

## **REGULAR MEETING (Monday, January 24, 2022)**

Generated by Julie Haines on Monday, January 31, 2022

### **Members present**

Dr. Celeste Hawkins, Gillian Ream Gainsley, Sharon Lee, Meredith Schindler, Yvonne Fields, Jeanice Townsend

### **Members absent**

Maria Goodrich

### **Meeting called to order at 6:35 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. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Dr. Celeste Hawkins, Board President

### **3. ACHIEVEMENT, AWARDS & RECOGNITION**

Presentation, Recognition: A. January is Board Appreciation Month

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

YCS would like to recognize January School Board Member Appreciation month. Thank you school board members for serving the children in our community!

TO HONOR SCHOOL BOARD RECOGNITION MONTH, January 2022

Ypsilanti Community Schools

Ypsilanti Community Schools joins 529 local and 56 intermediate school districts across Michigan to celebrate January as School Board Recognition Month.

WHEREAS:

1. School board members represent their fellow citizens' views and priorities in the complexity of maintaining and running the community's public schools. They reinforce the principle of local control over public education, which is an important, highly valued aspect of education in Michigan, and;

2. The month of January marks the observance of School Board Recognition Month. This is an opportunity to show our appreciation for these leaders and begin to better understand how local trustees work together to prepare today's students to be tomorrow's leaders, and;

3. The key to a brighter future for Michigan children is a strong public education system. Every day, students count on public schools to help prepare them for a successful future. Students count on adults across the state to ensure they have access to resources to help them learn, keep their building safe, and have qualified teachers to guide them. It takes a commitment to a community to make this possible. At the end of the day, contributing to the success of our students are ordinary citizens with extraordinary dedication to public schools: our school board members, and;

4. The job of school board members is to establish a vision for the education program, design a structure to achieve that vision, ensure schools are accountable to the community, and advocate for continuous improvement in student learning. This is a time to remember school board members for their untiring efforts.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

1. We encourage you to join Ypsilanti Community Schools with others throughout our community, state, and nation to salute the men and women who provide grassroots governance of public schools.

2. Even though there is a special effort during January to show appreciation for our school Board members, we recognize their contributions are a year-round effort.

3. Celebrating School Board Recognition Month is one way to say 'thanks' for all school board members do.

School Board Members Serving Ypsilanti Community Schools

Dr. Celeste Hawkins, Board President

Sharon Lee, Board Vice-President

Meredith Schindler, Board Secretary

Gillian Ream Gainsley, Board Treasurer

Yvonne Fields, Board Trustee

Maria Goodrich, Board Trustee

Janice Townsend, Board Trustee

Thank you for your dedication and service,

Dr. Alena Zachery-Ross,

Superintendent

Ypsilanti Community Schools

### **4. ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA**

Action: A. Acceptance of Agenda

... MOVE THAT the Board of Education accept the agenda, as presented.

Motion by Meredith Schindler, second by Gillian Ream Gainsley.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Dr Celeste Hawkins, Gillian Ream Gainsley, Sharon Lee, Meredith Schindler, Yvonne Fields, Jeanice Townsend

### **5. PUBLIC COMMENTS #1**

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.

Orion Filisko, boy scout, YCHS student, and swimmer addressed the board. He was attending the board meeting to gather information for a merit badge he is working on and he would like to know the status of the high school pool and the renovations.

### 6. ELECTION OF ACTING CHAIRPERSON & APPOINTMENT OF TEMPORARY SECRETARY

Action, Discussion, Procedural: A. Acting Chairperson Nomination

... MOVE TO nominate Superintendent Zachery-Ross to serve as acting chairperson for this Organizational Meeting.

Motion by Meredith Schindler, second by Jeanice Townsend.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Dr Celeste Hawkins, Gillian Ream Gainsley, Sharon Lee, Meredith Schindler, Yvonne Fields, Jeanice Townsend

Procedural: B. Temporary Secretary Appointment

Dr. Zachery-Ross appointed Ms. Julie Haines as temporary secretary.

### 7. BOARD ORGANIZATION

Action, Discussion, Procedural: A. Nomination & Election of BOARD OFFICERS

Verbal nominations for candidates for each of the four offices will be solicited one at a time. Nominations for office do not require seconds. Once all officers have been elected, the newly elected president should preside over the meeting.

If more than one person is nominated for single office, a majority vote should be used to identify the majority candidate for that position. If only one Board member is nominated for an office, the president or person presiding over the meeting shall seek a motion to elect that member by acclamation. The election of officers shall proceed in sequence until all officers are elected.

