

**REGULAR MEETING (Monday, April 8, 2024)****Members present**

Dr Celeste Hawkins, Sharon Lee, Yvonne Fields, Jeanice Townsend

**Members absent**

Maria Goodrich, Gillian Gainsley, Meredith Schindler

**Meeting called to order at 6:30 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. ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA

Action: A. Acceptance of Agenda

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

Motion by Sharon Lee, second by Jeanice Townsend.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Dr Celeste Hawkins, Sharon Lee, Yvonne Fields, Jeanice Townsend

4. ACHIEVEMENTS, AWARDS & RECOGNITION

Recognition: A. Ford Early Learning Center Points of Pride

The YCS Board of Education is excited to share wonderful things that are happening in our schools by reading our school's points of pride. Today's school is Ford Early Learning Center.

Click here to [view](#) the points of pride.

5. ACTION ITEMS: Student Affairs

Action, Procedural: A. Acceptance of Field Trip Request: YCHS/RCTC Culinary, May 21 - 22, 2024 (Benton Harbor, Michigan)

This proposal comes from Chef Aaron Gaertner, CTE Instructor & ProStart Instructor. Students will get the opportunity to showcase their culinary talent at the 2024 KitchenAid sponsor tent at the 2024 KitchenAid Senior PGA Championship for a 1.5 day experience while working with FoodNetwork stars.

Click [here](#) to view the field trip request.

... MOVE THAT the Board of Education approve the overnight field trip of the Ypsilanti Community High School/Culinary program to Benton Harbor, MI, on May 21 - 22, 2024 for the PGA Tour.

Motion by Jeanice Townsend, second by Yvonne Fields.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Dr Celeste Hawkins, Sharon Lee, Yvonne Fields, Jeanice Townsend

Action: B. Acceptance of Field Trip Request: Ypsilanti Community Middle School, April 25 - 28, 2024 (Charlotte Motor Speedway, N.C.)

Greetings, As the principal of the Ypsilanti Community Middle School I am proud to request permission to send six exceptional honor roll students, comprising the triumphant "Golden Grizzly" race team, to defend their title at the upcoming TEN80 racing competition in Charlotte, North Carolina. This remarkable team of all-female racers achieved an unprecedented feat by clinching victory in every race they competed in during the event held in Atlanta, GA.

Their unparalleled success not only showcases their exceptional talent but also exemplifies the school's commitment to fostering excellence and innovation in STEM education. Moreover, it serves as an inspiring testament to the power of determination, teamwork, and dedication.

Funding for this prestigious opportunity will be generously provided through the STEAM field trip money donated by Toyota as part of their Driving Possibilities campaign, along with support from the WISD. This support underscores the community's recognition of the importance of investing in the next generation of leaders and innovators in the fields of science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics (STEAM).

By participating in this competition, these students will not only have the chance to defend their racing title but also to further develop their skills, broaden their horizons, and serve as ambassadors of excellence for their school and community. We believe that this experience will not only enrich their educational journey but also inspire them to reach even greater heights in their academic and personal pursuits.

Click [here](#) to view the field trip request.

Principal Davis: The all-girls racing team won so they are going to Charlotte. \$5,000 is coming from the Toyota grant and the WISD is picking up the other \$2,500.

... MOVE THAT the Board of Education approve the field trip of the Ypsilanti Community Middle School to Charlotte Motor Speedway, N.C. on April 25 - 28, 2024.

Motion by Yvonne Fields, second by Sharon Lee.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Dr Celeste Hawkins, Sharon Lee, Yvonne Fields, Jeanice Townsend

Action, Procedural: C. Acceptance of Field Trip Request: Ypsilanti Community Middle School, June 4, 2024 (Cedar Point, OH) Principal Davis is proposing a field trip to Cedar Point for 50 high-achieving students in the area of science to provide them with a real-world application of their academic knowledge. This trip aims to reinforce classroom learning by allowing students to see scientific principles in action at an amusement park known for its rides and attractions. By experiencing firsthand how concepts like physics, engineering, and even biology are applied in the design and operation of amusement park rides, students can deepen their understanding and appreciation of science.

The selection criteria for students—based on both academic excellence and exemplary behavior—ensures that those who participate are deserving of this opportunity. Additionally, by including both 6th and 7th graders, the trip provides a chance for students at different stages of their middle school education to benefit from the experience.

Funding for the trip is secured through grants acquired from the district, meaning there is no financial burden on the students or their families. The use of a 56-passenger charter bus ensures safe and efficient transportation to and from the park, while Principal Davis's presence as a chaperone ensures proper supervision throughout the trip.

