



MINUTES: SPECIAL MEETING/WORKSHOP OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Wednesday, August 21, 2019

The **Special Meeting** of the Ypsilanti Community Schools Board of Education was called to order by President Dr. Celeste Hawkins at 6:37 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, led by President Hawkins.

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION PRESENT

President Dr. Celeste Hawkins, Vice-President Brenda Meadows, Secretary Maria Sheler-Edwards (6:48 arrival), Treasurer Gillian Ream Gainsley, Trustee Ellen Champagne, Trustee Sharon Lee (6:48 arrival)

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION ABSENT

Trustee Meredith Schindler

MEMBERS OF ADMINISTRATIVE CABINET PRESENT (& Participants in Workshop)

Superintendent Alena Zachery-Ross, Assistant Superintendent Dr. Carlos Lopez, Director of Human Resources Sue McCarty, Director of Business & Finance Priya Nayak, Director of District Operations Aaron Rose

ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA: Accepted as Presented

Motion by Ream Gainsley, supported by Meadows

Action Recorded: 4/Yes; 0/No

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

EQUITY AND INCLUSION

Dorinda Carter Andrews, Ed.D. | Professor and Chairperson of Teacher Education | Michigan State University, facilitated a PowerPoint presentation on *Effective School Board Operations: Courageous Conversations About Race, Schooling and Decision-Making*. This session was about looking at who we are, and thinking about how to implement/approach this work with our students. Topics included: 1) The Big Picture | Who Am I? | Who Are Our Students? | Who Are We?; 2) Reflect and Share Activity; 3) Forced Choice Activity; 4) Race and Ethnicity; 5) What is Racism?; 6) Discrimination and Racism in Schools; 7) Forms and Types of Racism; 8) Examples in YCS, and; 9) From Awareness to Action: Taking a Race-Centered Approach.

Conversation on possible next steps/future workshops on equity and inclusion. Dialogue on defining the “whats”. For this year, what are the highest priorities? How can goals be made “actionable”? Hawkins opened up dialogue to the Board on suggestions of what they might like to see with this work:

Meadows: Equity

Champagne: Examining Discipline and Data

Sheler-Edwards: Achievement Gap

Ream Gainsley: Examine Programs and Data. An outside set of eyes may be helpful.

Hawkins: How do we have these conversations? Are we modeling tenants that should trickle down in the District?

Lee: Number of Student IEPs. Dr. Carter Andrews stated the Board does not deal with “school level”, offering suggestions of through specific staff professional development, personnel issues, etc.

Zachery-Ross: Attendance Concerns - How to deal with support?

Hawkins: Data for those with IEPs. Dr. Carter Andrews spoke of being a data driver, studying data and what to do about patterns in the data.

The Board recessed at 8:16 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 8:14 p.m.

OTHER

- Zachery-Ross shared Tuesday, August 27th is Opening Day. This week has been administrator and new teacher Bootcamp. Invite extended to Board to attend Opening Day activities.

BOARD/SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS

- Zachery-Ross appreciates the openness and willingness of the Board to take time to write down things for “the Board” and not just others (teachers, administrators, etc.).
- Hawkins commented that Dr. Carter Andrews’ work is helpful. Time for Board feedback is appreciated. Collectively, there is potential of a rally of changing the trajectory for our students: a direction to move forward.

Meeting Adjourned: 8:57 p.m.

Minutes Prepared by: Paula Gutzman

Date Approved: 9.9.19



Maria Sheler-Edwards, Secretary
Board of Education
Ypsilanti Community Schools