

**YPSILANTI COMMUNITY SCHOOLS**

*Administration Building, Professional Development Room \* 1885 Packard Rd.; Ypsilanti, MI 48197*

**MINUTES: REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**Monday, September 9, 2019**

The meeting was called to order by President Dr. Celeste Hawkins at 6:30 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 (6:33 arrival), Treasurer Gillian Ream Gainsley, Trustee Ellen Champagne (8:16 departure), Trustee Sharon Lee, Trustee Meredith Schindler

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

(Sheler-Edwards arrival)

**ACHIEVEMENTS, AWARDS AND RECOGNITION**

Proclamation in Memory of Richard J. Laster, Co-Founder, Washtenaw County Summer Youth Sports Camp: YCS presented a plaque to the family of Richard Laster. This camp, founded in 1989, was recently renamed in Mr. Laster's honor. Through this camp, many YCS students had a safe place to gain new skills, have a meal, receive a t-shirt and have fun. This camp made a positive impact on the community. There is a proposed tree planting to honor his work on Saturday, October 19<sup>th</sup>. Presenters also included: Ypsilanti Community Middle School Counselor Brenda Averett, Bill Malcolm, Coach Van Loggin and Linda Edwards-Brown.

**ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA:** Accepted as Presented

*Motion by Lee, supported by Schindler*

*Action Recorded: 7/Yes; 0/No*

**PRESENTATIONS**

Community Liaisons Update: District Community Liaisons Isiah Daniel, Alex Easley and Arthur Holt, along with YCS Assistant Superintendent Dr. Carlos Lopez and Washtenaw County Juvenile Specialist | Special Projects Manager Kassie Weiland, presented program results from last year. Ms. Weiland is involved after our liaisons make a referral. Dialogue on the program and the process.

Student Assessment Update: Assistant Superintendent Dr. Carlos Lopez provided State assessment results. He also dialogued on background information and modifications that have been made as a result for 2019/20.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS #1:** *None*

**CONSENT AGENDA**

MOTION TO approve the following: 1) August 21, 2019 special meeting minutes; 2) August 26, 2019 regular meeting minutes, and; 3) the personnel matters as per the attached list dated September 5, 2019: New Hires and Resignations.

*Motion by Lee, supported by Champagne*

*Action Recorded: 7/Yes; 0/No*

### **ACTION ITEMS, Student Affairs**

#### **Donation: ACCE, Anonymous Donor**

MOTION TO accept a \$25,000 cash donation from an anonymous donor on behalf of the ACCE program.

*Motion by Lee, supported by Sheler-Edwards*

*Action Recorded: 7/Yes; 0/No*

### **ACTION ITEMS, Other**

#### **Donation: YCS, Toyota**

MOTION TO accept the donation of 40 laptop computers, valued in excess of \$1,000, from Toyota Motor.

*Motion by Schindler, supported by Lee*

*Action Recorded: 7/Yes; 0/No*

### **DISCUSSION**

Communication Engagement Plan: Superintendent Alena Zachery-Ross introduced a plan to invite the community to the Auditorium on September 30<sup>th</sup> to learn about the Board's priorities and how they may become involved. The expectation is that participants would be able to attend discussion group meetings led by District administrators, the Washtenaw ISD and Washtenaw County leaders. More information will follow.

(Champagne departure)

Transportation Department: Zachery-Ross presented information received from Justin Wikczynski of National Bus Service regarding an update. Information was presented on: 1) school start up; 2) key points from start up; 3) what the District has done, and; 4) what's next. Conversation on a possible need for additional buses due to potential enrollment increases. Hawkins requested before a decision would be made, verification of enrollment numbers would be needed, and, dialogue on purchasing v. leasing vehicles. Board member inquiry on: 1) a possible breach of contract with National Bus, and; 2) if there is need for additional buses, perhaps initially renting buses with purchasing/leasing additional buses in the future, if necessary. Both Ream Gainsley and Schindler were favorable to obtain new buses as an emergency purchase, if necessary. Lee inquired on the possibility of her answering phones at Transportation.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS #2:**

*Amanda Smith and Tami Latham commented on student transportation.*

### **OTHER**

#### **BOARD/SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS**

- *Sheler-Edwards* attended the planning meeting of the Washtenaw Association of Schools Board (WASB) on Thursday.
- *Meadows* is liaison for the WASB, but did not receive an invite for the event. Comments on the Back-to-School Bash. Lastly, inquiry on communication with Hoekstra regarding busing.
- *Ream Gainsley* commented on student transportation. She stated many kids and staff are excited to be back in school. Many things are going right.
- *Hawkins* commented on Opening Day, the upcoming BP training and transportation.
- *Zachery-Ross* spoke of Opening Day. Comments on the work of teachers in their classrooms, her (and other Cabinet members) visits to schools and interactions, including with students. BluePrint Drivers tell us it does not matter what role staff are in – everybody is involved in this. We are stronger together; last week was a testament to that.

Dialogue on a new health care plan being rolled out, which includes a reduction in staff health care costs. Expressed thanks for all the work that has been done on this, including the EA staff and those working behind the scenes. Director of Human Resources Sue McCarty shared information on the new plan, "Essentials by MESSA". She also spoke on some limitations of the plan. YCS will have five health care plans this year; next year one plan must be eliminated. She shared MEA & MESSA really worked with YCS, but four plans is their top number of plans for Districts.

- *Hawkins* thanked building administration and staff involved in the offering of a new health care plan. Last minute resignations were acknowledged.

*Meeting Adjourned: 9:00 p.m.*

*Minutes Prepared by: Paula Gutzman*

Date Approved: September 23, 2019



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