

REGULAR MEETING Agenda | Electronic Meeting VIA Zoom; see "IMPORTANT MESSAGE(S) REGARDING THIS MEETING" (Monday, October 11, 2021)

Generated by Julie Haines on Tuesday, October 12, 2021

Members present

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

Members Absent:

Dr. Celeste Hawkins

Meeting called to order at 6:37 PM

1. CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL OF BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Sharon Lee, Board Vice 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:

- 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: Sharon Lee, Board Vice President

4. ACHIEVEMENT, AWARDS & RECOGNITION

Recognition: A. October is Recognized as National Principal's Month

Celebrating the principalship nationwide

Each October, [National Principals Month](#) recognizes the essential role

that principals play in making a school great.

Principals are among the hardest working, yet often least recognized individuals in education. Principals set the academic tone for their schools, and it is their vision, dedication, and determination that provide the mobilizing force for achieving student success. Each October, NASSP, NAESP, and AFSA seek to honor these unsung heroes for their tireless efforts in pursuit of excellence in education.

National Principals Month is a widely recognized celebration of the principalship, marked by national and state resolutions supporting the event, as well as acknowledgments from U.S. Senators and Representatives, and top government officials. However, the most important National Principals Month celebrations are the ones that take place in schools and communities across the country.

At Ypsilanti Community Schools we honor, respect, and value our Building Administrators. Thank you for all that you do for our students, staff and community!
Click [here](#) to view the resolution.

Action: A. Motion to Accept the Resolution

... MOVE THAT the Board of Education accept the resolution to recognize October as National Principal's Month.

Motion by Maria Goodrich, second by Gillian Ream Gainsley.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

5. 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: Gillian Ream Gainsley, Sharon Lee, Meredith Schindler, Yvonne Fields, Maria Goodrich

6. PRESENTATION

Presentation: A. Presentation of 2020-21 Financial Audit Report: Yeo and Yeo

Ypsilanti Community Schools Director of Business Services and Finance, Priya Nayak, has been working with the District's auditors to complete the 2020-21 Financial Audit. Members from Yeo and Yeo will give an overview presentation to the Board.

Click [here](#) to view the presentation.

Presentation: B. Grant Presentation on Recently Received Grants

Director of State and Federal Programs, Dr. Mark Coscarella, will provide the school board an overview of two grants recently awarded to YCS by both the Michigan Department of Education and the U.S. Department of Education.

Click [here](#) to view the presentation.

Dr. Hawkins joined the meeting at 7:39 p.m.

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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8. CONSENT AGENDA

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

Seeking Board approval of the presented meeting minutes and personnel matters; see attachments below.

Resolution: ... MOVE THAT the Board of Education approve the: 1) September 27, 2021, Regular Meeting Minutes 2) Personnel matters as per the presented list dated 10/8/21; New Hires and Resignations.

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

- 1) September 27, 2021, Regular Meeting Minutes
- 2) Personnel matters as per the presented list dated 10/8/21; New Hires and Resignations.

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

9. CLOSED SESSION

Action: A. Closed Session- Pursuant to Sections 8(f) of the Open Meetings Act to review and consider the content of an application for employment

The Board of Education will be going into closed session pursuant to Section 8(f) of the Open Meetings Act to review and consider the content of an application for employment.

... MOVE THAT the Board of Education go into closed session pursuant to Section 8(f) of the Open Meetings Act to review and consider the content of an application for employment.

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

Moved to closed session at 7:52 p.m.

10. OPEN SESSION

Action: A. Approval to return to Open Session

The Board of Education will return to Open Session.

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

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

Moved from closed session at 8:27 p.m.

11. ACTION ITEM: Human Resources

Action: A. Employment Request

The YCS Board of Education met in closed session to consider an employment request from District Administration. The Board will consider the request and determine the employment opportunity.

... MOVE THAT the Board of Education approve the district's employment request.