#1: President

#2: Vice-President

#3: Secretary

#4: Treasurer

#### NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF BOARD OFFICERS

##### PRESIDENT

The following Board members expressed interest in serving as President: Celeste Hawkins

Assets and Interest in role:

Dr. Hawkins: Appreciates serving in this way

- very dependable, a team player, organized
- strong relationship with Dr. Zachery-Ross
- very active in the community
- committed and dedicated to the students
- students are our future
- wants to continue to support students, families, and the community

MOTION OF NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF PRESIDENT: Celeste Hawkins to serve until the 2023 Organizational Meeting

Motion by Meredith Schindler, supported by Jeanice Townsend

Roll Call Vote: Fields - Aye, Ream Gainsley - Aye, Townsend - Aye, Lee - Aye, Schindler - Aye, Hawkins - Aye

Passes: 6-0

##### VICE-PRESIDENT

The following Board members expressed interest in serving as Vice-President: Sharon Lee

Assets and Interest in role:

Sharon Lee: she has been the vice president in the past

- wants to continue to support the board
- to support decisions for students
- to continue to advocate for district
- is always contacted by politicians and she always advocates for more money for the district and to get rid of debt and tells them to contact Dr. Zachery-Ross, she makes sure she follows protocol
- wants to keep going to MASB and to attend other conferences

MOTION OF NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF VICE-PRESIDENT: Sharon Lee to serve until the 2023 Organizational Meeting

Motion by Meredith Schindler, supported by Jeanice Townsend

Roll Call Vote: Fields - Aye, Ream Gainsley - Aye, Townsend - Aye, Lee - Aye, Schindler - Aye, Hawkins - Aye

Passes: 6-0

##### SECRETARY

The following Board members expressed interest in serving as Secretary: Maria Goodrich

MOTION OF NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF SECRETARY: Maria Goodrich to serve until the 2023 Organizational Meeting

Motion by Yvonne Fields, supported by Jeanice Townsend

Roll Call Vote: Ream Gainsley - Aye, Fields - Aye, Lee - Aye, Schindler - Aye, Townsend - Aye, Hawkins - Aye  
Passes: 6-0

#### TREASURER

The following Board members expressed interest in serving as Treasurer: Gillian Gainsley  
Assets and Interest in role:

Gillian Gainsley: she has been the treasurer for the past three years

- she feels it's an important position
- she is proud of the work to refinance the bond
- she wants to make sure money is being used wisely
- she is an advocate at the state level about bonds

MOTION OF NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF Treasurer: Gillian Gainsley to serve until the 2023 Organizational Meeting

Motion by Jeanice Townsend, supported by Yvonne Fields

Roll Call Vote: Fields - Aye, Ream Gainsley - Aye, Townsend - Aye, Lee - Aye, Schindler - Aye, Hawkins - Aye  
Passes: 6-0

Action (Consent): B. Appointments of BOARD COMMITTEE MEMBERS & LIAISONS

Resolution: ...THAT the following appointments of Board representatives be approved and in effect until the next Organizational Meeting in January 2023.

#1: Parliamentarian: Trustee Lee

#2: Head Start Policy Committee: Trustee Lee

#3: Legislative Relations Network (LRN) Designee: Trustee Goodrich

#4: Washtenaw Association of School Boards (WASB) Representative: Trustee Goodrich

#5: Ypsilanti Promise Board Representative: not sure they are meeting

#6: Ypsilanti Foundation Board Liaison: Trustee Gainsley

#7: Michigan Association of School Boards (MASB) Convention Delegate & Alternate:

A. Delegate: Trustee Fields

B. Alternate: Trustee Townsend

#8: Coordinated School Health Team: Trustee Schindler

#9: Sex Education Advisory Board (SEAB): Trustee Schindler

The following subcommittees may include 1-3 members, unless noted otherwise:

#1: Policy Subcommittee: Trustee #1 & Chair Schindler

Trustee Goodrich

Trustee Hawkins

#2: Financial & Operational Planning Subcommittee: Trustee #1 & Chair Gainsley

Trustee Townsend

Trustee Hawkins?

#3: Strategic & Educational Performance (DTN) Subcommittee: Trustee #1 & Chair Hawkins

Trustee Goodrich

Trustee Lee

#4: Community Relations Subcommittee: Trustee #1 & Chair Fields

Trustee Townsend

Trustee Goodrich

Motion by Meredith Schindler, second by Yvonne Fields.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Dr Celeste Hawkins, Gillian Ream Gainsley, Sharon Lee, Meredith Schindler, Yvonne Fields, Jeanice Townsend

#### 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) December 6, 2021, Regular Board Meeting Minutes

2) December 6, 2021, Special Board Meeting Minutes

3) Personnel matters as per the presented list dated 1/18/22; New Hires and Resignations.

