**YPSILANTI COMMUNITY SCHOOLS**
*Administration Building, Professional Development Room * 1885 Packard Rd.; Ypsilanti, MI 48197*
**MINUTES: REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION** *(Meeting #2 of 2)*

**Monday, October 23, 2017**

The meeting was called to order by President Sharon Lee at 6:41 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, led by Erickson Elementary students and Principal Kelly Mickel.

**MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION PRESENT**
Trustee Brenda Meadows, Trustee Sharon Irvine, Secretary Ellen Champagne, President Sharon Lee, Vice-President Dr. Celeste Hawkins, Treasurer Meredith Schindler, Trustee Maria Sheler-Edwards

**MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION ABSENT:** *None*

**ACHIEVEMENTS, AWARDS AND RECOGNITION**
Erickson Points of Pride included: 1) The Leader in Me; 2) Decrease in Discipline; 3) Enrollment Increase; 4) Leader Buddies; 5) Reading Oasis; 6) Empire for the Youth, and; 7) Erickson Student Support Network.

**ACCEPTANCE OF "AMENDED" AGENDA:** Agenda amended as follows: *Add:* Statement regarding Board of Education vote *(request per Irvine; added between III. Presentation & IV Public Comments #1).*
*Action Recorded: 7/Yes; 0/No*

**PRESENTATION**
2016/17 Annual Financial Audit Conclusion: Tracey Kasparek, CPA/Senior Manager at Rehmann Robson, gave an overview of financial statements and audit results, and guided the Board through pertinent pages of the Financial Statements and Single Audit Act Compliance booklet, for the year ended June 30, 2017. The District fund equity as of June 30th is about $6 million. The Audit Report is posted on the District website:

*http://www.ycschools.us/downloads/budget_information/fs_6-30-17_final_.pdf*
... or at ...
*https://civilservice.state.mi.us/nxt/gateway.dll?f=templates&fn=default.htm&vid=mofa:fa*

**STATEMENT REGARDING BOARD OF EDUCATION VOTE** *(Added Item)*
Irvine commented on the Board liaison for YCS/WEOC, and the consolidation on behalf of the Board. Tuesday the Board voted to allow WIMA and WIHI to complete accreditation. A desire was that WIMA stay in Ypsilanti and not move elsewhere. Acknowledgement of a wide level of alarm and many questions. A quick statement was made due to timing. Needed direction to share with community. The decision was made to ultimately consolidate.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS #1**
*Lee made a request to appoint a spokesperson for those requesting to speak on behalf of WIMA. The public replied with "no".*

*Derek Ewing*: declined comment time.

Public Comments concerning Resolution to Consolidate WIMA and WIHI:

WIMA: Washtenaw International Middle Academy
YIES: Ypsilanti International Elementary School
WIHI: Washtenaw International High School
WISD: Washtenaw Intermediate School District
IB: International Baccalaureate
WEOC: Washtenaw Education Options Consortium

*Liz Dahl MacGregor*, including transparency and notification.

*Seth Gore*, and impact to YIES families.

*Kira Berman*, including the WISD cherry-picking our schools, and, families returning to YCS.

*Kim Reynolds*, including IB schools. YIES brought her to YCS. Resurgence behind YCS. Why no public conversation when YIES formed? Request to rescind vote and have community forum.

*Kristy Cooper*, thanked Lee and Meadows for "no" vote. Request to rescind resolution and vote. Comments on public involvement and transparency. Comments on Saline/WIMA.

*Gillian Gainsley*, including looking at YCS in 20 years. Transparency and strategic planning. Accountability and trust. Taking up concerns with WISD Board too. Request to rescind decision.

*Tasha Pohrt*, including process for choosing YIES for enrollment of her child after Perry.

*Richard Murphy* based YIES enrollment on many factors. Resolution went back on commitment. Request to reconsider and discuss publicly. Comments on rebuilding/replacing.

*Ashley Fox*, including WEOC pushed for integration. Arrangement is inefficient. IB is jeopardized because of two management groups.

