

REGULAR MEETING (Monday, August 5, 2024)**Members present**

Dr Celeste Hawkins, Gillian Ream Gainsley (arrived at 6:43 p.m.), Sharon Lee, Yvonne Fields, Maria Goodrich, Jeanice Townsend

Members absent

Meredith Schindler

Meeting called to order at 6:39 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 Yvonne Fields.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

4. ACHIEVEMENTS, AWARDS & RECOGNITION

Presentation: A. Michigan School Business Officials Business Manager Academy at Genesee Career Institute - Damien Butler
Damien Butler has completed the MSBO Business Manager Academy at Genesee Career Institute. This program reflects a high degree of participation, mentoring with peers or a facilitator, and "hands-on" application of school business skills. The Business Manager Academy required an 11-month commitment with outside engagement with the cohort.

We are celebrating Mr. Butler's accomplishment.

Congratulations, Mr. Butler!

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

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

Action: A. Closed Session – Pursuant to Section 8(h) of the Open Meetings Act to consider material exempt from discussion or disclosure by state or federal statute

The Board of Education will be going into closed session pursuant to sections 8(h) of the Open Meetings Act to consider material exempt from discussion or disclosure by state or federal statute.

The Board of Education went into closed session at 6:44 p.m.

... MOVE THAT the Board of Education go into closed session pursuant Section 8(h) of the Open Meetings Act to consider material exempt from discussion or disclosure by state or federal statute.

Motion by Sharon Lee, second by Jeanice Townsend.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

6. OPEN SESSION

Procedural: A. Reconvene to Open Session

The Board of Education will return to Open Session.

The Board of Education returned to open session at 7:47 p.m.

7. 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.

Donald Johnson: Inquired about Joshua Smith.

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) July 8, 2024, Regular Board Meeting Minutes 2) Personnel matters as per the presented list dated 8/5/24; New Hires and Resignations.

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

- 1) July 8, 2024, Regular Board Meeting [Minutes](#)
- 2) [Personnel matters](#) as per the presented list dated 8/5/24; New Hires and Resignations.

Motion by Yvonne Fields, second by Sharon Lee.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Dr Celeste Hawkins, Gillian Ream Gainsley, Sharon Lee, Yvonne Fields, Maria Goodrich, Jeanice Townsend

9. ACTION ITEM: Student Affairs

Action: A. Approval for Annual Instructional Material Contracts

Seeking Board approval of the implementation for the programs associated with the invoices; see attachments below.

- 1.) [HMH Into Reading Student 3-Year - Grades K-2 Quote](#), for a purchase amount of 41,260.30.
- 2.) [HMH Into Reading Teacher 1-Year - Grades K-2 Quote](#), for a purchase amount of \$10,576.89.
- 3.) [HMH Into Reading Professional Services Quote](#), for a purchase amount of \$26,500.00.
- 4.) [HMH Amira Practice 3-Year Quote](#), for a purchase amount of \$55,068.00.

Vice President Lee: Is this compatible with McGraw-Hill?

Dr. Lopez: YCS has transitioned to align all of our curriculum with the Michigan Academic Standards. As a district, we are being intentional with the purchase of materials that support the teaching and learning of the Michigan Academic Standards.

Vice President Lee: Does it train you in dyslexia?

Dr. Lopez: Yes, Amira is a leading program that addresses dyslexia and other reading challenges.

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

- 1.) HMH Into Reading Student 3-Year - Grades K-2 Quote, for a purchase amount of \$41,260.30.
- 2.) HMH Into Reading Teacher 1-Year - Grades K-2 Quote, for a purchase amount of \$10,576.89.
- 3.) HMH Into Reading Professional Services Quote, for a purchase amount of \$26,500.00.
- 4.) HMH Amira Practice 3-Year Quote, for a purchase amount of \$55,068.00.

