

REGULAR MEETING (Monday, March 18, 2024)**Members present**

Dr Celeste Hawkins, Sharon Lee, Meredith Schindler, Yvonne Fields, Maria Goodrich, Jeanice Townsend

Members absent

Gillian Gainsely

Meeting called to order at 6:33 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 Meredith Schindler.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Dr Celeste Hawkins, Sharon Lee, Meredith Schindler, Yvonne Fields, Maria Goodrich, Jeanice Townsend

4. ACHIEVEMENTS, AWARDS & RECOGNITION

Presentation: A. ACCE High School 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 ACCE High School.

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

Principal Leslie Davis, Charlotte Tillerson, Lauren Fardig-Diop, and LaKeisha Vereen presented.

Vice President Lee: Food pantry?

Principal Davis: Students were very involved with it because that is how Ms. Tillerson works, it is for the community, it is in a secure location, parents like visiting the school

Trustee Townsend: Thank you to the Charlotte Tillerson Food Pantry. I appreciate that you are still making ACCE an experience that the students can remember and that they aren't frozen in time. How do you promote parent engagement because you have very strong parent engagement.

Principal Davis: We don't wait for a problem to engage. We send postcards and texts and make phones of introduction and when a student is doing well. Parents can call me. She is available. Inviting them into the building to sit and chat. We are there to support parents as well as students. Provide resources in the community.

Ms. Tillerson: We hit the reset button for the students and keep hitting it. We don't leave them where they are.

Principal Davis: A working agreement in the district is we don't freeze people in time. That includes students. We show them respect.

5. ACTION ITEMS: Student Affairs

Action, Procedural: A. Acceptance of Field Trip Request: YIES 5th Grade, April 15 - 16, 2024 (Howell, MI)

... MOVE THAT the Board of Education approve the overnight camping trip of the Ypsilanti International Elementary School 5th Graders to Howell, MI on April 15 - 16, 2024.

This proposal comes from the YIES 5th grade teachers (Tabia Patton, Vanessa Neil, Melanie Eccles). Fifth Grade Overnight Camp will involve all of our enrolled 5th graders traveling to Howell Nature Center. Students will engage in outdoor learning, improving their understanding of ecological, historical, and teamwork concepts.

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

Motion by Jeanice Townsend, second by Yvonne Fields.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Dr Celeste Hawkins, Sharon Lee, Meredith Schindler, Yvonne Fields, Maria Goodrich, Jeanice Townsend

Action, Procedural: B. Acceptance of Field Trip Request: YCHS/RCTC Culinary, April 15 - 18, 2024 (Houston, Texas)

... MOVE THAT the Board of Education approve the overnight field trip of the Ypsilanti Community High School/Culinary program to Houston, Texas, on April 15 - 18, 2024 for the NASA Hunch Culinary Challenge National Championship.

This proposal comes from Chef Aaron Gaertner, CTE Instructor & ProStart Instructor. Students will compete against their peers from all over the United States and, with hard work, win prizes and scholarships, with the winning team getting a full-ride scholarship to Sullivan University, the National Center for Hospitality Studies in Louisville, Kentucky. Go Grizzlies!

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

Motion by Yvonne Fields, second by Sharon Lee.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Dr Celeste Hawkins, Sharon Lee, Meredith Schindler, Yvonne Fields, Maria Goodrich, Jeanice Townsend

Action, Procedural: C. Acceptance of Field Trip Request: YCHS Robotics Team, April 4 - 16, 2024 (Saginaw Valley State University, MI)

... MOVE THAT the Board of Education approve the overnight field trip of the Ypsilanti Community High School Robotics Team to Saginaw Valley State University, on April 4 - 6, 2024 for the FIRST Robotics Competition State Championship.

This proposal comes from Chef Aaron Gaertner, CTE Instructor & ProStart Instructor. Students will compete against their peers from all over the United States and, with hard work, win prizes and scholarships, with the winning team getting a full-ride scholarship to Sullivan University, the National Center for Hospitality Studies in Louisville, Kentucky. Go Grizzlies!