*Shannon Baer*, including choosing Ypsilanti to live 1-1/2 years ago after an international search while living out-of-state. Spoke of commitment to YIES/YCS, and keeping middle school years with YCS. Request to reconsider.

*Natalie Holbrook*, including demographics. WIHI services 6% underprivileged. Commented on vote, looking through a "racial and economic lens".

*Rudolph Alvarado* commented the vote strengthens programs.

*Kathi Beal*, including this is about the community of Ypsilanti and not just the schools. Request to temporarily rescind vote. Comments on differing views of Board and superintendent.

*Elizabeth Gratch*, including comments of decisions behind closed doors/secrecy.

*Ariel Moore*, including future processes should be more transparent. Spoke of accreditation being at risk and one governance system.

*Jason Vogt*: declined comment time; topic of intended comment unknown.

*Yen Azzaro*, including Board vote on night of YIES Curriculum Night. Comments on IB work during her tenure as YCS staff. Request to rescind and have a public form.

*Rhonda Bantsimba*, including the way a decision was moved forward. Process was lacking.

*Melissa Scott*, including interest of inclusion on the decision and transparency. Request to be included in decision-making.

*Megan Hagenauer*, including an increase in enrollment numbers this year; families are returning to YCS. Learned about decision-making process by talk with Sheler-Edwards. Requests reassurance. Did superintendent pass information on to Board? Requests explanation.

*Laura Frey-Greathouse*, including advocating for students. WIMA staff knew of decision to be made; YCS Central Office did not. What about a justification of data for the decision? Favors collaboration, not competing.

**"AMENDED" CONSENT AGENDA**

MOTION TO approve the consent agenda as amended ~~the following~~: 1) October 9, 2017 regular meeting minutes; 2) October 17, 2017 special meeting minutes; 3) October 17, 2017 closed session meeting minutes, and; 4) the personnel matters as per the attached list dated October 23, 2017: New Hires and Resignations.

*Motion by Sheler-Edwards, supported by Champagne*
*Action Recorded: 7/Yes; 0/No*

The following three amendments were made: 1) **October 9, 2017 meeting minutes** / change to Board/Superintendent Comments, change from Meadows to Hawkins in comment #2; 2) **October 17, 2017 meeting minutes** / change to WIMA and WIHI Resolution vote, changed 5/2 yes vote to 4/Yes; 2/No (Lee & Meadows) – Schindler was absent for vote; therefore her name was removed as a yes vote, and; 3) **Resolution to Consolidate WIMA and WIHI** / change in Roll Call Vote, Schindler's vote changed from yes to "absent" – vote changed from 5/2 Yes to 4/2, with Schindler being noted as absent – new approval signature documenting the AMENDED resolution (dated on 10/23/17).

**DISCUSSION**

A. **SECOND READ:** NEOLA Policy Updates – *Vol. 30, #2 & The Edgar Collection*
B. **SECOND READ:** Proposed Policy Language - *1) Student Discipline/Thrun Updated, and; 2) Sponsorship Agreements, #7230 (~~1900~~)*
C. **RESOLUTION:** Commitment to Early Literacy Partnerships
D. **RESOLUTION:** Support of House Bill #4293
E. Protocol Consideration: 10 Minutes Time Limit on Discussions. Sheler-Edwards suggested a check-in after 10 minutes; Board in agreement; Champagne suggested no vote needed.
*F.* Board Member/Superintendent Meetings: Ratios other than 1:1 (tabled previously: 9/19/17 & 10/17/17). Schindler asked why this is a Board discussion. Edmondson brought it for transparency reasons. Meadows is okay with ratios other than 1:1.

