

REGULAR MEETING (Monday, September 9, 2024)**Members present**

Dr Celeste Hawkins, Gillian Ream Gainsley, Meredith Schindler, Yvonne Fields, Maria Goodrich, Jeanice Townsend

Members absent

Sharon Lee

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 Maria Goodrich, second by Yvonne Fields.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Dr Celeste Hawkins, Gillian Ream Gainsley, Meredith Schindler, Yvonne Fields, Maria Goodrich, Jeanice Townsend

4. ACHIEVEMENTS, AWARDS & RECOGNITION

Recognition: A. Beatty 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 Beatty Early Learning Center.

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

Keynon Atchison presented.

Trustee Fields: What is Early Head Start?

Principal Atchison: The only difference between Early Head Start and regular Head Start is there age. You are doing basically the same things but the students are younger.

Trustee Fields: What is the class size? What is the interest?

Principal Atchison: Head Start has 16 in a classroom and Early Head Start has eight. There are still two teachers. The interest is high. We will have the classroom full in no time. It's great for YCS because we can start them off early.

5. PRESENTATIONS

Presentation: A. Special Education Millage Presentation

A 2.3826 mil renewal to cover unreimbursed costs to provide special education services in Washtenaw County.

The millage renewal would continue to benefit all public school students because revenue from the millage would continue to cover most of the costs of mandatory special education services. The millage renewal would preserve each school district's general fund budget, which can be used for the educational needs of all students. Local districts would decide how best to use these funds.

Millage dollars stay local. Revenue from this renewal would be used to pay for services mandated for special education in: Ann Arbor, Chelsea, Dexter, Lincoln, Manchester, Milan, Saline, Whitmore Lake, Ypsilanti, and Washtenaw County's 13 public school academies.

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

Dr. Zachery-Ross presented.

Trustee Townsend: what people need to understand is that every child has a civil right to a great education. Ypsilanti has been very responsive managing our funds especially during Covid. It would be a disservice if this is not passed because it would set up back. I fully support this and if you are not registered to vote, you still have time.

Dr. Hawkins: I agree with Trustee Townsend wholeheartedly and it is our responsibility to educate each other. We need to lead with no tax increase and what can be gained by passing this millage for our district and county.

6. 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.

No public comments.

7. CONSENT AGENDA

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

Resolution: ... MOVE THAT the Board of Education approve the: 1) August 5, 2024, Regular Board Meeting Minutes 2) August 23, 2024, Special Board Meeting Minutes 3) Personnel matters as per the presented list dated 9/4/23; 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) August 5, 2024, Regular Board Meeting Minutes
- 2) August 23, 2024, Special Board Meeting [Minutes](#)
- 3) [Personnel matters](#) as per the presented list dated 9/4/24; New Hires and Resignations.

Motion by Maria Goodrich, second by Meredith Schindler.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Dr Celeste Hawkins, Gillian Ream Gainsley, Meredith Schindler, Yvonne Fields, Maria Goodrich, Jeanice Townsend

8. DISCUSSIONS

Discussion: A. Second Reading of Neola Policy Updates - Vol. 38, No. 1 - September 2023

Re: NEOLA of Michigan Local Templates/Policy Updates - Vol. 38, No. 1 - September 2023

The Board of Education shall adopt bylaws and policies for the organization and operation of this Board and the District. The Policy subcommittee has recently reviewed the following policies and is now submitting these to begin the approval process.

Trustee Schindler: We are adopting policy updates at are recommended by Neola which is the company that stays on top of this for our district and many others.

Discussion: B. Second Reading of Neola Policy Updates - Vol. 38, No. 2 - February 2024

Re: NEOLA of Michigan Local Templates/Policy Updates - Vol. 38, No. 2 - February 2024

The Board of Education shall adopt bylaws and policies for the organization and operation of this Board and the District. The Policy subcommittee has recently reviewed the following policies and is now submitting these to begin the approval process.

Trustee Schindler: We are rescinding PO 2410 which is a recommendation of Neola. Those policies are influx and we want to continue to provide excellent sex education to our students.

Trustee Goodrich: The only policy that is not just straight from Neola is PO 0144.1 where we are formally tying the meal reimbursement to the GSA rate so they are appropriately scaled depending on one is conducting district business.