...THAT the following appointments of Board representatives be approved and in effect until the next Organizational Meeting in January 2023.

Motion by Sharon Lee, second by Meredith Schindler.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Dr Celeste Hawkins, Gillian Ream Gainsley, Sharon Lee, Meredith Schindler, Yvonne Fields, Jeanice Townsend

#### 9. ACTION ITEMS: ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING MATTERS

Action, Procedural: A. District Compliance Officers Appointment

... MOVE TO designate the following staff to serve as District Compliance Officers:

1) the Assistant Superintendent as 504 Compliance Officer, and;

2) the Director of Human Resources as District Compliance Officer and ADA Coordinator (in compliance with Policy #s 2260.01 & 4123).

Motion by Meredith Schindler, second by Yvonne Fields.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Dr Celeste Hawkins, Gillian Ream Gainsley, Sharon Lee, Meredith Schindler, Yvonne Fields, Jeanice Townsend

Action, Discussion: B. Board of Education Meeting Schedule Adoption

Monday, January 24, 2022

Monday, February 7, 2022

Monday, February 28, 2022

Monday, March 14, 2022

Monday, April 11, 2022

Monday, April 25, 2022

Monday, May 9, 2022

Monday, May 16, 2022

Monday, June 6, 2022

Monday, June 20, 2022

Monday, July 11, 2022

Monday, August 1, 2022

Monday, August 15, 2022

Monday, September 12, 2022

Monday, September 26, 2022

Monday, October 10, 2022

October 20 - 23, 2022

Monday, October 24, 2022

Monday, November 7, 2022

Monday, December 5, 2022

Monday, January 23, 2023 - Organizational Meeting

**Dr. Hawkins:** If everyone could take a minute to look at the dates that are proposed

**Trustee Gainsley:** What are the October 20 - 23 dates?

**Dr. Zachery-Ross:** That is the MASB Conference

**Trustee Fields:** I won't be at the April 25th meeting.

**Trustee Gainsley:** There are retreat dates listed for August 5 and 6 or August 12 or 13. I will be on vacation the first week of August.

**Trustee Townsend:** There is only one meeting in March?

**Dr. Zachery-Ross:** There is no school on March 21st or 28th. March 14th is the same day as NAACIP and it is at 5:00 p.m. and it's online. Thought we could still do both. Last year when it was virtually it was short. When it is in-person it is longer.

**Vice President Lee:** The meeting is at 6:30 p.m. and NAACIP starts at 5:00 p.m.

**Dr. Hawkins:** The 5:00 p.m. start allows us to participate virtually and be able to conduct our board business.

**Trustee Townsend:** is there school on Columbus Day - 10/10?

**Dr. Hawkins:** Are we closed on Columbus Day?

**Dr. Zachery-Ross:** I don't think so. We will double check.

**Trustee Townsend:** That's a bank holiday.

**Vice President Lee:** On March 14th do you think we should start our meeting at a later time like 7:00 p.m. or do you think we would be okay?

**Dr. Hawkins:** We could stream the virtual event together at 5:00 p.m. and then go right into the board meeting. We could have it open. Does that work?

**Vice President Lee:** That works.

**Dr. Hawkins:** Looking to offering training for long range planning. We need to complete our strategic planning, our work on our mission/vision statement, and diversity, equity and inclusion work. We want to make sure the dates don't present any conflicts with religious holidays, state holidays.

**Trustee Townsend:** When is graduation?

**Dr. Zachery-Ross:** We will find out.

**Dr. Hawkins:** Dr. Zachery-Ross do you want dates for long range planning or DEI? We might need to get facilitators.

**Dr. Zachery-Ross:** Yes. If we can have a conversation early, then we can find the facilitators that the board wants in advance. We might also want to talk about potential retreat days and places such as Shanty Creek.

**Dr. Hawkins:** Maybe we should to mission statement work early in the year and then DEI.

**Dr. Zachery-Ross:** the retreat has to be after June

**Dr. Hawkins:** August 5 and 6 doesn't work for Trustee Gainsley. Trustee Schindler is often out of town in August. Let's put a place holder on August 12-13 for the board retreat. What do we think about doing a workshop on February 28th?

**Dr. Zachery-Ross:** We might be able to get Mary Kerwin to come.

**Trustee Townsend:** What do we do for Black History Month?

**Dr. Zachery-Ross:** We let people know of things that are happening in the district to celebrate Black History Month and we used to have students come and give points of pride at that meeting. The topics that we discuss at each of the board meetings mostly come from our board field guide and they are the ones we make sure we discuss.

**Trustee Schindler:** Love the idea of workshops during planned board meeting and maybe starting a little earlier instead of planning a whole other day.