Overall, this field trip to Cedar Point represents a valuable educational opportunity that aligns with the school's commitment to providing enriching experiences for its students. It offers a unique way for high-achieving scholars to connect classroom learning with real-world applications in an engaging and memorable manner.

Click [here](#) to view the field trip request.

... MOVE THAT the Board of Education approve the field trip for Ypsilanti Community Middle School to Cedar Point on June 4, 2024.

Motion by Yvonne Fields, second by Jeanice Townsend.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Dr Celeste Hawkins, Sharon Lee, Yvonne Fields, Jeanice Townsend

#### 6. REQUEST FOR CLOSED SESSION

Action: A. Request for 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 Sharon Lee, second by Jeanice Townsend.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Dr Celeste Hawkins, Sharon Lee, Yvonne Fields, Jeanice Townsend

The Board of Education entered closed session at 6:50 p.m.

#### 7. RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

Procedural: A. Reconvene to Open Session

The Board of Education will return to Open Session.

The Board of Education returned into open session at 7:06 p.m.

#### 8. PRESENTATIONS

Presentation: A. The 180 Program at Holmes Elementary Presentation

The 180° Program was founded nearly 20 years ago. It has provided services in 26 states and 35 school districts. It is an innovative evidence-based behavior modification program and comprehensive development system. It is designed to provide schools with proven strategies to correct student misbehaviors, challenge classroom disengagement and support education professionals in developing the academic environment necessary to accelerate student overall growth. Its founder, Dr. Raphael B. Johnson, and Holmes principal, Zack Chutz, will present a snapshot of the program services rendered at Holmes Elementary School along with the recent data results of staff evaluations.

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

**Trustee Townsend:** How is your program impacting academics?

**Dr. Johnson:** The first goal is to get the kids back in class and deal with behavior. We have to deal with behavior before we can deal with academics. We are a presence that the students may not be accustomed to. We are there to show concern and help them redirect.

**Trustee Townsend:** Does your staff have the training to deal with students with special needs and that kind of thing?

**Dr. Johnson:** Absolutely. They go through training.

**Trustee Fields:** So the 180 Program has been in the middle school for about a year and Holmes just since March of this year?

**Dr. Zachery-Ross:** Correct.

**Vice President Lee:** What strategies is the 180 team implementing that the principals and teachers aren't?

**Dr. Johnson:** Since we are dealing strictly with behavior and not everything else that a building leader needs to be involved in, we have time to listen, correct, redirect, and mentor.

**Principal Davis:** Our suspensions have gone down because the 180 team members can work one-on-one to help with the social-emotional learning. They work with the teachers and the kids and maybe even the building level leaders so I as the principal don't have as much discipline to deal with. There is someone who know, the kids, they feel safe to talk with them who is building relationships with them. Our scores have gone up and our discipline has gone down. You can't learn in the hallway. Same strategies just at different times.

**Dr. Hawkins:** What is the typical time line to see growth with your program?

**Dr. Johnson:** We say about 180 days.

**Dr. Hawkins:** I'm thinking about sustainability. What are you doing to work with the staff to prepare them for when we don't have 180?

**Dr. Johnson:** We will have PDs. To have significant change, you have to work with the students, with the stake holders, and with the parents. We want to get some answers from parents to see how their students are doing. We also want to give parents, students, and stakeholders tools to use. We want to give them correct information.

**Dr. Hawkins:** Trustee Townsend, you want a report back to the board with the achievement data?

**Trustee Townsend:** I want to see the difference in the number of suspensions, academic improvement, and the evaluations from parents.

Presentation: B. Budget Update Presentation - Damien Butler

Business and Finance Director, Damien L. Butler, will present a budget amendment to the Board of Education for consideration. Click [here](#) to view the presentation.

**Trustee Townsend:** Do we have systems in place to address the audit issues especially in food service?

**Mr. Butler:** Yes. State has given us some training with the folks in food service.

## 9. 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.

**Lindsey Pacheco** - Special Ed

**Preeti Abraham** - Substitutes

**Veronica Bodary** - Update about son, Special Ed

**Steve Lambert** - Debt Relief, line item appropriations

## 10. CONSENT AGENDA

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

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

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

1) March 18, 2024, Regular Board Meeting [Minutes](#)

2) [Personnel matters](#) as per the presented list dated 4/1/24; New Hires, Resignations, and Retirements.