Motion by Jeanice Townsend, second by Sharon Lee.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Dr Celeste Hawkins, Gillian Ream Gainsley, Sharon Lee, Yvonne Fields, Maria Goodrich, Jeanice Townsend

Action: B. Approval for Annual Instructional Material for the Magnet Program Contracts

Seeking Board approval of the implementation for the programs associated with the invoices; see attachments below.

- 1.) [SAM Lab STEAM Kits Quote](#), for a purchase amount of \$29,934.00.
- 2.) [Bluum of Minnesota Quote for Holmes Elementary School](#), for a purchase amount of \$33,803.20.
- 3.) [Bluum of Minnesota Quote for Ford Early Learning Center](#), for a purchase amount of \$33,803.20.

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

- 1.) SAM Lab STEAM Kits Quote, for a purchase amount of \$29,934.00.
- 2.) Bluum of Minnesota Quote for Holmes Elementary School, for a purchase amount of \$33,803.20.
- 3.) Bluum of Minnesota Quote for Ford Early Learning Center, for a purchase amount of \$33,803.20.

Motion by Gillian Ream Gainsley, second by Jeanice Townsend.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Dr Celeste Hawkins, Gillian Ream Gainsley, Sharon Lee, Yvonne Fields, Maria Goodrich, Jeanice Townsend

Action: C. Acceptance of Field Trip Request: YCHS Band Camp - Echo Grove Camp - August 5 - 10, 2024

This proposal comes from the YCHS Band Director. Students will learn drills and music for four songs that will be performed during the 2024 Marching Band season. The camp is Echo Grove Camp located at 1101 Camp Rd., Leonard, MI 48367.

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

Vice President Lee: I have no problem with them going but it is a Christian camp. Do the parents know that it is a Christian camp and do they do any Christian learning?

Dr. Zachery-Ross: They are just hosting the band camp on that site. The band director and our people are doing all the teaching. They are just using the site for their facilities. No one from the site will be teaching anything.

... MOVE THAT the Board of Education approve the week-long field trip of the Ypsilanti Community High School Marching Band program, August 5 - 10, 2024 to learn the 2024 marching band show.

Motion by Yvonne Fields, second by Sharon Lee.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Dr Celeste Hawkins, Gillian Ream Gainsley, Sharon Lee, Yvonne Fields, Maria Goodrich, Jeanice Townsend

10. DISCUSSIONS

Discussion: A. Second Reading of Neola Policy Updates - Vol. 37, No. 2 - February 2023

Re: NEOLA of Michigan Local Templates/Policy Updates - Vol. 37, No. 2 - February 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 Goodrich: The recommendations that we made to PO 1619 at the first reading have been implemented so it aligns with the other tobacco policies. The other amendment is for PO 6325. Neola has made a further suggestion in the Contract/Price Analysis. They are suggesting we update the current threshold of \$150,000 for performing a cost or price analysis in connection with every procurement action and increase it to \$250,000. I am proposing that we take that amendment for PO 6325.

Dr. Hawkins: Ms. Haines, did you note that change.

Ms. Haines: The update has already been made to the policy for this reading.

Dr. Hawkins: Thank you.

Trustee Goodrich: I just wanted to make sure that was noted since we talked about it at the policy subcommittee meeting between the first and second reading of this policy.

Discussion: B. First 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 Goodrich: I appreciate the brief narratives to summarize the changes from Neola for each of the policies. Do we need to revisit PO 2370.01 because we had a lot of discussion at the subcommittee meeting as to which of our programs this may or may not cover? Maybe we will do that between the first and second read but I think we may have removed too much and it might be too much to try to hash out with the full board right now. PO 7217 reaffirms the district's ability to restrict weapons on campus and the additional language in PO 8531 is very much aligned with the district practices.

Dr. Hawkins: So what I'm hearing you say, Trustee Goodrich, is that we need clarity on the language/omissions/additions in PO 2370.01.

Trustee Goodrich: Yes.