**Dr. Hawkins:** So we will move forward with Mary Kerwin coming to the February 28th meeting for mission/vision and strategic planning work. Now talking about equity work. Our next potential workshop day is April 25th which is about 3 months away. We have had worked with Dr. Dorinda Carter Andrews per pandemic and we have work with Yolanda Sealy Ruiz.

**Dr. Zachery-Ross:** We will have to see. Dr. Carter Andrews said no to a couple of dates.

**Dr. Hawkins:** Seeing if we could plug something in there with the next date being June 20th.

**Dr. Zachery-Ross:** Does the board have a preference, Dr. Carter Andrews, Dr. Sealy Ruiz, we have worked with the justice league?

**Trustee Schindler:** I really like Dr. Carter Andrews. For me it's whoever you think can work with the district better. Maybe the person who is working with the rest of the district makes sense.

**Vice President Lee:** I like Dr. Carter Andrews.

**Dr. Lopez:** The last session with Dr. Carter Andrews is April 12th. Our last session with Yolanda is May 27th.

**Dr. Zachery-Ross:** Both Dr. Carter Andrews (working with teachers from three schools, no administrators were allowed to take that class - "Educating the Black Youth", teachers really like it) and Yolanda Sealy Ruiz are both working with teachers in our district.

**Trustee Gainsley:** Feels like our focus should be on suspensions and keeping kids out of the school to prison pipeline. When we had our first workshop with Dr. Carter Andrews pre-pandemic, she talked about doing some data analysis and digging into the data to see where we were losing our students, to see if there were patterns. I would be very curious to exam that.

**Dr. Hawkins:** We had great momentum and then the pandemic hit but the work has continued with the teachers. I am grateful that they know our district and that we have the opportunity to work with two really phenomenal facilitators and leaders with this equity work. We will look to you, Dr. Zachery-Ross to use this skeleton calendar and see if you can get either of these two very sought after facilitators. It sounds like the board wants to continue with this work and would like you to try to schedule something. We are looking at somewhere between April and June.

**Dr. Zachery-Ross:** Thank you for your flexibility, board.

**Dr. Hawkins:** If these dates look good, this is what we will vote on.

... TO ADOPT the Board of Education meeting schedule for January 24, 2022 - January 23, 2023.

Motion by Sharon Lee, second by Meredith Schindler.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Dr Celeste Hawkins, Gillian Ream Gainsley, Sharon Lee, Meredith Schindler, Yvonne Fields, Jeanice Townsend

10. ACTION ITEMS: ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING: Business Items Review & Approval

Action, Procedural: A. Use of Facsimile Signature Authorization

.... MOVE TO authorize the Director of Business and Finance to file the necessary forms with the appropriately designated banks to use the facsimile signature of the School District Superintendent on check draws of the General Fund, Food Service Fund, Debt Retirement Fund, Payroll Account, Student Activities Fund and Trust Fund.

Motion by Gillian Ream Gainsley, second by Jeanice Townsend.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Dr Celeste Hawkins, Gillian Ream Gainsley, Sharon Lee, Meredith Schindler, Yvonne Fields, Jeanice Townsend

Action, Procedural: B. Execute Contracts and Sign Documents on Behalf of the District Authorization

.... MOVE TO designate, and limit thereto, the following administrators to sign contract and other documents on behalf of the District: Superintendent, or designee, and Director of Business and Finance.

Motion by Jeanice Townsend, second by Yvonne Fields.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Dr Celeste Hawkins, Gillian Ream Gainsley, Sharon Lee, Meredith Schindler, Yvonne Fields, Jeanice Townsend

Action, Procedural: C. Bank Account Signatories Authorization

... MOVE TO approve the Board President, Superintendent, Board Treasurer, Director of Business/Finance, and, Finance/Accounting Supervisor as official signatories of bank accounts for the District.

Motion by Jeanice Townsend, second by Gillian Ream Gainsley.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Dr Celeste Hawkins, Gillian Ream Gainsley, Sharon Lee, Meredith Schindler, Yvonne Fields, Jeanice Townsend

Action, Procedural: D. Depository for School District Funds Designation

... MOVE THAT the Board of Education utilize the following financial institutions as depositories for the following funds:

NORMAL OPERATIONS DEPOSITS & WITHDRAWALS:

- 1) Michigan Liquid Asset Fund Plus (MILAF+),
- 2) Bank of Ann Arbor, and
- 3) Fifth Third Bank

BONDED INDEBTEDNESS PAYING AGENTS:

- 1) Bank of New York,
- 2) Huntington National Bank,
- 3) U.S. Bank, and
- 4) Pacific Western

Motion by Meredith Schindler, second by Jeanice Townsend.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Dr Celeste Hawkins, Gillian Ream Gainsley, Sharon Lee, Meredith Schindler, Yvonne Fields, Jeanice Townsend

Action, Procedural: E. Electronic Transfer Officer (ETO) Designation

... MOVE THAT the Board Treasurer or Director of Business and Finance be appointed as Electronic Transfer Officer (ETO) in accordance with Policy #6144.