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

Bill Burnette spoke on the competitions that some of the RCTC students will be participating in.

Motion by Jeanice Townsend, second by Meredith Schindler.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Dr Celeste Hawkins, Sharon Lee, Meredith Schindler, Yvonne Fields, Maria Goodrich, Jeanice Townsend

6. REQUEST FOR CLOSED SESSION: Section 8(h) OMA, Attorney-Client Privilege

Action: A. Attorney-Client Privilege

... MOVE THAT the Board of Education convene in closed session under Section 8(h) of the OMA: Attorney-Client Privilege.

In accordance with Michigan's Open Meetings Act (OMA), enacted in 1976 as Public Act 267, all closed meetings must be called by a motion at a public meeting of the Board of Education followed by a roll call vote. The Board of Education needs to meet in closed session under Section 8(h) of the Open Meetings Act, Attorney-Client Privilege.

The board went into closed session at 7:02 p.m.

Motion by Maria Goodrich, second by Sharon Lee.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Dr Celeste Hawkins, Sharon Lee, Meredith Schindler, Yvonne Fields, Maria Goodrich, Jeanice Townsend

7. RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

Procedural: A. Reconvene to Open Session

The Board of Education will return to Open Session.

The board returned to open session at 7:43 p.m.

8. REQUEST FOR CLOSED SESSION: Section 8(c) OMA, Collective Bargaining

Action: A. Collective Bargaining Session

... MOVE THAT the Board of Education convene in closed session under Section 8(c) of the OMA: Collective Bargaining.

In accordance with Michigan's Open Meetings Act (OMA), enacted in 1976 as Public Act 267, all closed meetings must be called by a motion at a public meeting of the Board of Education followed by a roll call vote. The Board of Education needs to meet in closed session under Section 8(c) of the Open Meetings Act, Collective Bargaining.

The board went into closed session at 7:44 p.m.

Motion by Sharon Lee, second by Meredith Schindler.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Dr Celeste Hawkins, Sharon Lee, Meredith Schindler, Yvonne Fields, Maria Goodrich, Jeanice Townsend

9. RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

Procedural: A. Reconvene to Open Session

The Board of Education will return to Open Session.

The board returned to open session at 8:44 p.m.

10. PRESENTATIONS

Presentation: A. Bus Routing Software Presentation - Director Annette Adams

This is an update for the proposal of Traversa, the new Bus Routing Software and parent app to track where their students' bus is.

Director Annette Adams and **Director Solomon Zheng** presented.

Vice President Lee: What guarantee do we have that this will work with what we already have?

Director Adams: We can hold them to the contract.

Dr. Zachery-Ross: We have purchased some of the product but we haven't purchased a system. We wanted a system that will work with PowerSchool.

Director Zheng: We checked out compatibility with the hardware we already have. It will give us the features we have been asking for. There is a new app that is improved and will give our families what they have been asking for. The infrastructure is now going to be there because it will be on the cloud, which will give us a broader reach and reliability.

Vice President Lee: It can work with the electric buses too?

Director Adams: It will be the same.

Trustee Townsend: Since it is web-based, what safe guards do we have in place from hackers?

Director Zheng: Our host follows all the rules to protect the servers.

Trustee Goodrich: Did you talk to other districts using Traversa?

Director Adams: They all liked the unlimited seats so now the schools will be able to help the parents also instead of transportation getting all the calls. The other districts raved about the app.

Trustee Fields: Maps?

Director Adams: They will work with Washtenaw County to get the maps updated.

Vice President Lee: So have the maps be updated?

Dr. Zachery-Ross: If we sign this contract, it is part of the contract and they will update the maps.

Trustee Goodrich: We have all the hardware for each driver to have what they need? How much flexibility in the system say for an accident?

Director Adams: Yes. It is just like your GPS so if you make a different turn, it will adjust and get you to the next stop.

Trustee Townsend: Have a town hall and push having the app and at registration, etc.

Trustee Goodrich: And we need to insure that parents have an easy way to update their information in PowerSchool.