Motion by Maria Goodrich, second by Meredith Schindler.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

12. ACTION ITEM: Business and Finance

Action, Report: A. 2020-21 Annual Financial Audit Report: Priya Nayak, Director of Business and Finance

Yeo and Yeo, an independent accounting firm has audited our financial statements for the fiscal year 2020-21. The audited financial statements and single audit act compliance report for the year-end June 30, 2021, can be found under our October 12th Regular meeting link on our website after this Board meeting.

Click [here](#) to view the Yeo and Yeo Single Audit Report.

Click [here](#) to view the Yeo and Yeo Financial Statements.

Click [here](#) to view the Yeo and Yeo Report Appendixes.

... MOVE THAT the Board of Education accept the audit report for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2021, as audited by an independent firm, Yeo and Yeo.

Motion by Meredith Schindler, second by Sharon Lee.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

13. PUBLIC COMMENTS #2: Electronic Participation

Information: A. Guidelines for Public Comment

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Andy Griswold called in.

Andy Griswold: Can anyone tell me how many students were lost last week due to school and transportation department and competence?

Celeste Hawkins: During public comment time we invite members of the public to talk to the board of education. We typically do not answer questions. We just would like to invite the public to share what their comments are with the board.

Andy Griswold: All right, I'll switch that from a question to a comment. My son was lost last week due to school and transportation department incompetence.

Celeste Hawkins: Mr. Griswold, is that your only comment or do you have some other concerns or feedback to share with the board?

Andy Griswold: I'd like to know if there's going to be any consequences for it.

Celeste Hawkins: So at this time, if that is your only comment, the board's responsibility is to make sure we are available. We're here to listen to comments, to feedback, concerns that are brought up by Community members and if there is an opportunity in the meeting to be able to address specific concerns, we will discuss that at a different part of the meeting, but we want to make sure we give you the opportunity, Mr. Griswold, to share any other feedback with us that you think would be important for the board to hear. And certainly I apologize for your student. It sounds like there was something that happened, and there was a mishap with transportation where your student was impacted and that's never the intention of this district to ever lose track of, we know that things happened but it's never our intention to cause harm to any of our families in the district. We take serious the responsibility to entrust your children in our care and typically we don't have comments for board members during public comment time but I know this sounds like a very sensitive issue and I don't want to miss an opportunity to say that we're deeply sorry and we apologize for how this has impacted you and your family and there will be an opportunity later in the meeting to respond to your comment this evening to the board.

Andy Griswold: I look forward to hearing what you have to say about it.

Celeste Hawkins: Well, we appreciate you coming to the board and taking the time out of your evening to share your concerns with us, thank you, Mr. Griswold.

14. BOARD/SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS

Alena Zachery-Ross: I heard a comment early and we obviously do not comment on any staff issues at a public board meeting, however, this issue that was addressed has been investigated, and we have contact with the family. We will follow up again with the family. It's been investigated over the weekend, we continue to and let me just address first of all, our entire transportation department even this morning, having no transportation for several routes for our early learning Center and elementary routes in addition to coming home. We have had bus shortages not just in our district, but across Michigan and the nation and it continues to grow with the pandemic with persons not showing up at work, so we have a plan of how we've been addressing it and how we will continue to address the serious shortage. It also has impacted the kitchen at ACCE that we had to close this week so is not merely in transportation. We're seeing the shortage in transportation and food service and, as well as within custodial. So those people who are showing up, we want to thank all of those folks who are showing up. We have some applicants also in place, who are going through the process. It takes about six to seven weeks to go through that entire process now. For transportation and the screening that happen through the state although we have applicants it will not happen immediately. So we're seeing substitutes on quite a few of the routes which is causing the inconsistency of bus drivers and not having those relationships and we know that's critical in terms of being able to track students and make these changes and so again the seriousness of what happened with the Griswold family is something that we certainly take very seriously and will follow up on individually. Yet overall, the safety and security of all of our students is imperative and so when we're having no routes in telling people late in the morning about not having enough bus