Motion by Jeanice Townsend, second by Meredith Schindler.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Dr Celeste Hawkins, Gillian Ream Gainsley, Sharon Lee, Meredith Schindler, Yvonne Fields, Jeanice Townsend

Action, Procedural: F. Audit Firm Designation

... MOVE THAT the Board of Education designate Yeo and Yeo as its auditor for the year ending June 30, 2022.

Motion by Meredith Schindler, second by Yvonne Fields.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Dr Celeste Hawkins, Gillian Ream Gainsley, Sharon Lee, Meredith Schindler, Yvonne Fields, Jeanice Townsend

Action, Procedural: G. Legal Counsel Designation

... MOVE THAT the Board of Education authorize the following law firms as legal counsel for the District:

- 1) Thrun Law Firm, PC (retainer); and
- 2) Collins & Blaha PC

Motion by Jeanice Townsend, second by Meredith Schindler.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Dr Celeste Hawkins, Gillian Ream Gainsley, Sharon Lee, Meredith Schindler, Yvonne Fields, Jeanice Townsend

Action, Procedural: H. Newspaper for Bid Notices & Other Legal Postings Designation

... MOVE THAT the Board of Education designate The Ann Arbor News for bid notices and other legal postings.

Motion by Yvonne Fields, second by Meredith Schindler.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Dr Celeste Hawkins, Gillian Ream Gainsley, Sharon Lee, Meredith Schindler, Yvonne Fields, Jeanice Townsend

Action, Procedural: I. Meeting Posting Responsibilities Designation

... MOVE THAT the Superintendent, or designee, will designate an appropriate, available person to post notices of public meetings.

Motion by Gillian Ream Gainsley, second by Jeanice Townsend.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Dr Celeste Hawkins, Gillian Ream Gainsley, Sharon Lee, Meredith Schindler, Yvonne Fields, Jeanice Townsend

#### 11. ACTION ITEMS: Business and Finance

Action: A. Acceptance of Resolution for Millage Renewal

The annual millage rate expires at the end of 2022. The district would like to renew this millage for the next ten years. It needs to be on the May 2022 ballot.

...MOVE THAT the Board of Education accepts the attached resolution for millage renewal to be added to the May 2022 ballot.

**Dr. Zachery-Ross:** Our millage rate expires in 2022. We need to clarify to the public that this is not an increase to home owners. It is just a continuation. If the board passes this, we will start communicating to the community about what this means as it is placed on the ballot.

**Priya Nayak:** We would like to renew the millage because the current one expires in 2022. The millage is to renew the 18 mins for our operating fund that we get from the local taxing authority. We are asking for 18.5 mil because at 18 mil what we get will go down a little but it is not cost increase to any of the home owners.

**Dr. Zachery-Ross:** That is the big piece that we want to communicate to our home owners and business partners that this is a renewal, a continuation. We would like to continue to receive that support.

**Trustee Townsend:** We need to communicate it in a way that they understand that it is a renew and it is not increasing, just need to make sure the messaging is clear.

**Dr. Hawkins:** Make sure the messaging around this is clear.

Motion by Yvonne Fields, second by Gillian Ream Gainsley.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Dr Celeste Hawkins, Gillian Ream Gainsley, Sharon Lee, Meredith Schindler, Yvonne Fields, Jeanice Townsend

Action: B. Acceptance of QuaverEd Music Curriculum Renewal for \$39,200

The district's license for QuaverEd (the PK-8 music curriculum) expires at the end of this school year. We would like to renew this for the next 5 years.

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

...MOVE THAT the Board of Education accept, as presented, QuaverEd Music Curriculum Renewal for Perry Early Learning Center, Ford Early Learning Center, Erickson Elementary, Estabrook Elementary, Holmes Elementary, Ypsilanti International Elementary School [YIES], Ypsilanti Community Middle School Choir, and Ypsilanti Community Middle School Band for \$39,200.

Motion by Gillian Ream Gainsley, second by Meredith Schindler.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Dr Celeste Hawkins, Gillian Ream Gainsley, Sharon Lee, Meredith Schindler, Yvonne Fields, Jeanice Townsend

Action: C. Acceptance of Implementation of the iObservation System

iObservation is a web based platform that will enhance the teacher and administrator evaluation system paid through the Supporting Educator Excellence and Knowledge (SEEK) grant.