**ACTION ITEM: NEOLA POLICY UPDATES,** *Vol. 30, #2 & The Edgar Collection*

MOTION TO adopt the NEOLA policy updates, as presented: Vol. 30, #2 & The Edgar Collection:

1. #0144.3: Conflict of Interest
2. #1130: Conflict of Interest
3. #1420: School Administrator Evaluation
4. #3110: Conflict of Interest
5. #4110: Conflict of Interest
6. #6110: Grant Funds
7. #6111: Internal Controls
8. #6146: Post-Issuance Compliance for ...
9. #6550: Travel Payment & Reimbursement
10. #7217: Weapons

*Motion by Schindler, supported by Meadows*
*Roll Call Vote: 7/0 Yes*
*Yes: Meadows, Irvine, Champagne, Hawkins, Schindler, Edwards, Lee*

**ACTION ITEM: PROPOSED POLICY CHANGE,** *1) Student Discipline/Thrun Updated, and; 2) Sponsorship Agreements, #7230 (~~1900~~)*

MOTION TO adopt the proposed following policies, as presented:

1. Student Discipline, Thrun Updated Policy #5600.02
2. Sponsorship Agreements: #7230 ~~(1900)~~.

*Motion by Schindler, supported by Hawkins*
*Roll Call Vote: 7/0 Yes*
*Yes: Hawkins, Schindler, Sheler-Edwards, Meadows, Irvine, Champagne, Lee*

**~~ACTION ITEM: PROTOCOL – 10 MINUTE TIME LIMIT ON DISCUSSIONS~~** *(Deleted Item)*

**PUBLIC COMMENTS #2**
Public Comments concerning Resolution to Consolidate WIMA and WIHI:

*Andrew Fanta* spoke of parental excitement, including YIES parents. Suggestion for discussion. If administrative and accreditation problems, why no discussion?

*Maria Cotera,* including WIMA promised with Consolidation. What, financially, did YCS put into WIMA? We built thriving school, now WISD wants to take over. We were pushed into Consolidation and offered merger benefits.

*Jill Stucker,* including paid tuition and after-school enrichment. Why are we giving away a "crown jewel"? Comments on recouping our investment (financially, etc.).

*Ashley Fox* frustrated with process. Requests more transparency. WEOC Joint Steering Committee in May; Edmondson absent for vote. Concern with misinformation.

*Megan Hagenauer* inquired on getting answers "to our questions" at this meeting.

*Kathy Fisk,* spoke of a previously successful program, Ardis Renaissance. Group of people that had their own agenda made decision to cut program. Recently, consider Ypsilanti New Tech. If accreditation or operating issues, why were other options not considered?

*Adam Chase,* moved by other parent comments. We must move forward.

**BOARD/SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS**

- Irvine commented on the energy to make this community a vibrant place. The sky is the limit. Spoke of emotional impact.
- Champagne expressed appreciation of comments "on the process". A "yes" vote because we did not want to lose WIMA for YCS students. Hawkins asked for Board discussion since June. Apologies to those who may have been blindsided.
- Hawkins commented on misinformation circulated tonight and a need to be more transparent. No decision was made behind closed doors. There was a closed session with an attorney; but, the decision was made in an open meeting. As a Board member, she has asked for information. Urged community to continue to attend Board meetings, encouraging accountability and asking questions. Expressed hope for community support for "all" important issues.

- Irvine commented on information-gathering at this stage. Suggestion to move forward: town hall and workshop meetings to understand what decisions mean.
- Sheler-Edwards commented on frustration of the process. Information came to Board at a late date. Need to be better with community moving forward. Comments on sharing factual information in a public setting.
- Meadows expressed apologies to the public.
- Edmondson commented WIMA was ours; YIES we started. He was not aware the Middle Years Program included Grades 6-10 (and not 6-8) until a spring meeting with Jean Ramseyer, YIES IB consultant. At a WEOC meeting in March, he felt like it was a takeover. Refusing the takeover, Edmondson brought in an attorney. Both attorneys were working together. He offered at the WEOC table for YCS to be controller of Grades 6-10 (flipping it from WEOC control). He did not withhold information.

  Edmondson stated he negotiates based on our best interest. Comments of building a better program. We have parent interest. When directives are received by the Board, he supports those directives. Let us have a conversation. Let us move on. Apologies about the process.

*Meeting Adjourned: 9:27 p.m.*

Respectfully Submitted,

Ellen Champagne, Secretary
Board of Education
Ypsilanti Community Schools

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