Motion by Yvonne Fields, second by Sharon Lee.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Dr Celeste Hawkins, Sharon Lee, Yvonne Fields, Jeanice Townsend

## 11. ACTION ITEM: Human Resources

Action: A. Approval of Custodial Contract/Employment: Sue McCarty, Director of Human Resources

The presented Custodial Contract/Employment is provided for Board review. It is recommended that the Board approve the employment of Kelvin Jones.

...MOVE THAT the Board of Education approve the Custodial Contract/Employment of Kelvin Jones with the commencement date of April 9, 2024.

Motion by Sharon Lee, second by Jeanice Townsend.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Dr Celeste Hawkins, Sharon Lee, Yvonne Fields, Jeanice Townsend

## 12. ACTION ITEMS: Business and Finance

Action: A. Acceptance of the 180 Program for Holmes Elementary School Proposals

YCS is in need of a Comprehensive Social Emotional Learning and Mental Health School-Wide Behavior Support Partnership for Holmes Elementary School. The 180 Program (from Total Package Lifestyle, LLC) will allow all Holmes students to participate in a research-based behavior modification program that provides trauma-informed support and social-emotional learning service for all students. The 180 Program is designed to offer school-wide positive culture and climate support, increase student motivation, and engage students in great learning opportunities. The 180 Program enhances not only behavior and character but also achievement in all core content areas. The support provided helps to decrease disciplinary referrals and increase academic achievement for middle school students. The 180 Program entails push-ins, pull-outs, small groups, one-on-one, whole group prevention, and intervention.

Click [here](#) to view the contract for 2023-2024.

Click [here](#) to view the contract for 2024-2025.

...MOVE THAT the Board of Education accepts the attached quotes for the 180 Program for Holmes Elementary School proposals for the amount of \$122,625.00.

Motion by Yvonne Fields, second by Sharon Lee.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Dr Celeste Hawkins, Sharon Lee, Yvonne Fields, Jeanice Townsend

Action: B. Acceptance of the 180 Program for Erickson Elementary School Proposals

YCS is in need of a Comprehensive Social Emotional Learning and Mental Health School-Wide Behavior Support Partnership for Holmes Elementary School. The 180 Program (from Total Package Lifestyle, LLC) will allow all Holmes students to participate in a research-based behavior modification program that provides trauma-informed support and social-emotional learning service for all students. The 180 Program is designed to offer school-wide positive culture and climate support, increase student motivation, and engage students in great learning opportunities. The 180 Program enhances not only behavior and character but also achievement in all core content areas. The support provided helps to decrease disciplinary referrals and increase academic achievement for middle school students. The 180 Program entails push-ins, pull-outs, small groups, one-on-one, whole group prevention, and intervention.

Click [here](#) to view the contract for 2023-2024.

Click [here](#) to view the contract for 2024-2025.

...MOVE THAT the Board of Education accepts the attached quotes for the 180 Program for Erickson Elementary School proposals for the amount of \$122,625.00.

Motion by Jeanice Townsend, second by Yvonne Fields.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Dr Celeste Hawkins, Sharon Lee, Yvonne Fields, Jeanice Townsend

Action: C. Acceptance of YCS Paving Project for Sampson Bus Garage

We are seeking approval to grant Allied Asphalt Paving the Sampson Bus Garage paving project to be completed this summer. The proposal includes the western half of the Sampson Bus yard including the EV charging stations and related bus parking. The total cost of the project is \$174,050.

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

...MOVE THAT the Board of Education grant Allied Asphalt Paving the Sampson Bus Garage paving project in the amount of \$174,050.

Motion by Sharon Lee, second by Yvonne Fields.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Dr Celeste Hawkins, Sharon Lee, Yvonne Fields, Jeanice Townsend

Action: D. Acceptance of Convergent for Additional Cameras for YCS

The work for upgrading our security cameras at YCS. The WRMS building received updated security cameras last year but was meant to only provide very limited exterior coverage by the main door and general coverage of the interior. As we prepare for move students into the building we need to expand coverage of exterior and interior spaces. [We went to bid](#) for cameras back in February, completed a walkthrough in early March, and responded to vendor questions. After a full month we closed the bid on March 29 and completed [the bid evaluation](#) on April 1st.

...MOVE THAT the Board of Education accept, as presented, the choice of Convergent as the recommended vendor for the work of expanding camera coverage for Ypsilanti Community Schools.