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

...MOVE THAT the Board of Education accepts the attached quote for implementing the iObservation system.

**Trustee Gainsley:** Can we get a little description on this since this is a new item?

**Mark Coscarella:** This supports the evaluation process for teachers and administration. The evaluation process itself is not changing, the rubrics is exactly the same, just how it is handled. All the evaluations will be in one place and they will all be systematized. This will greatly enhance and make our evaluation process even better than it already is. This will help to indicate patterns so we can offer support and PDS for our teachers.

**Trustee Gainsley:** The state evaluation process is quite time consuming and burdensome which has been expressed by our teachers and administration. Do you see this system increasing the time spent, decreasing the time spent and if so, by how much?

**Mark Coscarella:** It's hard to tell by how much but hopefully that is the intend of this system to make it easier for the teachers and administrators to have all the information in one place. This contract will be purchased through the SEEK grant. We have also purchased through the SEEK grant, iPads for the administrators so they can email the teachers directly from the iPad as they are leaving their class so the teachers can get immediate feedback. All evaluation rubrics will be in the one location.

**Dr. Zachery-Ross:** I just want to emphasize that the process is not changing. We are really advocating for some type of reprieve in the evaluation system at the legislative level for this year. We know that 40% of a teacher's evaluation based on the state test during a pandemic is a lot. We know there are other things that teachers and staff members are doing that need to be focused on. This system will help us to see growth and also where we need to continue to improve. Where we are doing well. It will have save time for the principals. It will give feedback quicker.

**Trustee Gainsley:** Eager to have an update and how it goes.

**Dr. Hawkins:** Have we had any feedback from other districts that have used this?

**Dr. Zachery-Ross:** The thing about this system is aligned with the rubrics that have been adopted by this board, the unions. We will not have adapt this system at all. It aligned with what we already have.

**Mark Coscarella:** I know of a few other districts that uses this tool and they have found it to be very user friendly, intuitive, and preforms the way the author says it will. We are going to have a soft rollout so we can support the administrators how ever they want to roll it out.

**Trustee Townsend:** Is the software being rolled out this semester? If everyone is doing it differently, how does that work?

**Dr. Zachery-Ross:** The process is the same. Some people will use the iPad and others will still be writing it. We haven't even had training on it so we keep pressing for our legislature to wave evaluations during this pandemic because according to the research there are other things the teachers need to be focused on. Until then we are following the law and this is just saying how you are doing it.

**Dr. Hawkins:** It sounds like this is a way to streamline. We look forward to an update.

**Trustee Fields:** Getting the feedback to the people being evaluated quickly matter.

Motion by Meredith Schindler, second by Yvonne Fields.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Dr Celeste Hawkins, Gillian Ream Gainsley, Sharon Lee, Meredith Schindler, Yvonne Fields, Jeanice Townsend

Action: D. Acceptance of the Read 180 and System 44

Read 180 and System 44 are supplemental supports designed to improve literacy outcomes for students in grades 3 through 12 paid through Literacy Excellence Accelerates Performance (LEAP) grant.

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

...MOVE THAT the Board of Education accepts the attached quote for implementing Read 180 and System 44.

Motion by Yvonne Fields, second by Meredith Schindler.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Dr Celeste Hawkins, Gillian Ream Gainsley, Sharon Lee, Meredith Schindler, Yvonne Fields, Jeanice Townsend

Action: E. Acceptance of District Wide YCS Phone Upgrade Project

The district's current phone system is a Toshiba network connected IP phone system. This system has reliably been in use for over ten years. However, the phone system is no longer in production and parts are no longer available to repair broken devices. In addition, the system does not easily connect with current technology nor is it safe to keep the backend servers for the system online (the server is running Windows XP which was retired back in 2014).

We propose upgrading the phone to comply with modern standards that include:

Up to date security

Updated call management system

Integration with modern third party platforms (i.e. security notifications, PA's, etc)

Redundancy in our system

By adopting this new system we are able to provide a more reliable system for both internal and external communications. We were able to secure a proposal through a consortium vendor and a close partner with the district for the following amount:

Approximately \$360,000

This is an estimate due to increased handset amounts and additional caller accessories

Click [here](#) to view the upgrade information.

...MOVE THAT the Board of Education award, as presented, the purchase agreement with Sentinel Technologies to purchase a phone system to replace the current platform.