Dr. Hawkins: Since Veratron and Traversa are the same company. How do we know it will go better this time than last?

Director Adams: They had an understaffed IT team. Now they have an IT team that has been in place for a while and is working well together. I asked other districts how their IT and staff were to work with and I did not hear even one complaint.

Dr. Hawkins: How do we know this is the technology that is going to make the difference? We don't want to be talking about another type of technology any time soon.

Director Zheng: There were limitations of the platform but now we are looking at a more robust platform. We are looking forward to working with their team to hammer out the deficiencies.

Dr. Hawkins: What is our timeline for training? Transportation staff is getting trained?

Director Adams: Their project management team will be working with us and they have an online Tyler Tech University where we can find answers. Yes, and our staff will train the secretarial staff.

Trustee Townsend: Is there any way the parents can let us know how we are doing?

Director Adams: I will look into it.

Trustee Fields: Will the training happen now?

Director Adams: Yes. So we can have it ready to roll out in September.

Dr. Zachery-Ross: Most of the training is for the back end - the routing. All our bus drivers have already been trained in using their hardware. The drivers and monitors won't have to learn anything new. Only the office staff and the secretaries will need to learn anything.

Vice President Lee: Who does the training?

Director Adams: They will send a project manager.

Presentation: B. YCS 2024-25 Course Catalog Presentation - Dr. Carlos Lopez

YCS Assistant Superintendent Dr. Carlos Lopez will provide an overview of the 2025-25 YCS Course Catalog, focusing on the new courses that will be offered.

Dr. Carlos Lopez presented.

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

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

Trustee Townsend: IB classes. How do we identify the classes? Coding for the math - can we start that in middle school? Why does the ACCE course listing for consumer credit not carry credit, but the high school personal finance course does? I think it should be uniform.

Dr. Lopez: We can start the coding in middle school. With the Toyota grant and all that is coming, we will be able to start it. A group of teachers and Toyota will be working on that over the summer from 4th grade up. It should be uniform. I will go back and take a look at the two courses and see what is going on.

11. 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.

Ari Shtein: Concern for WIHI

Hasini Anand: Concern for WIHI

Sydney Bod: Concern for WIHI

Sophie Bourdeau: Concern for WIHI

Ziv Dueber: Concern for WIHI

Monica Ross-Williams: Debt relief

Brenda Stumbo: Debt relief

12. CONSENT AGENDA

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

Resolution: ... MOVE THAT the Board of Education approve the: 1) February 26, 2024, Regular Board Meeting Minutes 2) February 26, 2024, Special Board Meeting Minutes 3) Personnel matters as per the presented list dated 3/11/24; New Hires and Resignations.

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

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

1) February 26, 2024, Regular Board Meeting [Minutes](#)

2) February 26, 2024, Special Board Meeting [Minutes](#)

3) [Personnel matters](#) as per the presented list dated 3/11/24; New Hires and Resignations.

Motion by Sharon Lee, second by Jeanice Townsend.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Dr Celeste Hawkins, Sharon Lee, Meredith Schindler, Yvonne Fields, Maria Goodrich, Jeanice Townsend

13. ACTION ITEMS: Student Affairs

Action: A. Approval of the YCS 2024-25 K-12 Course Catalog

...MOVE THAT the Board of Education adopt the YCS 2024-25 K-12 Course Catalog.

The Ypsilanti Community Schools K-12 Course Catalog is a comprehensive listing of all courses that will be offered at YCS. Courses listed in the Course Catalog may not be offered every semester.

Click [here](#) to view the course catalog for 2024-25.

Motion by Yvonne Fields, second by Meredith Schindler.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Dr Celeste Hawkins, Sharon Lee, Meredith Schindler, Yvonne Fields, Maria Goodrich, Jeanice Townsend

Action: B. Acceptance of the Ypsilanti Community Schools Code of Conduct Handbook

... MOVE THAT the Board of Education accepts, as presented, the YCS Code of Conduct Handbook.

To create the new YCS Code of Conduct Handbook, 10 work sessions were held with our community stakeholders for feedback and input and 6 sessions were held with building leaders. The final code of conduct handbook was reviewed by YCS attorneys.

