

YPSILANTI COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

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

MINUTES: ORGANIZATIONAL & REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Monday, January 13, 2020

The meeting was called to order by President Dr. Celeste Hawkins at 6:30 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, led by Beatty Early Learning Center (ELC) students and Ginelle Skinner, Principal/Assistant Director of Early Childhood.

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION PRESENT

President Dr. Celeste Hawkins, Vice-President Brenda Meadows, Secretary Maria Sheler-Edwards, Treasurer Gillian Ream Gainsley (*late arrival*), Trustee Ellen Champagne, Trustee Sharon Lee, Trustee Meredith Schindler

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION ABSENT: *None*

ACHIEVEMENTS, AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

Beatty ELC Points of Pride included: 1) Families & Feelings Program; 2) March Dads; 3) Donation Closet; 4) March is Reading Month; 5) Backpack Program; 6) Family Dance Party, and; 7) Monthly Parent Meetings.

Imagine Language & Learning Challenge: Superintendent Zachery-Ross acknowledged students recognized (Ford & Holmes students).

January is Board Appreciation Month: Zachery-Ross honored Board members, recognizing their contributions. She read "To Honor School Board Recognition Month, January 2020", presenting each Board member with a copy. Each Board member also received a Certificate of Appreciation and token gifts.

YCS MISSION STATEMENT: Board President Dr. Celeste Hawkins read aloud the following: The purpose of YCS is to develop mindful, engaged students with the skill set, work ethic, and attitude to contribute to a community that honors diversity, equality and justice.

ACCEPTANCE OF "AMENDED" AGENDA: Agenda amended with one change - 1) *Delete: Appointments of Board Committee Members & Liaisons | "Subcommittees" (Item B); per Hawkins, will be tabled until after a planning meeting.*

Motion by Lee, supported by Schindler

Motion Carries

PUBLIC COMMENTS #1

Amanda Smith expressed appreciation to the Board on behalf of the Ypsilanti International Elementary School PTO. *Debra Stevens* commented on transportation.

ACTING CHAIRPERSON ELECTION: Superintendent Alena Zachery-Ross was nominated to serve as acting chairperson, as needed, for this meeting.

Motion by Lee, supported by Ream Gainsley

Action Recorded: 7/Yes; 0/No

TEMPORARY SECRETARY "APPOINTMENT": Acting Chairperson Alena Zachery-Ross appointed Paula Gutzman to serve as temporary Secretary until such time as the Secretary of the Board of Education has been elected.

BOARD ORGANIZATION

NOMINATION & ELECTION OF BOARD OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

Brenda Meadows nominated Dr. Celeste Hawkins to serve as President.

MOTION TO nominate Dr. Celeste Hawkins to serve as President until the 2021 Organizational Meeting.

Motion by Meadows, supported by Schindler

Roll Call Vote: 7/0 Yes

Yes: Meadows, Ream Gainsley, Champagne, Lee, Schindler, Sheler-Edwards, Hawkins

VICE-PRESIDENT

Brenda Meadows expressed interest in serving as Vice-President.

MOTION TO nominate Brenda Meadows to serve as Vice-President until the 2021 Organizational Meeting.

Motion by Lee, supported by Hawkins

Roll Call Vote: 5/0 Yes + 2 "Will of the Board" Votes

Yes: Meadows, Champagne, Lee, Schindler, Hawkins

Vote for the "Will of the Board": Ream Gainsley, Sheler-Edwards

BOARD SECRETARY

Sharon Lee agrees to serve in role of Secretary.

MOTION TO nominate Sharon Lee to serve as Secretary until the 2021 Organizational Meeting.

Motion by Sheler-Edwards, supported by Schindler

Roll Call Vote: 7/0 Yes

Yes: Meadows, Ream Gainsley, Champagne, Lee, Schindler, Sheler-Edwards, Hawkins

TREASURER

Gillian Ream Gainsley expressed interest in serving as Treasurer.

MOTION TO nominate Gillian Ream Gainsley to serve as Treasurer until the 2021 Organizational Meeting.

Motion by Lee, supported by Schindler

Roll Call Vote: 7/0 Yes

Yes: Meadows, Ream Gainsley, Champagne, Lee, Schindler, Sheler-Edwards, Hawkins

Newly Re-Elected President Hawkins serves as Chair going forward (newly-elected Secretary Sharon Lee begins serving as Secretary) ...