Discussion: C. First 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 Goodrich: For PO 2410, the recommendation is to rescind that policy and that is the action that is being suggested. For PO 0144.1, the change that is being suggested here is to tie the per diem rates to the U.S. General Services Administration Rates so that we would have up-to-dates rates for different locations both within Michigan and the rest of the United States for the various places people travel on district business.

Vice President Lee: I have a question about the superintendent evaluation policy, PO 1240.

Trustee Goodrich: PO 1240 brings the policy inline with the new legislation that we have been trained on.

Vice President Lee: All the board members need to be trained on this new evaluation?

Dr. Hawkins: Yes, that is correct.

Vice President Lee: The new board members do have to do the training because they don't do the evaluations, right? They don't start until January, right?

Dr. Hawkins: The new board members take their oath in January.

Vice President Lee: So only the old board members will do the evaluation. Got it.

Trustee Goodrich: If I remember right, we were trained fairly quickly after the election. I'm sure they will be duly trained.

Vice President Lee: Can the new board members sit in on the evaluation?

Dr. Zachery-Ross: The evaluation will be done before that and the current board members will do it.

Dr. Hawkins: There will be many opportunities for the new board members to be trained.

Trustee Townsend: I do have a question regarding PO 0144.1 about compensation. It mentions getting compensation for mileage for conferences but it doesn't say anything about other meetings when we represent the board. I would like clarification about meetings and conferences. I need clarification on what is considered a board-approved activity. Do we need to note that in the policy?

Dr. Hawkins: So the language is consistent?

Trustee Townsend: Correct.

Dr. Hawkins: We can make sure to note that it says conferences throughout.

Trustee Townsend: Conferences or meetings where we are representing the board.

Dr. Hawkins: So the conferences part is clear. What you are wondering about is the meetings?

Trustee Townsend: Yes.

Dr. Hawkins: I think the policy is relegated to board meetings, not any other meetings outside of board meetings.

Trustee Townsend: When we discussed this policy previously, we determined that we couldn't get reimbursed for the WASB meetings but we could get reimbursed for mileage to and from the meeting. Because we are representing the district on that board.

Dr. Hawkins: I am making notes about PO 0144.1 regarding cleaning up the language and making more explicit.

11. ACTION ITEM: Neola Policy Updates

Action: A. Adoption of the NEOLA Policy Updates

Re: NEOLA of Michigan Local Templates/Policy Updates - Vol. 37, No. 2 - February 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. 37, No. 2 - February 2023.

Motion by Maria Goodrich, second by Yvonne Fields.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Dr Celeste Hawkins, Gillian Ream Gainsley, Sharon Lee, Yvonne Fields, Maria Goodrich, Jeanice Townsend

12. ACTION ITEM: Business and Finance

Action: A. Approval for Tables for Computer Lab at Willow Run and ACCE

Seeking Board approval for tables and monitor mounts for computer labs at the middle school at Willow Run and ACCE; see attachments below.

- 1.) [ISCG Quote](#), for a purchase amount of \$28,141.55 for computer tables,
- 2.) [ISCG Quote](#) for a purchase amount of 35,485.01 for mounts for monitors.

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

- 1.) ISCG Quote, for a purchase amount of \$28,141.55 for computer tables,
- 2.) ISCG Quote for a purchase amount of 35,485.01 for mounts for monitors.

Motion by Sharon Lee, second by Jeanice Townsend.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Dr Celeste Hawkins, Gillian Ream Gainsley, Sharon Lee, Yvonne Fields, Maria Goodrich, 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. DISCUSSIONS

Discussion: A. Board of Education Subcommittee Reports

Trustee Goodrich: We need to keep the pressure up regarding the school aid budget and the MPSERS legislation. MPSERS money is not equitable and the legislature decided to give money to charter schools that are not impacted by MPSERS and that is perplexing. The lack of increase in foundational allowance seems problematic. We need to push for a bigger MPSERS relief to get into the statue so it is on going and not just one time money that we can't use sustainably to support our students and staff.

