YPSILANTI COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
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MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Monday, September 22, 2014

The Regular Meeting of the Ypsilanti Community Schools Board of Education was called to order by President David Bates at 6:37 p.m. in the Administration Building Professional Development Room, 1885 Packard Road, Ypsilanti, Michigan.

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION PRESENT
David Bates, Don Garrett, Celeste Hawkins, Gregory Myers, Daniel Raglin, Maria Sheler-Edwards, Anthony VanDerworp

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION ABSENT
None

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
The Board of Education and audience members began the meeting by reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA ADJUSTMENTS
Two items removed from the Amended Agenda:

1) Item G, Approval of YNT Crime Prevention Security Service Contract with Courtesy Attendents (sic) Personnel Services (Enc. #6) – to be included on a future Agenda
2) Item J, Approval of Stormwater Management Proposal (Enc. #9) – for further Board review

PRESENTATIONS
Ypsilanti Promise Program
Superintendent Lisiscki introduced Karen Gabrys of the Ypsilanti Promise Program, who is also a member of the Rotary. President Bates welcomed Ms. Gabrys.

Ms. Gabrys stated The Ypsilanti Promise is a scholarship program designed to transform the lives of students, families and the Ypsilanti community. The Promise is a scholarship for all qualifying students who reside and attend school within the boundaries of YCS. This program is being developed by a committee. It is a "degree completion promise". It is a "high school to career" promise. Currently, the goal of the endowment amount is $250 million.

The Promise offers YCS students a long-term goal of changing the culture of Ypsilanti into a well-educated, vibrant, prosperous community for years to come. It inspires students to complete high school, sharpens focus on academic achievement and provides a direct path to post-secondary educational opportunities.

The Promise program started in Kalamazoo. It was started to inform students of opportunities. It was a bold idea and goal with a promise to promote academic success and to dream big. It encouraged students to believe they have potential.

The Ypsilanti Promise builds on the four plus one program that allows students to earn a high school diploma and substantial college credit through an additional fifth year of study. YCS can begin to attract students to the district by promoting the early college alliance programs with Washtenaw Community Schools and Eastern Michigan University.

Additional Promise scholarship programs are also being developed that will pay the tuition and fees of students who successfully complete the four plus one program and plan to complete a Bachelor's degree; an Associate's degree for students who were not academically ready to pursue college level courses during

high school; and a gateway program for students who did not qualify for the program or did not graduate but completed a GED.

Why offer a Promise Program? The program works and is uniquely tailored to YCS. It offers academic impact and economic impact. Program goals include: 1) enabling students to attend college or obtain a career certificate; 2) promoting school reform; 3) preparing the next generation of workers; 4) raising money to make this happen.

Ms. Gabrys said there is a need to reverse the decline of students graduating. Students need to be prepared for a well-energized workforce. The program encourages a commitment with YCS. The program would require students to complete community service hours and to earn admission to WCC or EMU, and, to be in good standing to continue in the program. Students would have the opportunity to earn 60 post-secondary credits when they graduate from YCHS. Ms. Gabrys said they have brought the information to YCS so they may move forward with goals.

Trustee Raglin expressed support for the program. He asked if fundraising had started. $250 million would allow open doors for other educational institutions outside of EMU and WCC and an ability to expand. Trustee Raglin asked where you begin. Ms. Gabrys said they are looking for donors of the $250 million. A starting point would be determining which class would start the program.

Trustee Raglin asked for an explanation of "good standing". Ms. Gabrys replied the student can not be on academic probation. They must be moving forward academically.

Trustee VanDerworp stated about a year ago at the WISD, there was a presentation for YCS as a pilot. Ann Arbor also expressed interest. He asked if Ann Arbor has been involved. Ms. Gabrys said Ann Arbor has met a couple of times. Ann Arbor has many things going for them. It is this side of the County that needs support.

Trustee Hawkins asked how this program would be communicated to parents. Ms. Gabrys said right now there is no EMU representative on the committee (the previous EMU committee member left to work with Dingell). The committee is working on a replacement. Students can get 60 college credits. They need a commitment as early as middle school. The program is not available to this graduating class, but may be to the next 1-2, depending on how quickly money comes in.

Trustee Hawkins asked about "in good standing" and is there something in place to place students with mentors to address barriers students may have. YCS struggles with the graduation rate. Ms. Gabrys said there is a liaison between YCS and WCC/EMU. For example, students would be required to bring a paper for a signature to class to verify their attendance.