APPOINTMENTS OF BOARD COMMITTEE MEMBERS & LIAISONS

Parliamentarian: Brenda Meadows

Head Start Policy Committee: Sharon Lee

Legislative Relations Network (LRN) Designee: Brenda Meadows

Washtenaw Association of School Boards (WASB) Representative: Ellen Champagne

Ypsilanti Promise Board Representative: Void, Disbanded; Washtenaw Promise now

Ypsilanti Foundation Board Liaison: Maria Sheler-Edwards

Michigan Association of School Boards (MASB):

Delegate, Ellen Champagne; Alternate, Brenda Meadows

Coordinated School Health Team: Gillian Ream Gainsley

Sex Education Advisory Board (SEAB): Meredith Schindler

Subcommittees: *Item Tabled, pending planning meeting per President Hawkins.*

1) Policy; 2) Financial & Operational Planning; 3) Strategic & Educational Performance (DTN); 4) Community Relations, and; 5) School Culture & Discipline.

MOTION THAT the above appointments as Board representatives be approved and in effect until the next Organizational Meeting in January 2021.

Motion by Schindler, supported by Meadows

Action Recorded: 7/Yes; 0/No

CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION TO approve the following minutes: 1) November 4, 2019 special meeting; 2) November 4, 2019 regular meeting; 3) November 18, 2019 special meeting; 4) November 18, 2019 closed session meeting; 5) December 2, 2019 special meeting; 6) December 2, 2019 regular meeting; 7) December 10, 2019 special meeting; 8) December 10, 2019 closed session meeting, and; 9) the personnel matters as per the attached list dated January 6, 2020: New Hires & Resignations.

Motion by Schindler, supported by Lee

Action Recorded: 7/Yes; 0/No

ACTION ITEMS: Organizational Matters

Board of Education Meeting Schedule Adoption

MOTION TO adopt the Board meeting schedule for January 14, 2020 - January 11, 2021.

Motion by Schindler, supported by Lee

Action Recorded: 7/Yes; 0/No

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12.3.20 Notes: Two changes to the schedule: 1) Void June 29th meeting; reschedule for June 22, 2019, and; 2) void September 28th meeting; reschedule for Tuesday, September 29, 2019. Also, approval is of dates only; agenda topics will be addressed at a later date.

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District Compliance Officers Appointment

MOTION TO designate the following staff to serve as District Compliance Officers: 1) the Assistant Superintendent as 504 Compliance Officer, and; 2) The Director of Human Resources as District Compliance Officer, and, ADA Coordinator (in compliance with Policy #s 2260.01 & 4123).

Motion by Sheler-Edwards, supported by Meadows

Action Recorded: 7/Yes; 0/No

REVIEW AND APPROVAL: Business Items

Authorization for Use of Facsimile Signature

MOTION TO authorize the Director of Business Services to file the necessary forms with the appropriately designated banks to use the facsimile signature of the School District Superintendent on check draws of the General Fund, Food Service Fund, Debt Retirement Fund, Payroll Account, Student Activities Fund and Trust Fund.

Motion by Meadows, supported by Ream Gainsley

Action Recorded: 7/Yes; 0/No

Authorization to Execute Contracts and Sign Documents on Behalf of the District

MOTION TO designate, and limit thereto, the following administrators to sign contracts and other documents on behalf of the District: Superintendent, or designee, and Director of Business Services.

Motion by Lee, supported by Sheler-Edwards

Action Recorded: 7/Yes; 0/No

Authorization of Bank Account Signatories

MOTION TO approve the Board President, Superintendent, Board Treasurer, Director of Business Services and Accounting Supervisor as official signatories of bank accounts for the District.

Motion by Meadows, supported by Lee

Action Recorded: 7/Yes; 0/No

Designation of Depository for School District Funds

MOTION TO utilize the following financial institutions as depositories for the following funds:

Normal Operations Deposits & Withdrawals: 1) Michigan Liquid Asset Fund Plus; 2) Bank of Ann Arbor; 3) Fifth Third Bank, and; 4) Flagstar Bank (for Schneider Electric).

Bonded Indebtedness Paying Agents: 1) Bank of New York [BYN Mellon or the Bank of New York Mellon Trust Co]; 2) Hunting National Bank, and ; 3) U. S. Bank.

Motion by Schindler, supported by Sheler-Edwards

Action Recorded: 7/Yes; 0/No

Designation of Electronic Transfer Officer (ETO)

MOTION TO appoint the Board Treasurer or Director of Business Services as Electronic Transfer Officer (ETO) in accordance with Policy #6144.

Motion by Schindler, supported by Lee

Action Recorded: 7/Yes; 0/No

Designation of Audit Firm: *Audit firm to be determined at later date; auditing services will go out for bid for the year ending June 30, 2020.*

Designation of Legal Counsel

MOTION TO authorize the following law firms as legal counsel for the District: 1) Thrun Law Firm PC (retainer), and; 2) Collins & Blaha PC.

Motion by Meadows, supported by Schindler

Action Recorded: 7/Yes; 0/No

Designation of Meeting Posting Responsibilities

MOTION THAT the Superintendent, or designee, will designate an appropriate, available person to post notices of public meetings.

