

REGULAR MEETING (Monday, February 26, 2024)**Members present**

Dr Celeste Hawkins, Gillian Ream Gainsley, Sharon Lee, Meredith Schindler, Yvonne Fields, Jeanice Townsend

Members absent

Maria Goodrich

Meeting called to order at 6:52 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 Yvonne Fields, second by Meredith Schindler.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Dr Celeste Hawkins, Gillian Ream Gainsley, Sharon Lee, Meredith Schindler, Yvonne Fields, Jeanice Townsend

4. 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 comments

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

Action: A. Attorney-Client Session

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.

Went into closed session at 6:55 p.m.

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

Motion by Meredith Schindler, second by Yvonne Fields.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Dr Celeste Hawkins, Gillian Ream Gainsley, Sharon Lee, Meredith Schindler, Yvonne Fields, Jeanice Townsend

6. OPEN SESSION

Procedural: A. Reconvene to Open Session

The Board of Education will return to Open Session.

Returned to open session at 7:47 p.m.

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

Action: A. Attorney-Client Session

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.

Went into closed session at 7:47 p.m.

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

Motion by Meredith Schindler, second by Sharon Lee.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Dr Celeste Hawkins, Gillian Ream Gainsley, Sharon Lee, Meredith Schindler, Yvonne Fields, Jeanice Townsend

8. OPEN SESSION

Procedural: A. Reconvene to Open Session

The Board of Education will return to Open Session.

Returned to open session at 8:48 p.m.

9. ACTION ITEM: Student Affairs

Action, Procedural: A. Acceptance of Field Trip Request: ACCE, May 16, 2024 (Cedar Point, OH)

This proposal comes from Leslie Davis, the proud principal of ACCE HS. The trip seamlessly integrates into the curriculum by providing students with hands-on experiences in teamwork, business, economics, and environmental science, fostering a comprehensive understanding through real-world application, with a pre-trip lesson offering foundational knowledge and follow-up activities facilitating reflection and practical application of learned concepts.

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

... MOVE THAT the Board of Education approve the field trip for ACCE to Cedar Point on May 16, 2024.

Motion by Sharon Lee, second by Meredith Schindler.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Dr Celeste Hawkins, Gillian Ream Gainsley, Sharon Lee, Meredith Schindler, Yvonne Fields, Jeanice Townsend

10. PRESENTATIONS

Presentation: A. Magnet School Presentation

An update on the development of the Magnet Schools and Programs will be shared.

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

Mrs. Turquoise Neal presented.

Vice President Lee: If they take IB classes now they will not count and they will have to take them again?

Mrs. Neal: To offer the classes, we have to be accredited. If a ninth grader takes an IB class, it will go on their transcript but will not count towards their IB diploma until Fall 2025.

Trustee Gainsley: When is the information going out?

Mrs. Neal: Principal Davis is working on getting it to the elementary 5th graders now. There's an event on Friday.

Trustee Gainsley: Using Lambert?

Mrs. Neal: Yes. Doing a blog potentially with the principals. There are dates on some calendars.

Vice President Lee: Have you asked the parents how they feel about the name change?

Mrs. Neal: We are starting here. We can ask the parents.

Vice President Lee: I like the name change. I think we should get the input of the parents and staff.

Trustee Fields: Are we just asking them if we should add STEAM to the names?

Mrs. Neal: Yes.

Dr. Hawkins: Adding STEAM is a requirement?

Mrs. Neal: No. It is not a requirement from the state.

Dr. Hawkins: I like both of them.

Mrs. Neal: Do you want us to come back with the results or just go forward with it?

Trustee Schindler: I think if the parents are on board, just move forward.

Trustee Fields: I think it is important that the parents know what STEAM stands for. I think it is a good thing to show the direction we are going in. You don't see Arts too much. I think it is awesome.

Trustee Townsend: Enrollment process?

Mrs. Neal: We won't let students fall through the cracks. They will get support filling out the forms, simple and quick. We will review to see who we haven't gotten the information from yet.

Trustee Townsend: How does this impact the WIMA/WIHI student?

Mrs. Neal: It is another choice.

Vice President Lee: What is the capacity?

Mrs. Neal: It varies for grade level. Most of the grade levels are 100 - 150 students.

Trustee Townsend: So if capacity is reached, we will have a waitlist?

Mrs. Neal: We would do a lottery.

Trustee Gainsley: For middle and high school, will they have a separate building code? Same principals? Will we hire additional staff? Will some of the teachers be teaching only IB courses?

Mrs. Neal: No. They will have the same building code. There would just be an IB program. Yes, it would be the same principals. We will have an IB and STEAM coordinator at each building as part of the grant. It will depend on scheduling who teaches the courses.

Dr. Hawkins: Will there be anything given to the parents so they can better understand the curriculum?

Mrs. Neal: Yes, during the family presentations. Fliers and handouts, the possibilities.