Motion by Sharon Lee, second by Jeanice Townsend.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Dr Celeste Hawkins, Sharon Lee, Yvonne Fields, Jeanice Townsend

Action: E. Acceptance of VSC Technologies for Building PA and Classroom Audio Systems

We are seeking to add the EPIC audio system from Audio Enhancement to Willow Run Middle School. This will integrate the building into our existing district wide PA network as well as providing audio reinforcement in every classroom. [We opened this RFP](#) in late February, completed a walkthrough in early March and closed the bid on March 29th. This does not cover the audio systems in the WRMS auditorium.

...MOVE THAT the Board of Education award, as presented, the selection of VSC Technologies for installing a building wide PA and classroom audio system for Ypsilanti Community Schools at Willow Run Middle School.

Motion by Yvonne Fields, second by Sharon Lee.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Dr Celeste Hawkins, Sharon Lee, Yvonne Fields, Jeanice Townsend

Action: F. Acceptance of Data Image for BenQ Interactive Panels for WRMS Classrooms

We have been working with Data Image to outfit the WRMS classrooms with BenQ interactive panels. These new boards will allow for multi-point touch and project content at 75". This will bring Willow Run Middle School on par with all other instructional buildings in the district. We are aiming to outfit every classroom with these panels. There is no RFP for this project as Data Image is a member of the REMC state bid for these board models (RM7504 and RM8604). This project only covers the classrooms, but we are still in the work of finalizing details for projection in larger public spaces such as the auditorium, media center, and several larger meeting spaces.

...MOVE THAT the Board of Education award, as presented, the selection of Data Image for procuring and installing interactive panels for Ypsilanti Community Schools at Willow Run Middle School.

Motion by Jeanice Townsend, second by Yvonne Fields.  
 Final Resolution: Motion Carries  
 Aye: Dr Celeste Hawkins, Sharon Lee, Yvonne Fields, Jeanice Townsend

Action: G. Approval and Adoption of the Amended Budget  
 Damien Butler, Director of Business and Finance presented earlier in the meeting the recommended amended budget to the Board of Education. District Administration is requesting the Board approve and adopt the amended budget.  
 ... MOVE THAT the Board of Education approve and adopt the Amended Budget as presented.

Motion by Jeanice Townsend, second by Sharon Lee.  
 Final Resolution: Motion Carries  
 Aye: Dr Celeste Hawkins, Sharon Lee, Yvonne Fields, Jeanice Townsend

Action: H. Acceptance of a Donation: EMU Driving Possibilities Project  
 EMU Driving Possibilities would like to donate \$5000 to support the Ypsilanti Community Middle School to attend the 2024 NSBE Annual Conference and to participate in the TEN80 Race Car Challenge. Driving Possibilities Project wishes the YCS NSBE Jr. team a successful conference and competition.  
 Thank you, EMU Driving Possibilities Project, from all the students that you are impacting with this donation!  
 .... MOVE THAT the Board of Education accepts a donation from EMU Driving Possibilities Project for \$5,000.

Motion by Sharon Lee, second by Yvonne Fields.  
 Final Resolution: Motion Carries  
 Aye: Dr Celeste Hawkins, Sharon Lee, Yvonne Fields, Jeanice Townsend

### 13. 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 public comments.

### 14. DISCUSSION

Discussion: A. Board of Education Subcommittee Reports

**Vice President Lee:** The Head Start meeting was not well attended. We are looking for a chair. The next meeting is April 23rd.

**Trustee Townsend:** The YCS Foundation scholarship applications are due today. They will be presented at the celebration for the seniors in May. WASB professional development on April 11th and the annual budget presentation is on April 18th from 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. via Zoom.

### 15. BOARD/SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS

**Trustee Townsend:** Thank you, board, Dr. Zachery-Ross, central office staff, teachers, staff, students for all the support of the Easter Egg Hunt. There were over 500 people at the event. A special thanks to facilities and all the sponsors.

**Trustee Fields:** A special thanks to Trustee Townsend.

**Dr. Hawkins:** There was good attendance at the Easter Egg Hunt. It was a team effort and the students had a wonderful time. Would like feedback for the letter of support for a grant for the district. The MASB is calling for presentation proposals.

**Dr. Zachery-Ross:** Thank you to the community and the board for supporting the Easter Egg Hunt. Thank you to Toyota Driving Possibilities for the solar eclipse glasses and to the educators for preparing lessons. Thank you to Dr. Coscarella and all those who helped to make a successful visit from Modern Classrooms last week. We are now in testing season. Please have your students go to bed early, eat breakfast, encourage them that they will do well on the tests, don't let them get upset about the testing, speak life into them, and lift them up.

**Trustee Townsend:** Requesting a town hall or something because she would like more information regarding Special Ed.

### 16. ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

Meeting adjourned at 8:46 p.m.