Motion by Ream Gainsley, supported by Meadows

Action Recorded: 7/Yes; 0/No

Designation of Newspaper for Bid Notices and Other Legal Postings

MOTION TO designate The Ann Arbor News for bid notices and other legal postings.

Motion by Schindler, supported by Meadows

Action Recorded: 7/Yes; 0/No

ACTION ITEMS: Non-Organizational Items

Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Purchase

MOTION TO approve the Houghton Mifflin Harcourt purchase, Proposal #007502630 dated 11/18/19, for the amount of \$50,392.86.

Motion by Sheler-Edwards, supported by Schindler

Roll Call Vote: 7/0 Yes

Yes: Meadows, Ream Gainsley, Champagne, Lee, Schindler, Sheler-Edwards, Hawkins

RESOLUTION: Authorizing the Issuance & Delegating the Sale of Ypsilanti Community Schools 2020 Refunding Bonds (Former Willow Run Community Schools)

MOTION TO adopt the attached Resolution Authorizing the Issuance and Delegating the Sale of Ypsilanti Community Schools 2020 Refunding Bonds (former Willow Run Community Schools).

Motion by Meadows, supported by Schindler

Roll Call Vote: 7/0 Yes

Yes: Meadows, Ream Gainsley, Champagne, Lee, Schindler, Sheler-Edwards, Hawkins

Note: YCS Attorney Mike Gresens and Senior Vice-President of Hutchinson, Shockey, Erley & Co. Bill Roche briefly dialogued on the legal side and business side of the refunding, answering Board questions. This item is followup to the December presentation made.

RESOLUTION: Recognizing Black Lives Matter at School

MOTION TO adopt the attached Resolution Recognizing Black Lives Matter at School, Week of Action 2020.

Motion by Meadows, supported by Schindler

Roll Call Vote: 7/0 Yes

Yes: Meadows, Ream Gainsley, Champagne, Lee, Schindler, Sheler-Edwards, Hawkins

Note: The resolution was read aloud by President Hawkins.

Donation: Ypsilanti Community High School - Dr. David Sadler, Donor

MOTION TO accept a donation from Dr. David Sadler of a triangular shaped 55-gallon salt water aquarium and miscellaneous aquarium supplies to YCHS - Paula Sizemore's classroom - for an estimated donation amount of \$1,000.

Motion by Lee, supported by Schindler

Action Recorded: 7/Yes; 0/No

PUBLIC COMMENTS #2

Gail Summerhill commented on a Friday art event for alumni, and, unified respect for Board members. Lavada Weathers expressed thanks to all Board members and the commitment to student improvement; comments on Houghton Mifflin Harcourt purchase.

OTHER

BOARD/SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS

- *Schindler commented on the art show, and, a review of a comprehensive look at reading and math.*
- *Lee commented on the 21-day equity challenge.*
- *Hawkins dialogued on the equity challenge and encouraged Board members to sign up.*

Meeting Adjourned: 8:03 p.m.

Attachment: "To Honor School Board Recognition Month, January 2020"

Minutes Prepared by: Paula Gutzman *pg*

Date Approved: 2.3.2020



Sharon Lee, Secretary
Board of Education
Ypsilanti Community Schools



TO HONOR SCHOOL BOARD RECOGNITION MONTH, *January 2020*
Ypsilanti Community Schools

Ypsilanti Community Schools joins 529 local and 56 intermediate school districts across Michigan to celebrate January as School Board Recognition Month.

WHEREAS:

1. School board members represent their fellow citizens' views and priorities in the complexity of maintaining and running the community's public schools. They reinforce the principle of local control over public education, which is an important, highly valued aspect of education in Michigan, and;
2. The month of January marks the observance of School Board Recognition Month. This is an opportunity to show our appreciation for these leaders and begin to better understand how local trustees work together to prepare today's students to be tomorrow's leaders, and;
3. The key to a brighter future for Michigan children is a strong public education system. Every day, students count on public schools to help prepare them for a successful future. Students count on adults across the state to ensure they have access to resources to help them learn, keep their building safe and have qualified teachers to guide them. It takes a commitment to a community to make this possible. At the end of the day, contributing to the success of our students are ordinary citizens with extraordinary dedication to public schools: our school board members, and;
4. The job of school board members is to establish a vision for the education program, design a structure to achieve that vision, ensure schools are accountable to the community and advocate for continuous improvement in student learning. This is a time to remember school board members for their untiring efforts.


NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

1. We encourage you to join Ypsilanti Community Schools with others throughout our community, state and nation to salute the men and women who provide grassroots governance of public schools.
2. Even though there is a special effort during January to show appreciation for our school Board members, we recognize their contributions are a year-round effort.
3. Celebrating School Board Recognition Month is one way to say 'thanks' for all school board members do.

School Board Members Serving Ypsilanti Community Schools

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

Thank you for your dedication and service.


Alena Zachery-Ross, Superintendent
Ypsilanti Community Schools

1/12/20
Date