Trustee VanDerworp said we have a Promise program of sorts: public relations. He said this program is a college promise. It is a game changer in terms of asking for donations.

President Bates said he supports the program. It is nice to see what the program has already. He asked if the funds would be run through an independent foundation. Ms. Gabrys said a school foundation or separate foundation would run the program. $250 million needs good financial people to watch over it. President Bates said this would be a significant contribution for many people. If the Board of Education can help, please let him know.

Trustee Sheler-Edwards said she is confident we can work through any issue that arises.

<u>Annual Program Review for the Career and Technical Education (CTE) Classes</u>
President Bates welcomed Bill Burnette, CTE Coordinator.

Mr. Burnette said CTE classes include: 1) Auto Technology – these classes are providing fleet maintenance for YCS District vehicles. The program offers real life opportunities. Lincoln students can choose YCS or Saline, and some are choosing YCS. 2) Certified Nursing Assistant – this is a 1st year program. 3) Collision Repair Technology – this is a NATEF certified program. Students painted lockers for a public pool and

painted the floors in the collision shop. 4) Construction Technology – held of WCC. 5) Culinary Arts – held in New Tech building. The program runs a café, which is open to the public. This is the most popular program, with 53 students enrolled. 6) MIAT – no students enrolled.

Mr. Burnette said this program has a community advisory board which evaluates the programs, makes sure we are staying current and keeps us on track with what we need. This group meets twice a year. The Program Annual Review (PAR) was put together by a consultant last year. It is an overview of what we have to offer. At the end of the year, the documents will be updated. This document is good to send to parents and businesses.

The State CTE audit will be done in February. The audit consists of looking at: 1) how we handle our money and use it to enhance programs; 2) data, and, 3) grants.

The following activities are planned for this year: 1) Autorama – last year two vehicles were taken to Autorama "to show off"; 2) $50,000 make-over grant; 3) compete in "Skills USA" conference; 4) Thanksgiving holiday bake sale; 5) collision repair will detail autos; 6) a direct link from program to WCC.

Trustee Sheler-Edwards asked if we duplicate Saline's program. Mr. Burnette said we have students choosing our program over Saline's program.

Trustee VanDerworp said 100+ students in the District attend these programs and asked Mr. Burnette if he sees demand to increase programs. Trustee VanDerworp said he did not need an answer tonight. Mr. Burnette said this program used to be in demand, but now numbers are low – but the low numbers are ideal for teaching. The Culinary Arts class is "very full".

Trustee Sheler-Edwards inquired about cosmetology. This program was in Lincoln, but was closed. Justin Jennings said we found out too late to get it started. He continued on to say we found out about a week before school started.

Trustee Raglin asked about the NATEF certification. Mr. Burnette said this gives opportunity to walk into dealerships to get a job. Trustee Raglin inquired on tracking alumni: where they are at, and, how much money they are making. Trustee Raglin asked about the "auto detailing". Mr. Burnette said this would be the 1st week of October and that he would send out an email with details.

Trustee Hawkins asked about upcoming activities. Mr. Burnette will email a list outlining upcoming opportunities.

President Bates said these programs are so important. They offer great jobs that students can do well at. He said to Mr. Burnette that whatever we can do as a District to let students know they can get a career, please let us know. Mr. Burnette said he feels supported by the Board of Education. President Bates thanked Mr. Burnette and said he looks forward to hearing from him again.

<u>Cultural Proficiency Update</u>

The Creating Culturally Proficient Communities Project (CCPC) is an initiative of YCS, directed by The People's Dialogue Project, that seeks to support the district in becoming more culturally proficient. Dr. Shayla Griffin is Director of The People's Dialogue Project.

Dr. Griffin said YCS is on the cutting edge of creating cultural proficiency. She said in Year 1, there was professional development which included YCS administration, educators, administrators and the YCS Board of Education. The Justice League is a group of educators passionate on commitment to cultural issues. The evaluation process for Year 1 included observations in schools. This program was piloted and "tweaked". Data was collected.

Dr. Griffin presented a slide presentation on the gains being made of cultural awareness. She said the majority of people are thinking about inequality, and said the majority agrees with equal rights for all. Overall, we have a staff commitment to these issues. Many districts are not like YCS when it comes to this

commitment. She said that when considering multicultural images and celebrations, we could use some improvement.