Dr. Hawkins: We had some discussion on compensation last time we met as a board but we already have some resolution on that so I don't believe there is anything outstanding for that.

9. ACTION ITEMS: Neola Policy Updates

Action: A. Adoption of Neola Policy Updates - Vol. 38, No. 1 - September 2023

Re: NEOLA of Michigan Local Templates/Policy Updates - Vol. 38, No. 1 - September 2023

The Board of Education shall adopt bylaws and policies for the organization and operation of this Board and the District. The Policy subcommittee reviewed the NEOLA policies and the Board had its first reading at its previous board meeting. The second reading occurred earlier in the meeting and pending no additional changes or discussion required, the board will consider adopting the policies.

...MOVE THAT the board of education adopt the NEOLA policy updates, as presented: Vol. 38, No. 1 - September 2023.

Motion by Maria Goodrich, second by Yvonne Fields.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Dr Celeste Hawkins, Gillian Ream Gainsley, Meredith Schindler, Yvonne Fields, Maria Goodrich, Jeanice Townsend

Action: B. Adoption of Neola Policy Updates - Vol. 38, No. 2 - February 2024

Re: NEOLA of Michigan Local Templates/Policy Updates - Vol. 38, No. 2 - February 2024

The Board of Education shall adopt bylaws and policies for the organization and operation of this Board and the District. The Policy subcommittee reviewed the NEOLA policies and the Board had its first reading at its previous board meeting. The second reading occurred earlier in the meeting and pending no additional changes or discussion required, the board will consider adopting the policies.

...MOVE THAT the board of education adopt the NEOLA policy updates, as presented: Vol. 38, No. 2 - February 2024.

Motion by Maria Goodrich, second by Yvonne Fields.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Dr Celeste Hawkins, Gillian Ream Gainsley, Meredith Schindler, Yvonne Fields, Maria Goodrich, Jeanice Townsend

10. ACTION ITEM: Business and Finance

Action: A. Michigan - Alternate Route to Certification Agreement

Michigan- Alternate Route to Certification (M-ARC) is a program through the University of Michigan. The initial certification pathway is an avenue into the teaching profession for candidates who hold a bachelor's degree. Candidates in this pathway work as certified teachers (with salary and benefits) for 3 years while enrolled in the program. Our SEEK grant pays their program fees as a strategy to retain these talented educators.

Trustee Townsend: This is separate from what we have with the WISD and Eastern?

Dr. Coscarella: This is U of M and it is for people who have already earned a bachelors degree and are seeking a way to certification. So for the next three years they are employed by YCS while they get their certification and they have a commitment to YCS through 2029-30 in return we pay for their fees.

.... MOVE THAT the Board of Education approve the Michigan - Alternate Route to Certification Agreement for the purchase price of \$38,000.00.

Motion by Yvonne Fields, second by Meredith Schindler.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Dr Celeste Hawkins, Gillian Ream Gainsley, Meredith Schindler, Yvonne Fields, Maria Goodrich, Jeanice Townsend

Action: B. SJ Apple Consulting Group Strategic Plan for YCS

The decision to engage SJ Apple Consulting Group to assist in the development of a Comprehensive Strategic Plan for YCS is driven by the desire to leverage their expertise and experience in strategic planning to propel our organization towards its goals efficiently and effectively. SJ Apple Consulting Group brings a track record of success in working with organizations similar to ours, guiding them through the strategic planning process with a keen understanding of educational trends, best practices, and innovative strategies. By partnering with SJ Apple Consulting Group, we aim to harness their specialized knowledge to tailor a strategic roadmap that aligns with YCS's mission, values, and vision for the future.

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

Trustee Gainsley: I would like a little more background, and it talks about an 8-week timeline and I am wondering when that would start.

Dr. Zachery-Ross: I have asked one of the consultants, Dr. Narcisse, to be on the call. We looked at a number of other proposals, some went for two years, and other longer programs, but we wanted this specific group of board members to have a big part of the work. We want to do some implementing with our partnership work we are doing with the state of Michigan since this is totally connected with MCIP. We want to hear from our community.

Dr. Narcisse: Thank you for letting us work with you on your strategic plan. Getting the voices of everyone involved. As far as the eight weeks is concerned, the first thing we do is gather a lot of information from a lot of different people and then we create pillars that the board and the community decide are the most important components so we can create measurements to get there.