Motion by Meredith Schindler, second by Yvonne Fields.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Dr Celeste Hawkins, Gillian Ream Gainsley, Sharon Lee, Meredith Schindler, Yvonne Fields, Jeanice Townsend

Action, Recognition: F. Amendment to WISD Technology Service Contract

In our current contract with the WISD we have several positions that are either split with Lincoln, limited by days/hours, and compensated with below-market salaries. This has resulted in staff being unable to work due to their contracts or having extensive "compensation" hours logged outside of their timesheets. In addition, vacancies remain unfilled due to the compensation being offered. With a team of only 9 team members even a single vacancy severely handicaps our ability to respond to the needs of our staff, students, and community. Here are the proposed changes (all amounts are estimates):

1. Technician – Level 1 Support, FTE 0.5 YCS, 210 days will be upgraded to a Technical Assistant, FTE 0.25 YCS, 230 days (decrease of \$3,981.35)

2. Technician – Level 1 Support, FTE 0.5 YCS, 210 days will be upgraded to a Technician – Level 1 Support, FTE 0.5 YCS, 230 days (increase of \$5,620.65)

3. Technician – Level 1 Support, FTE 1.0 YCS, 210 days will be upgraded to a Technical Assistant, FTE 1.0 YCS, 230 days (increase of \$32,800)

The total amount of the Amended Contract Cost reflects the entirety of the 2021/22 Fiscal Year and will be prorated based on the approved and fully executed date of the contract amendment. The prorated amount will also be updated and reflected in the total Cost Estimate of the 2019-22 Shared Tech Services Contract: Cost Estimate 2021-22 Fiscal Year. The current 2021-22 Cost Estimate is \$616,234.54.

...MOVE THAT the Board of Education approve, as presented, the amendment to the service contract for technology services.

Motion by Yvonne Fields, second by Jeanice Townsend.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Dr Celeste Hawkins, Gillian Ream Gainsley, Sharon Lee, Meredith Schindler, Yvonne Fields, Jeanice Townsend

Action: G. Donation: Meijer's Corporation

Meijer's on Carpenter Road has made a donation of school supplies valued at approximately \$3000 to the Ypsilanti Community Schools. Thank you, Meijer's, from all the students that you are impacting with this donation!

.... MOVE THAT the Board of Education accept a donation from Meijer's for approximately \$3000 in school supplies.

Motion by Yvonne Fields, second by Meredith Schindler.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Dr Celeste Hawkins, Gillian Ream Gainsley, Sharon Lee, Meredith Schindler, Yvonne Fields, Jeanice Townsend

Action: H. Donation: Esperion Therapeutics

George Evans, of Esperion Therapeutics, has made a donation of office supplies valued at approximately \$1500 to the Ypsilanti Community Schools. Thank you, Mr. Evans and Esperion Therapeutics, from all the staff that you are impacting with this donation!

.... MOVE THAT the Board of Education accept a donation from Esperion Therapeutics for approximately \$1500 worth of office supplies.

Motion by Jeanice Townsend, second by Yvonne Fields.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Dr Celeste Hawkins, Gillian Ream Gainsley, Sharon Lee, Meredith Schindler, Yvonne Fields, Jeanice Townsend

Action: I. Donation: Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation Grant

The Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation is pleased to present Ypsilanti Community Schools with this payment in the amount of \$75,000.00 in support of Young Men of Purpose for 6th-8th grade young Black males in partnership with Mentor2Youth, WMBK, WCC, and CLFMI. Thank you, Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation for this very generous gift!

.... MOVE THAT the Board of Education accept a grant from the Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation in the amount of \$75,000.00 to support Young Men of Purpose.

**Trustee Gainsley:** What is this program?

**Dr. Lopez:** They got together with Ms. Neal, the principal of the middle school. They wanted to focus on our children, our youth. They made a commitment to raise \$75,000 to help tutor, mentor, that kind of support that directly impact our young people. It has been a game changer. You can see where the relationships are really making a difference in the middle school. there's an adult that has your back.

**Dr. Zachery-Ross:** It was led by community partners. They spearheaded talking to the community foundation. A number of smaller organizations talked to the foundation and said we can't do it alone but can you support us so we can help more. They were collaborative. They brought in families. They brought in Dr. Lopez. They didn't want to do something to the schools, they wanted to do something for the schools realizing that the you black males need help.

**Dr. Lopez:** Another piece is they are proving support to the families on Saturdays.

**Dr. Hawkins:** This has great promise for our young men. COGNIA recommended we boost up the number of students having access to mentoring. We look forward to hearing how well this is going.

Motion by Sharon Lee, second by Meredith Schindler.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Dr Celeste Hawkins, Gillian Ream Gainsley, Sharon Lee, Meredith Schindler, Yvonne Fields, Jeanice Townsend

Action: J. Donation: Earl-Lee Bird Learning Center and Child Care

Carmen Young of Earl-Lee Bird Learning Center and Child Care had a child n in the YCS District and was so satisfied with the services her daughter received from the Special Education Dept. at the High School that her first thought was to give back to the District that gave so much to her daughter. Thank you so much, Ms. Young and the Earl-Lee Bird Learning Center and Child Care for your very generous donation!

