

**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, May 20, 2019**

The meeting was called to order by President Dr. Celeste Hawkins at 6:41 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, led by Ypsilanti International Elementary School (YIES) students and Principal Cassandra Sheriff.

**MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION PRESENT**

President Dr. Celeste Hawkins, Vice-President Brenda Meadows, Secretary Maria Sheler-Edwards, Treasurer Gillian Ream Gainsley, Trustee Ellen Champagne

**MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION ABSENT**

Trustee Sharon Lee, Trustee Meredith Schindler

**ACHIEVEMENTS, AWARDS AND RECOGNITION**

Ypsilanti International Elementary School (YIES) Points of Pride included: 1) Champions of Change Walk-A-Thon Peace Fundraiser; 2) WIHI 11<sup>th</sup> Grade Student Literacy Tutors to YIES Students; 3) Annual Blooming YIES Fundraiser; 5) Collaboration with Battle Creek Public Schools, Who will Model Their IB School After YIES; 6) 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Team Facilitated an African American Wax Museum, and; 7) 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Students Fundraiser for the Purchase/Install of a Lending Library Book House.

**ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA:** Accepted as Presented

*Motion by Ream Gainsley, supported by Meadows*

*Action Recorded: 5/Yes; 0/No*

**PRESENTATIONS**

**Community Partnerships Update:** Superintendent Alena Zachery-Ross gave a PowerPoint presentation. Update information was provided by YCS teacher Dwi Lmuban-Toruan, who has been in communication this year with our partners. Community partners are "teachers beyond the classroom". This work is included in the Blueprint process. Partners go well beyond recognizing and the outreach we have together. Dialogue on a vetting process, an evaluation tool, and Memorandums of Understanding.

**Student Transportation Update:** National Bus Service (NBS) provided documentation in support of in-district services. The Board subcommittee met to review this information last week.

Matthew Snyder and Justin Wilczynski of NBS were presenters. NBS has been consulting with YCS since last year regarding this venture. They have assisted with the RFP process and making selections. They provided an overview of the: 1) RFP; 2) process; 3) bids, and; 4) recommendation to Board. Dialogue on why an "in-house" transportation service included: 1) financial; 2) our District is able to put in the effort to do this; 3) transparency (raw data/transparency is lost with a third party). With Board approval tonight of an in-house service, staff recruitment would begin immediately. Zachery-Ross shared transportation staff would be more immersed in the District (ie, during summer, employees could sub as custodians, paraeducators, etc.). Dialogue on Michigan State Police inspections.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS #1**

Leslie Harris commented on bussing. Sonya Gawthrop dialogued on school safety. Raymond Alvarado extended an invite to the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Grizzly Awards on June 7, 2019. Maria Goodrich commented on partnerships and the education they provide for students.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

MOTION TO approve the following minutes: 1) April 24, 2019; 2) April 24, 2019 closed session meeting #1 of 2; 3) April 24, 2019 closed session meeting #2 of 2, and; 4) May 6, 2019 regular meeting.

*Motion by Ream Gainsley, supported by Champagne*

*Action Recorded: 5/Yes; 0/No*

### **ACTION ITEMS, Business/Finance**

**RESOLUTION: Recommendation to Provide In-District Transportation Services** NOTE: Motion to "approve the recommendation" only (see below); no Resolution.

MOTION TO approve the recommendation of administration and National Bus Service and reject RFP responses for providing transportation services for the 2019/20 school year and further, to charge administration, working with National Bus Service consultants, with bringing the operation back in-district prior to the start of summer school 2019.

*Motion by Ream Gainsley, supported by Meadows*

*Roll Call Vote: 5/0 Yes*

*Yes: Meadows, Ream Gainsley, Champagne, Sheler-Edwards, Hawkins*

### **ACTION ITEMS, Other**

**RESOLUTION: Designating District's Election Representative, Board of WISD**

MOTION TO adopt the Resolution Designating District's Election Representative for the June 3, 2019 WISD Biennial Election, directed to cast a vote on the ballot on behalf of this Board for the following candidates: 1) Diane Hockett, and; 2) Mary Jane Tramontin.

*Motion by Champagne, supported by Sheler-Edwards*

*Roll Call Vote: 5/0 Yes*

*Yes: Meadows, Ream Gainsley, Champagne, Sheler-Edwards, Hawkins*

**PROCLAMATION: Declaring June 7, 2019 National Gun Violence Awareness Day**

MOTION TO adopt the Proclamation for National Gun Violence Awareness Day on June 7, 2019. (Note: Zachery-Ross read aloud the proclamation before the Board vote.)

*Motion by Sheler-Edwards, supported by Champagne*

*Roll Call Vote: 5/0 Yes*

*Yes: Meadows, Ream Gainsley, Champagne, Sheler-Edwards, Hawkins*

**Donation: YCS Event Series Sponsorship | Hoekstra Transportation, Donor**

MOTION TO accept a \$2,500 cash donation from Hoekstra Transportation for the YCS Event Series Sponsorship.

*Motion by Meadows, supported by Ream Gainsley*

*Action Recorded: 5/Yes; 0/No*

**Donation: YCS Marketing/Special Events | Compass Group/Chartwells, Donor**

MOTION TO accept a \$4,000 cash donation from Compass Group/Chartwells for marketing/special events.

*Motion by Meadows, supported by Ream Gainsley*

*Action Recorded: 5/Yes; 0/No*

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS #2**

Maria Goodrich commented on the YIES lottery for seats. Leslie Harris spoke on bussing.

(Champagne departure)

**OTHER**

- *Zachery-Ross* shared the Thurston property demolition is now complete. The YCS Job Fair is May 22<sup>nd</sup>. Friday is Seniors last day of school and the Senior Walk. May 31<sup>st</sup> is Prom at Polo Fields Country Club. June 4<sup>th</sup> is Graduation and the Senior breakfast. Board: Please communicate with Zachery-Ross regarding Graduation proceedings.

Dialogue on recent violence in the community and what steps we can take to support the community; thank you for tonight's proclamation designating National Gun Violence Awareness Day on June 7<sup>th</sup> and a request to "wear orange" on this day. Dialogue on current administrative vacancies and options to cover/replace these positions: 1) Business/Finance Director; 2) Facilities/Operations Director. Trustee Lee received an Award of Distinction from Michigan Association of School Boards this morning at the Legislative Breakfast.

**BOARD/SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS**

- *Ream Gainsley* dialogued on addressing violence in the community and community outreach. Shared information on the Saturday, June 8<sup>th</sup> event, "Interrupters Event", at the Washtenaw County Sheriff's Office Service Center. "Interrupters" are volunteers walking door-to-door handing out information (summer jobs, things for children to do over summer break, etc.) as part of a public education campaign to interrupt violence in our neighborhoods.
- *Hawkins* commented on the recent Grizzly Soirée event. The Southeast Michigan Stewardship (SEMIS) Project was held today at Eastern Michigan University; YCS students were participants. Reminder to Board members of the sign up for upcoming District events; document is now in electronic version; please review again, signing up for additional events if possible.
- *Zachery-Ross* commented on the Board sign up for District events now a Google doc. Board encouraged to review again.

*Meeting Adjourned: 8:43 p.m.*

*Minutes Recorded by: Paula Gutzman*

Date Approved: 6.10.19



Celeste Hawkins, President  
Board of Education  
Ypsilanti Community Schools