drivers to even cover subs and to cover the routes like we did this morning, we understand, this is a challenge for our families, especially our very youngest families. So we already met this morning and this afternoon to think about what we will do, because this is Monday and we are unable to bring students on several routes and I'm hesitating because it wasn't whole buildings, it was specific routes and because we have the tier system, for example, bus 105 was at Beatty and at Estabrook so that impacts two tiers, because there was not enough drivers or substitutes. Our intention is to look at other ways as a county. We have a spreadsheet that we're working on because across our county where there's a shortage we've been asking other districts about if we can use their sub drivers and their food service persons, but there is no one to be able to utilize at this point, even in our other locals. We are looking for solutions. We do not want to cancel routes at all. Canceling is the very last measure because we understand that most of our students take transportation to school, so that causes many students not to be able to come to school today. And so we want to thank our parents for the flexibility, and thank those drivers and monitors, those people who have the license, who took extra routes, who picked up extra students, and work extra hours today to fill in the gap to ensure students are able to get to school. I don't want them to think that we consider our full of transportation department unable to get our students to school safely, because for those drivers, we want them to continue to come, show up every day, build the relationships, and ensure safe transportation to school each day. I can say if we can't guarantee that safety, like Mr. Griswold talked about, we have to make that hard decision to ensure that those who are riding will be safely delivered to school and back to where they're supposed to go and so for today's decision, that was part of that decision to make sure we can do what we're supposed to do and get our students home safely. I don't anticipate tomorrow there being shortages yet we've gotten those calls this morning, it was very close. By the time some people called in, and they said, medical, it was 6:14 and buses run at 6:30. And so the subs did not show, and so we know it's not about pay. We looked at our national pay, we looked at locally, we still are paying our beloved drivers and monitors higher than others. It's a shortage and you have to have the license to drive and so today one of the reasons for that Beatty route being cancelled is that you have to have a monitor and we did not have a monitor so we could not even send a sub to take that route, because it was early childhood and it requires a monitor. So I just wanted to give you context in terms of making those decisions and we make them as quickly as possible and we'll continue to do so. In terms of the kitchen, I want to thank our food service staff as well, for the work that they're doing, because we've closed the ACCE kitchen, they are cooking at one location and having to transport to the school to that we can ensure that our students have hot, fresh food that they deserve in our lunch rooms during the lunch hour even with the shortages. I wanted to recognize that our buildings lifted up indigenous peoples' day today and so I appreciate our building leaders and teachers taking the time to not just lift up some of the bigger holidays but to ensure that we're thinking about all of our students that we serve with us having a more diverse population, we want to make sure that as holidays and observances occurred, that we are looking at our students and families that we serve and acknowledging them. I also wanted to thank the Eastern Michigan University and Michigan students and Michigan Medicine. We started the PCR testing and antigen testing in district. The antigen testing is offered every day, both at the administration building and at the Resiliency Center so they can be on both edges of town. And we could not do this important work without the support of our EMU medical students, nursing students and Michigan Medicine who does the PCR testing. I would like to encourage if people want the PCR testing, please register. Michigan Medicine has to have a certain number to continue it and so they've said that if we don't get the numbers, they would discontinue our location. We will continue antigen testing, however, we know that the PCR testing is important, so we want to continue to have that. On October 22 it is YCHS senior night. The football senior night is happening, and we really want to encourage families and Community Members to come out. We know that students did not have the same opportunities during the school year last year due to the pandemic and the homecoming was very important to our students. This senior night is to for these students. In terms of football, we want to acknowledge that our middle school Spanish teacher, Jacqueline Leroyce was honored at the EMU homecoming game this past weekend. She received 10 free tickets and had seats at the 50-yard line. She has been a very valuable new staff member who is making connections, especially with our bilingual students and those that are in the dual language class at the middle school. Some of those students in the regular Spanish class are native speakers, and they have truly enjoyed her and she was recommended by her peers to be acknowledged at the Eastern Michigan University homecoming game. October 22nd is the game where I'll be giving a key to education to City Council and City Council will be presenting a check for two of the high school programs also during halftime.

15. ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

Meeting adjourned at 8:48 p.m.