...MOVE THAT the Board of Education accept a donation from Earl-Lee Bird Learning Center and Child Care for \$1000.

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, Jeanice Townsend

## 12. PUBLIC COMMENTS #2

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.

No comments.

## 13. DISCUSSION

Discussion: A. Board of Education Subcommittee Reports

**Vice President Lee:** Ypsilanti Foundation: In 2021, the Ypsilanti Foundation gave out more than \$93,800, allocated in the following ways: \$4,800 for 15 mini grants, (the 2022 mini grants are in and are expecting to give out more than \$11,000 to the 35 applicants), \$24,500 for scholarships for graduating seniors, \$20,000 to support K-12 learning recovery for academic tutoring, support materials, and kits from KLA, \$4,000 in pandemic priorities.

**Dr. Hawkins:** Do we know dates for scholarships for this year and has the information been widely shared?



**Trustee Townsend:** The school district along with the Rotary is having a virtual event on Feb. 10th with the Divine Nine and they will be giving all that information. It will be virtual and live on FaceBook. The flyer is already on the school's website and the information has already been distributed by Alex Cash. It is also on social media.

**Trustee Gainsley:** Finance and Operational Subcommittee: We have been talking about the millage and making sure we are educating the public. We have asked for a time line of what the district plans to communicate. The district can't advocate for the millage but they can inform. Exploring future use of Cheney Elementary. Property disposition and how we use the properties that we are not using has been a key concern for this board. Some discussion and there was a walk through with Superior Township Board. The sheriff's department had the building evaluated. The building is in surprisingly good shape. We will keep the board updated.

#### 14. BOARD/SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS

**Trustee Townsend:** Thank you for all the work that was put into the meeting and for keeping us informed.

**Dr. Hawkins:** It is the leadership of the district that allows the board to do the work that they do. Thank you to everyone.

**Trustee Townsend:** Thank you, Solomon, for making us look professional.

**Trustee Gainsley:** We have an amazing superintendent. For work I went to the MASA this week and found out that she had not only spoken at the main stage and did an incredible job but she also received the district award for Grizzly Learning Camp.

**Dr. Hawkins:** Recognition for Trustee Gainsley for the year at Michigan Learning Channel.

**Trustee Gainsley:** The Michigan Learning Channel has been in operation for a year now. We offer learning for all students through PBS stations.

**Dr. Zachery-Ross:** Trustee Gainsley presented at the MASA with the Michigan Learning Channel using real teachers to teach the lessons. The district has received the Beyond the Class award because of our Grizzly Learning Camp this past summer. It recognizes exemplary out of school efforts in collaboration with community based organizations. Here are some of our partners: U of M, EMU, Toledo Zoo, Culinary Kitchen, Comic Book Store, Dom Bakery, Belle Isle Aquarium, Creature Conservatory, WISD, WCC, Domino Farms, Ypsilanti Running Store, Ypsilanti District Library, Foster Grandparents, Americore, Firehouse Museum, Growing HOPE, Lego Robotics. I was one of three superintendents that was asked to present an Ed Talk. Thank you, Solomon and the technology department, for all the work they did for tonight for this meeting. Thank you all for the sacrifice. With the Michigan code, only members of the military can participate in meetings virtually beginning January 1st. For public comments, the person needs to come in person and the public is welcome. The meeting is being streamed on FaceBook. We don't want to violate the Open Meetings Act so comments cannot be made virtually but people are welcome to come and make comments in person. We are still being transparent, we are still streaming. With districts closing, there is that pressure especially when larger districts close that are close by and people wondering what are we looking at. We are looking at the numbers. There are over 500 districts in Michigan and every week there have been less than 10 that have closed in a week. We have been urged to look at classroom by classroom, building by building. At one point we did have four classrooms closed but the remaining students were able to get their education, to see their counselor, to go to the RAHS clinic, have fellowship with their friends. We are taking the pandemic seriously. The variant has us baffled. We are doing our best to operate in a safe manner and to stay open for our students, families, and community as long as it's safe and it goes with the guidance of the WCHD. The only way we have been able to do it is through the diligence of our bus drivers, cooks, teachers, nurses, custodians, other staff. Every staff member has been invaluable. Thank you, staff members who are leading. Everyone is leading from where they stand. They are working on a plan where as long as we stay open we will get a portion depending on the portion that we have. They don't know if they can forgive a debt but they are trying to get legislators to be more flexible with attendance.

#### 15. ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

Meeting adjourned at 8:48 p.m.