Trustee Townsend: How are the community stakeholders going to be selected?

Dr. Narcisse: We have a discussion with the board and superintendent about who they would like to include. Also including internal staff. You would need to let us know what community members you want to include, faith-base, etc. We talk to non-profits as well so we are gathering anyone who supports the school system.

Trustee Townsend: You issue surveys?

Dr. Narcisse: The district I showed for an example wanted to use surveys to see how they were doing. To gather information, we like to do on the ground focus groups.

Trustee Gainsley: It seems we would start quite soon and try to wrap up by the end of the year.

Dr. Narcisse: Yes, if you say yes tonight we are ready to start meeting right away, board members individually and then as a group as well as the superintendent. We would love to have a designated retreat where we have you all as well as the superintendent and the executive cabinet in a room together to all get on the same page and lay the process out.

Dr. Hawkins: Is there a period of follow up or monitoring after the process that you provide?

Dr. Narcisse: We do a quarterly monitoring to look at your key performance indicators to make sure there is clarity and alignment in terms of process.

Dr. Hawkins: Quarterly for how long?

Dr. Narcisse: For a year, but if you want the monitoring for longer they are all additions we can talk about it.

.... MOVE THAT the Board of Education approve the SJ Apple Consulting Group Strategic Plan Proposal for the purchase price of \$35,000.00.

Motion by Meredith Schindler, second by Gillian Ream Gainsley.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Dr Celeste Hawkins, Gillian Ream Gainsley, Meredith Schindler, Yvonne Fields, Maria Goodrich, Jeanice Townsend

11. PUBLIC COMMENTS #2

Information: A. Guidelines for Public Comment

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*Remarks shall be made in a respectful and professional manner.

No public comments

12. DISCUSSIONS

Discussion: A. Board of Education Subcommittee Reports

No subcommittee reports.

13. BOARD/SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS

Trustee Fields: Went to the football game. Excited about how the team s doing.

Trustee Townsend: Had a great time at the board retreat. Very proud of this board. We have gone through a lot. It was this board that made it through COVID and made sure the debt was relieved and that listened to the community when they said they wanted a recreational center on the southeast side of the county and stayed focused and didn't let anyone to deter us from being intentional for our students. Happy to work with this team of women and administration staff and overall staff.

Trustee Gainsley: Congratulations on a great start of the new year. The buildings look great. Everyone is in a good mood and even the bussing is going smoothly. Thank you to everyone in transportation. Thank you to Ms. McCarty because it looks like are staffing is good. How are negotiations going?

Dr. Hawkins: This board has always been clear on our priorities and focusing on students and looking at everything through an equity lens and getting our students what they need. We have eliminated distractions and are clear on where we are going and where we need to be for our students. We are forward thinking and innovative. We do the work in the district and outside the district where we are presenting at the MASB and CUBE conference. We are all working in the same direction. We show up and do the work. Thank you for everyone on this board for all that they do every day.

Dr. Zachery-Ross: Welcome to 2024-25. We are living out Stronger Together. Thank you to everyone who helped move the middle school. Thank you to the community for being there on opening day. The team was excited at the first football game. The crowd was huge and people were cheering the players on. Everyone was there at Cheney on Saturday for the ground breaking of the recreational center that is needed in that part of the county. Grizzly Scholar White Coat Ceremony on Tuesday, YCHS Open House on Thursday, mobile registering van at Shadford parking lot on September 17th, we are partnering with our partners. Thank you to everyone on the board for what you did over the summer. Thank you to the teachers. We thought we would be done with negotiations, but we are almost there. The people negotiating have been doing it since May, staying late into the night sometimes. We had to redo all the language since 2011. They went through the contract line by line and truly negotiated. We sat at the table like family and worked it through. Thank you to all the professional staff for working with us and knowing we are doing this in good faith. The support staff has a tentative agreement that the staff needs to vote on. Thank you, Ms. Tillerson, for your leadership and to your whole group. Thank you to everyone who has helped us to start the year off strong. Parents, you have gotten the students to school and community. You are all apart of the team.

14. ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

Meeting adjourned at 7:42 p.m.