Trustee Townsend: Additional training for paras?

Mrs. Neal: It will depend on their IEPs and they will still have access to the programs.

Trustee Gainsley: Will students who are not enrolled in the IB program be able to take any of the classes?

Mrs. Neal: We haven't gotten that far. We are talking to other schools to see how they are doing it.

Trustee Gainsley: It seems most parents are not aware of the move of the middle school or the new programs so it seems like a big opportunity to let everyone know about it. It's an exciting time. We should probably cut a ribbon.

Dr. Hawkins: Use the 10-year anniversary events to unveil the new building and programs.

Presentation: B. Black History 365 Presentation

This is an update on the status of our Black History 365 Program implementation in YCS. This report highlights how our schools utilize this curriculum to support student learning. The report highlights the following questions: How do our students like the Black History 365 curriculum? And What do the teachers think about the Black History 365 curriculum?

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

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

Dr. Carlos Lopez presented.

Trustee Townsend: Most kids don't know who they are and that presents a lot of issues. I applaud the district on pushing this through and really appreciate the teachers who are teaching it. Thank you for all your hard work.

Vice President Lee: Thank you. What you are teaching is amazing.

Dr. Lopez: Thank you for being instrumental in bringing this material and HMH material, which is very culturally diverse, especially at the secondary level. The great materials are in front of our kids because of you.

Trustee Schindler: A tangible piece of why black lives matter and it is beautiful.

Trustee Fields: Thank you for your presentation. I enjoyed it.

Dr. Hawkins: Thank you for your presentation and to the district for moving this important work forward.

11. CONSENT AGENDA

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

... MOVE THAT the Board of Education approve the: 1) February 12, 2024, Regular Board Meeting Minutes 2) February 12, 2024, Special Board Meeting Minutes 3) Personnel matters as per the presented list dated 2/21/24; New Hires and Resignations.

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

1) February 12, 2024, Regular Board Meeting [Minutes](#)

2) February 12, 2024, Special Board Meeting [Minutes](#)

3) [Personnel matters](#) as per the presented list dated 2/21/24; New Hires and Resignations.

Motion by Meredith Schindler, second by Jeanice Townsend.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Dr Celeste Hawkins, Gillian Ream Gainsley, Sharon Lee, Meredith Schindler, Yvonne Fields, Jeanice Townsend

12. ACTION ITEMS: Business and Finance

Action: A. Adoption of the Ypsilanti PA 321 Resolution

Seeking Board approval of the presented resolution for the debt relief plan.

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

.... MOVE THAT the Board of Education adopt the Ypsilanti PA 321 Resolution.

Motion by Yvonne Fields, second by Jeanice Townsend.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Dr Celeste Hawkins, Gillian Ream Gainsley, Sharon Lee, Meredith Schindler, Yvonne Fields, Jeanice Townsend

Action: B. Acceptance of Renewal of Swivl Solutions

The Swivl tool is a robotics and software tool. It is designed to assist our teachers in reflecting on their practice. Staff will level-up their ability to leverage Swivl Solutions to deepen their reflection and coaching practices. Instructional coaches have asked for this tool to work with classroom teachers. The quote will include all schools and is funded through our SEEK grant.

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

...MOVE THAT the Board of Education accepts the attached quote for Swivl Solutions for the amount of \$40,896.00.

Motion by Yvonne Fields, second by Sharon Lee.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Dr Celeste Hawkins, Gillian Ream Gainsley, Sharon Lee, Meredith Schindler, Yvonne Fields, Jeanice Townsend

13. PUBLIC COMMENTS #2

Information: A. Guidelines for Public Comment

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No comments

14. BOARD/SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS

Vice President Lee: We were asked to present at the NSBA conference. Are we going? The email from Nicole about Holmes playground and a tree limb in her yard.

Trustee Fields: We didn't get a new playground at Holmes and the Superintendent already reached out to her about the tree limb.

Dr. Zachery-Ross: I spoke to Mr. Rose and he sent out a team last week.

Dr. Hawkins: We can discuss attending and attend the NSBA but we can't present because we have missed the deadline for proposals (they usually do it a year out).

Trustee Townsend: Washtenaw Literacy Coalition is doing the Family Literacy Initiative Campaign Kick off to increase volunteerism and make people aware of the crisis, Dr. Lopez is on the panel and will take place from 1:00 - 5:00 p.m. on Sunday, March 10th - free. The Annual Easter Egg Hunt on March 30th at Perry School from 10:00 a.m. to noon - free to everyone and is for 5 to 11-year-olds. I will be speaking at the Parkridge Black History event on Thursday, February 29th.

Dr. Hawkins: Congratulations to Vice President Lee for winning her election.

Dr. Zachery-Ross: We are excited about the debt relief celebration happening on Thursday, February 29th from 4:30 - 6:30 p.m.

15. ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

Meeting adjourned at 9:42 p.m.