Dr. Griffin said Restorative Practices is good, and provides an alternative disciplinary option. She said data systems that are easily accessible to educators still remain a challenge. She said 85% of staff discuss race with students. This is good that it is not "taboo", but there is some disconnect. She would like to see staff use more critical thinking.

During the first weeks of school, Dr. Griffin said Superintendent Lisiscki was innovative with a relationship initiative. Superintendent Lisiscki focused on relationship building. The schools utilized lessons in different ways. Next steps for the future include: 1) school visits in October; 2) community forums; 3) continuation of professional development at the high school and middle school, and, the Holmes Culture Committee.

President Bates said he loves Dr. Griffin's enthusiasm and that he enjoys having her at the Board meeting.

Trustee Hawkins asked if interventions to improve results will happen this year. Dr. Griffin said yes it would; however, there is a struggle when data lags.

Trustee Sheler-Edwards asked about those teachers who have a difficult time talking about race. What is being done? Dr. Griffin said it is uncomfortable in the beginning of the process. Those who stick it out to the end make an impact. The Justice League is so important for the trickle-down effect. The hope is that there are enough people that are passionate about this subject. Dr. Griffin said she thinks it is starting to pay off in the District.

Trustee Raglin said this program takes people out of their comfort zone. There is a lot of sensitivity to deal with. Dr. Griffin said Administration and research has their back. A commitment has been made by the District.

Vice-President Garrett said the misconception of African American males needs to be addressed. There should be a check and balance for teachers to continue with their work. Dr. Griffin said a check and balance is part of the process of what cultural proficiency looks like.

Superintendent Lisiscki said that at Administrative meetings, there is a culture change. This is a 5-year initiative.

President Bates said we should stick together because that is how change happens.

Trustee Sheler-Edwards said students are being left behind. What does it take to change schools? Culture.

Vice-President Garrett said we need to understand the culture of students. Dr. Griffin said through the Justice League, teachers take invitation to building better relationships.

Trustee Sheler-Edwards said she did not see WIMA on the list. Dr. Griffin said WIMA was not identified as a priority school for this year. They are still sorting out at this point. Resources must be divided. We can not get to every school every year. WIMA does have staff involved in the Justice League.

President Bates expressed excitement for the community forum. This goes beyond the school walls into the community. What can we do as a Board? Dr. Griffin said the Justice League, community forums and workshops. Dr. Griffin has a goal of a Justice League for students, but right now this is not offered.

President Bates said Restorative Practices might be at a juncture where it might be the next step. Perhaps a meeting should be set up to go bullet by bullet to determine if goals are being met. President Bates asked Superintendent Lisiscki to think about the process and to work with teachers and administration, and involve Board members.

Superintendent Lisiscki said the Student Code of Conduct is year to year in the making. This year includes more Restorative Practices.

Trustee Hawkins asked about barriers to implement this. Dr. Griffin said time is a big barrier. The middle school was unsuccessful last year. There was not enough time to meet. The school day and school year were not set up for a time element. The high school was innovative with this last year. Trustee Hawkins inquired on feedback from students and parents. Dr. Griffin said this is part of the community forums.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Erickson teachers Julia Bryant and Sandy Hummel expressed their appreciation for Aaron Rose who has worked long hours without a secretary. He has done a wonderful job. They wanted to "fill Aaron's bucket". President Bates asked for a round of applause. He appreciates what Mr. Rose has done.

Superintendent Lisiscki introduced Bob Wellman, Athletic Director, and Adam Riccinto, Choir Teacher; however, they both had to leave before introductions.

ACTION ITEMS

Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Vice-President Garrett, supported by Trustee Myers:

14-15 0024 That the Board of Education approve the minutes of the September 8, 2014 Regular Meeting. Action Recorded: 7/Yes; 0/No.

Second Reading of NEOLA Policy Updates

President Bates asked if there will be a vote next meeting. Superintendent Lisiscki said yes. Superintendent Lisiscki said this represents changes in Federal regulations and guidelines.

Trustee Sheler-Edwards expressed a recommendation of a male and a female for the two names for the compliance office.

Final Reading & Approval of Emergency Anaphylaxis Policy Language

A motion was made by Trustee Myers, supported by Trustee Raglin:

14-15 0025 That the Board of Education approve, as presented, the Emergency Anaphylaxis Policy Language. Action Recorded: 7/Yes; 0/No.