15. MID-TERM MONITORING/EVALUATING

Discussion: A. Board Self Evaluation/Superintendent Progress Monitoring

The YCS Board of Education engages bi-yearly in progress monitoring of the Superintendent. They also provide an opportunity to self-assess.

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

Click [here](#) to view the self-assessment.

Click [here](#) to view the superintendent evaluation instrument.

There was a conversation between Mary Kerwin, MASB consultant, and Dr. Zachery-Ross.

Trustee Gainsley left meeting at 8:54 p.m.

Dr. Hawkins: This is an important time to pause and reflect on how far we have come and how far we plan to go. I'm proud of all that we have accomplished and to think about what is next for YCS. This was a check-in and it does not require that we go into closed session. It is just a time to have a discussion on where we are and visioning and looking ahead to move the district forward.

18. BOARD/SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS

Discussion: A. Board/Superintendent Comments

Vice President Lee: The board has been selected to present at the MASB conference on Friday, October 25th and that the CUBE conference October 28th. Who's going to the MASB and presenting? Are the delegate and the alternate going to the conference now that we are presenting and if so, am I obligated to vote?

Trustee Fields: I am not planning on being at the MASB to vote.

Dr. Hawkins: Last year we presented at both and we will be doing a similar thing this year. I am going to be one of the presenters. Dr. Zachery-Ross will be there as well. Then we have to figure out who else is able to join us.

Vice President Lee: I will be there and I will help with the presenting.

Trustee Fields: I didn't know we were presenting so I didn't plan on it.

Dr. Hawkins: We just got our proposal accepted and now we have to figure out who will present. It is open to as many board members as want to attend.

Trustee Goodrich: Thank you to everyone who filed to run for the school board including President Hawkins. I'm grateful to be part of a community where we have a high level of commitment to our students. We are all here for the kids. I want to express my appreciation to Trustee Schindler and Trustee Gainsley who will now be rolling off at the end of December.

Trustee Fields: Stopped by the Back-to-School Bash and it looked like a nice turn out and the kids looked like they were having fun. They liked the backpacks and the other activities. I got my yard sign from the yard sign fairy and they even turned it around for the next event. All three grandkids went to Grizzly Learning Camp because it was fun. The teachers were very encouraging for my high schooler. He loved going, he got all As, and he is excited about learning.

Trustee Townsend: I also attended the Back-to-School Bash. Kudos to Taryn Willis and her team. A great turn out and lots of activities and vendors. I'm sure we will have a very successful school year. Thank YCS for their partnership with the Parkridge summer camp. YCS was instrumental in helping to remove financial barriers for students who want to attend. We have a lot of bright, intelligent, rambunctious students who keep me on my toes. They will be doing a last day celebration on Friday.

Dr. Hawkins: Jazz in the Parking Lot was an outstanding event with beautiful weather and lots of tables and advocacy. All around great event. Kudos to Taryn Willis.

Dr. Zachery-Ross: We have the Touch-A Truck event on Tuesday, August 6th from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. at the YCHS parking lot. Thank you to everyone who came out to Back-to-School Bash, Jazz in the Parking Lot, Rutherford Pool, all the summer events. Taryn Willis and her team have been out in the community all summer and we appreciate that. We welcome the students back on August 26th. The new staff starts next week. We are looking forward to the students ride our ten new electric buses. Magnet Schools, Toyota Driving Possibilities, etc. We are excited about the Grand Opening of the Ypsilanti Community Middle School over on Spencer Lane. We are going to have a ribbon cutting ceremony at 6:00 p.m. on August 21st. Enjoy the last days of summer.

Vice President Lee: Peacenic this Saturday, August 10th in the High School parking lot from 3:00 - 7:00 p.m. Please come.

Dr. Hawkins: We also have the board retreat on Friday, August 23rd. Details coming later. Thank you again, Mary, for facilitating the monitoring session.

19. ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

Meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.