Click [here](#) to view the Student Code of Conduct.

Motion by Jeanice Townsend, second by Yvonne Fields.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Dr Celeste Hawkins, Sharon Lee, Meredith Schindler, Yvonne Fields, Maria Goodrich, Jeanice Townsend

14. ACTION ITEM: Human Resources

Action: A. Approval of Accounting Specialist Contract: Sue McCarty, Director of Human Resources

...MOVE THAT the Board of Education approve the ACCOUNTING Specialist Contract of Sloane Sapp with the commencement date of April 1, 2024.

The presented Accounting Specialist Contract is provided for Board review. It is recommended that the Board approve the employment contract of Sloane Sapp.

Motion by Sharon Lee, second by Yvonne Fields.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Dr Celeste Hawkins, Sharon Lee, Meredith Schindler, Yvonne Fields, Maria Goodrich, Jeanice Townsend

15. ACTION ITEMS: Business and Finance

Action: A. Acceptance of FEV Tutor High-Impact Online Tutoring Proposal

...MOVE THAT the Board of Education accepts the attached quote for the FEV Tutor High-Impact Online Tutoring quote for the amount of \$100,000.00.

With high-dosage tutoring, we will significantly impact the academic outcomes of our Holmes Elementary School students.

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

Motion by Meredith Schindler, second by Jeanice Townsend.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Dr Celeste Hawkins, Sharon Lee, Meredith Schindler, Yvonne Fields, Maria Goodrich, Jeanice Townsend

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

...MOVE THAT the Board of Education accepts the attached quotes for the 180 Program for Holmes Elementary School proposals for the amount of \$129,825.00.

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 2024 quote.

Click [here](#) to view the 2024-25 quote.

Motion by Sharon Lee, second by Meredith Schindler.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Dr Celeste Hawkins, Sharon Lee, Meredith Schindler, Yvonne Fields, Maria Goodrich, Jeanice Townsend

Action: C. Acceptance of Traversa Software Proposal

...MOVE THAT the Board of Education accepts the attached quote for the Traversa Software for the amount of \$49,448.00.

This is an update for the proposal of Traversa, the new Bus Routing Software and parent app to track where their students' bus is.

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

Motion by Yvonne Fields, second by Jeanice Townsend.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Dr Celeste Hawkins, Sharon Lee, Meredith Schindler, Yvonne Fields, Maria Goodrich, Jeanice Townsend

Action: D. Acceptance of the E-Rate Category 1 Fiber Construction and Maintenance

...MOVE THAT the Board of Education approve, as presented, the choice of Fiberlink as the recommended vendor for the work of fiber construction and fiber maintenance for Ypsilanti Community Schools.

The YCS fiber network is in need of work in terms of resiliency, upgrades, and connections. Our district fiber network was built over 20 years ago and this has caused some issues with our setup. The most important is building a modern pipeline that connects Willow Run buildings to the Ypsilanti Public buildings, thus bringing our two districts together. The last goal is to update our pipe from the district to the county on a connection that is more reliable, resilient, and consistent. There is also state funding to help meet our funding needs for this project.

We selected Fiberlink as the vendor to do this work because they were the original designers of the network and know the layout intimately. In addition, they have been our fiber maintenance vendor of choice over the last 20+ years. Lastly, their proposal has higher quality equipment and on paper looks to last the next twenty years.

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

Motion by Meredith Schindler, second by Yvonne Fields.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Dr Celeste Hawkins, Sharon Lee, Meredith Schindler, Yvonne Fields, Maria Goodrich, Jeanice Townsend

Action: E. Acceptance of the E-Rate Category 1 Core Switches

...MOVE THAT the Board of Education award, as presented, the selection of Sentinel Technologies for procuring core switches for Ypsilanti Community Schools.

Our YCS network is really a combination of Willow Run and Ypsilanti Public networks joined together at the WISD. We hope to address this with our fiber project, but in the meantime we are in need of updated equipment to handle this join.