Approval of Erickson Overnight Field Trip: Youth in Government Trip to Lansing

A motion was made by Trustee Hawkins, supported by Trustee Sheler-Edwards:

14-15 0026 That the Board of Education approve, as presented, the Erickson Elementary overnight field trip: Youth in Government Trip to Lansing in November. Action Recorded: 7/Yes; 0/No.

Approval of Contract with ATI Physical Therapy

A motion was made by Trustee Raglin, supported by Trustee Hawkins:

14-15 0027 That the Board of Education approve, as presented, the YCHS Athletic Training/Medical Assistance Service Contract with ATI Physical Therapy. A roll call vote was recorded as follows: President Bates/Yes; Vice President Garrett/Yes; Trustee Hawkins/Yes; Trustee Myers/Yes; Trustee Raglin/Yes; Trustee Sheler-Edwards/Yes; Trustee VanDerworp/Yes. Vote 7/0, Yes.

Topics Included: Trustee Sheler-Edwards asked about Boys LaCrosse. Do we offer this? Justin Jennings answered no. Superintendent Lisiscki said the athletic director will let students know ahead of time.

Trustee Myers confirmed a difference in budget of $1400. Scott Johnson said the final number is to be somewhat less. We are waiting for a pro-ration amount from the vendor.

Approval of YNT Crime Prevention Security Service Contract with Courtesy Attendents (sic) Personnel Services

Removed from Amended Agenda

Approval of NWEA Assessment Invoice #00024993

A motion was made by Trustee Raglin, supported by Trustee Myers:

14-15
0028

That the Board of Education approve, as presented, the NWEA Assessment Invoice #00024993. A roll call vote was recorded as follows: President Bates/Yes; Vice President Garrett/Yes; Trustee Hawkins/Yes; Trustee Myers/Yes; Trustee Raglin/Yes; Trustee Sheler-Edwards/Yes; Trustee VanDerworp/Yes. Vote 7/0, Yes.

Topics Included: Trustee Hawkins asked if we have seen an improvement since the switch to web-based. Laura Frey-Greathouse said the roster loading is ahead of last year.

Approval of Credit Earned Through Career and Technical Education (CTE) Classes

A motion was made by Trustee Hawkins, supported by Trustee Sheler-Edwards:

14-15
0029

That the Board of Education approve, as presented, the Credit Earned Through Career and Technical Education (CTE) classes. A roll call vote was recorded as follows: President Bates/Yes; Vice President Garrett/Yes; Trustee Hawkins/Yes; Trustee Myers/Yes; Trustee Raglin/Yes; Trustee Sheler-Edwards/Yes; Trustee VanDerworp/Yes. Vote 7/0, Yes.

Topics Included: President Bates stated he is excited about what these groups are doing.

Approval of Stormwater Management Proposal

Removed from Amended Agenda

Approval of Contractual Agreement for Consultant Services of Mikel Brown

A motion was made by Trustee VanDerworp, supported by Trustee Myers:

14-15
0030

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent or a designee to enter into an Agreement between YCS and Mikel Brown. A roll call vote was recorded as follows: President Bates/Yes; Vice President Garrett/Yes; Trustee Hawkins/Yes; Trustee Myers/Yes; Trustee Raglin/Yes; Trustee Sheler-Edwards/Yes; Trustee VanDerworp/Yes. Vote 7/0, Yes.

SUPERINTENDENT'S COMMENTS

- Thank you to Adam Riccinto, Choir Teacher, for having ten pianos tuned and seeking out donors to sponsor the work.
- There is an Advisory Group on September 29th, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
- SLC ACCE: students are responding well.
- YCS 1.0 review sheet will be on the website tomorrow. Distribution will be made to the Board of Education.

BOARD COMMENTS

- Vice-President Garrett said "kudos" to Justin Jennings, Superintendent Lisiscki and Raymond Alvarado. Students are excited about what is going on and the teachers are excited too.
- Trustee Sheler-Edwards has talked with teachers who are happy.
- President Bates said thank you to Erickson teachers Julia Bryant and Sandy Hummel. They do not get the accolades they deserve.
- YCS 1.0 review sheet will be on the website tomorrow. Distribution will be made to the Board of Education.
- President Bates stated Board service is hard work and it takes quite a commitment. He welcomes Mark Wilde and Djeneba Cherif to the meeting. He welcomes an enthusiastic election.

Board Meeting Adjourned: 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

DMyers

Gregory Myers, Secretary
Board of Education
Ypsilanti Community Schools

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