyone can be part of.

13. ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

Meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.