We propose upgrading our current core switches at the WISD in order to have modern equipment to handle the complex engineering required to stitch together the two physical diverse networks into a single cohesive system.

This is an E-Rate Category 1 project and will be covered at 90% discount. Specific dollar amounts will only be made available after the bid opening.

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

Motion by Sharon Lee, second by Yvonne Fields.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Dr Celeste Hawkins, Sharon Lee, Meredith Schindler, Yvonne Fields, Maria Goodrich, Jeanice Townsend

Action: F. Acceptance of the E-Rate Category 2 WRMS Network Infrastructure

...MOVE THAT the Board of Education award, as presented, the selection of Sentinel Technologies for procuring network infrastructure for Ypsilanti Community Schools.

We need network infrastructure equipment to bring the building in line with our other current YCS buildings. To do that we need wireless network access points and associated equipment. These pieces are covered under Category 2 for E-rate which is discounted by 85%.

Motion by Yvonne Fields, second by Jeanice Townsend.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Dr Celeste Hawkins, Sharon Lee, Meredith Schindler, Yvonne Fields, Maria Goodrich, Jeanice Townsend

Action: G. Acceptance of the E-Rate Category 2 Structured Cabling

...MOVE THAT the Board of Education award, as presented, the selection of NerdXpress for procuring structured cabling for Ypsilanti Community Schools.

We need network infrastructure equipment to bring the building in line with our other current YCS buildings. To do that we need wireless network access points and associated equipment. This would be to provide the new cabling that is needed for the new equipment.

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

Motion by Meredith Schindler, second by Sharon Lee.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Dr Celeste Hawkins, Sharon Lee, Meredith Schindler, Yvonne Fields, Maria Goodrich, Jeanice Townsend

16. 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.

17. DISCUSSION

Discussion: A. Board of Education Subcommittee Reports
No Subcommittee reports.

18. BOARD/SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS

Vice President Lee: Thank you, Dr. Zachery-Ross and your cabinet for all your hard work.

Trustee Goodrich: Congratulations to Trustee Townsend for becoming the president of WASB.

Trustee Townsend: The YCS Foundation scholarship information is now available with a deadline of April 8th. It is a Google form for them to fill out. We are just concerned about the promotion if it. I will get with Amanda Smith, the president, so we can see how we can supply additional support. They will also have a fundraiser in October. The goal is \$100,000. Thank you to everyone who supported the Family Literacy Initiative. We had over 200 people signed up for it. Dr. Lopez shined and we may have some people moving over to YCS. WCC funded the whole event. Superintendent Norman made a pledge to have all our current 2nd graders reading proficiently by grade 5. WASB Board will be pushing more professional development and making it hybrid if possible. Next budget meeting is on April 18th from 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. and will be on Zoom. Legislative breakfast is May 20th at 7:30 a.m. at the WISD. Easter egg hunt is on March 30th from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. - free and open to the community.

Dr. Hawkins: Echo what Vice President Lee said, thank you to Dr. Zachery-Ross, the executive cabinet, Miss Haines, who keeps us in line, teachers, staff, the whole cabinet. We don't often take stock but it is a hard job and we value you. The students performed beautifully at the debt relief celebration. It was a great event. April 4th there is an event for the candidates for sheriff from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. at the Learning Resource Center. They are serving food. Come on out. Thank you for the scholarship information.

Dr. Zachery-Ross: Everyone is working hard. Please nominate someone for the LaFontaine Teacher of the Year. Nominate people for the Grizzly Awards. April 4th is a busy day - Modern Classroom is visiting during the day and then we are inviting all the staff to Aubree's at night. Thank you to everyone who has been using our chatbot, Grizzly, our 24/7 chatbot. He learns as he gets asked questions so please ask him questions over text. He is multilingual. Everyone gets answers right away. Thank you to Toyota for the solar eclipse glasses for the April 8th eclipse. We are not closing school or changing bell times. We are giving students glasses. Dr. Lopez has given lesson plans for teachers to use and we have taught the safe way to experience this wonderful experience of the solar eclipse.

19. ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

Meeting adjourned at 10:09 p.m.