April 26, 2021 REGULAR MEETING Agenda | Electronic Meeting VIA Zoom; see "IMPORTANT MESSAGE(S) REGARDING THIS MEETING" (Monday, April 26, 2021)

Generated by Julie Haines on Wednesday, April 28, 2021

Members present

Dr Celeste Hawkins, Gillian Ream Gainsley, Ellen Champagne, Sharon Lee, Yvonne Fields, Maria Goodrich

Members absent

Meredith Schindler

Meeting called to order at 6:32 PM

1. CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL OF BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Dr. Celeste Hawkins, Board President

Action: A. Roll Call of Board of Education Members

2. IMPORTANT MESSAGE(S) REGARDING THIS ELECTRONIC MEETING

Information: A. Electronic Meeting (via Zoom) In Accordance with DHHS Emergency Order and PA 254 of 2020; COVID-19 IMPORTANT MESSAGE: This meeting of the Ypsilanti Community Schools Board of Education will proceed electronically in accordance with DHHS Emergency Order and PA 254 of 2020.

If participants do not have technology access, please contact our Director of Technology Nik Jackson for accommodation: **techdirector@ycschools.us**.

Public viewers please use the following link to watch the live stream: https://www.facebook.com/ypsilanticommunityschools

-or join directly on Zoom-

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83401100127

The public can register their attendance at the following link. If they would like to ask a question or make a public comment to the Board, there is a place for that, as well:

- Live form: http://bit.ly/YCS_BOE_Comments
- Call in to speak during public comments time: 734-221-1204

As public comments come in, they will be collected in the order received in the following spreadsheet. Board and Cabinet are the only ones with access:

- Formatted Public Comments: https://bit.ly/YCS_BOE_FormattedComments
- Sheet Collecting Attendance and Comments: http://bit.ly/YCS_BOE_PublicCommentsCollected

Information: B. Electronic Meeting Guidelines

ELECTRONIC MEETING GUIDELINES: Because electronic meetings are new to the Ypsilanti Community Schools Board of Education, it is appropriate to outline those procedures which may vary from typical meeting procedures.

- #1: Board members will be asked to state their name when making motions and seconds for the benefit of the audience.
- #2: All votes are urged to be taken by roll call for clarity.
- #3: The Chair will strive to recognize Board members by name before they speak. In the event this does not happen, trustees are encouraged to announce their own name or may be reminded to do so.
- #4: Audience members will be muted until recognized by the Chair during public comment(s).
- #5: People who speak during public comment time will be asked to state their name and topic before speaking.
- #6: If there is a closed session in a meeting, it will take place in a separate Zoom session. The regular meeting will remain open until the Board returns from closed session.
- #7: Board members must avoid using email, texting, instant messaging and other electronic forms to communicate with each other or with members of the public during the meeting.
- 3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Dr. Celeste Hawkins, Board President
- 4. ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA

Action: A. Acceptance of Agenda

... MOVE THAT the Board of Education accept the agenda, as presented.

Motion by Sharon Lee, second by Maria Goodrich.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Dr Celeste Hawkins, Gillian Ream Gainsley, Ellen Champagne, Sharon Lee, Yvonne Fields, Maria Goodrich

5. ACHIEVEMENTS, AWARDS & RECOGNITION

Recognition: A. NAAPID Certification of Excellence

Ypsilanti Community Schools, a National African American Parent Involvement Day Contributor, received a Certificate of Excellence from Chairperson, Shoshana DeMaria on March 8, 2021 for an outstanding performance and lasting contribution for National African-American Involvement Day. Click here to see the certificate.

Recognition: B. Recognition of Support Staff

We are recognizing some of our YCS support staff today by giving them Meijer gift cards. Meijer is family-focused on enriching lives in the communities they serve. This philosophy has guided their company for more than 85 years, especially during difficult times like we've experienced this past year. Meijer wanted to support, recognize, and show their appreciation for everything our staff is doing. We also want to thank all our staff for their hard work and dedication. The support staff that we will be recognizing at this board meeting are: Cleveland Albertie, Iman Al-Ghrairi, Jennifer Allred, Carmen Bell, Amyre Bishop, Michael Brower, Jacqueline Center, Garrie Chea, Dwanna Dawson, Richard Durr, Mariea Evans, Carol Ford, Rosie Freeman, Orangelle Gardner, Angelina Gibbs, Fredrick Hall, Larry Hankins, LaKeisha Higgs, Arthur Holt, Consuelia Johnson, Bobbie Kincaid, Landis Lewis, Arrawanna McCalep, Mohammed Muhsen, Elizabeth Royce, Vonyea Swanson, Angela Taylor, Beverly Thomas, Debra Woods, and Deanne Wright.

Action: C. Resolution: Staff Appreciation 2021: Alena Zachery-Ross, Superintendent

School Principal Day: May 1, 2021

Teacher/Staff Appreciation Week: May 3 - 7, 2021

School Lunch Hero Day: May 7, 2021 School Nurse Day: May 12, 2021

School Principal Day is May 1, 2021. Teacher/Staff Appreciation Week is the first full week in May of each year. School Lunch Hero Day are May 7, 2021. School Nurse Day is May 12, 2021. It is a time to honor principals/teachers/staff/school lunch heroes/school nurses, recognizing the contributions they make.

The success of our children and community are significantly influenced by exemplary Ypsilanti Community Schools staff who dedicate their talents of heart and mind to help ensure that our public schools and our young people excel, including during this unprecedented time of COVID-19. The knowledge, support and skills YCS staff provide children will positively impact generations for years to come.

YCS principals/teachers/staff/school lunch heroes/school nurses are extraordinary. They inspire children daily. We express our sincere gratitude for those who enthusiastically dedicate themselves to our schools and children. We encourage the community to join in honoring principals/teachers/staff/school lunch heroes/school nurses for their impact on our children and our learning community.

YCS High School Assistant Principal, Raymond Alvarado, will present the events that are scheduled for Teacher Appreciation Week that the Sunshine Committee has put together to honor the teachers throughout the district.

Click here to see the resolution.

... MOVE THAT the Board of Education adopt the Resolution of Recognition proclaiming May 1, 2021 to be School Principal Day, May 3-7, 2021 to be Teacher/Staff Appreciation Week, May 7, 2021 to be School Lunch Hero Day, and May 12, 2021 to be School Nurse Day.

Motion by Sharon Lee, second by Yvonne Fields.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Dr Celeste Hawkins, Gillian Ream Gainsley, Ellen Champagne, Sharon Lee, Yvonne Fields, Maria Goodrich

6. PRESENTATIONS

Presentation: A. E.C.O.L. Update by Dr. Lopez

YCS Assistant Superintendent, Dr. Carlos Lopez, will give the board an update on the E.C.O.L Plan. **The ECOL Plan is an additional plan that includes new assurances and sections on educational goals, instructional delivery, grading, and equitable access – it does not replace the District's current COVID-19 Preparedness and Response Plan.** Click here to see the presentation.

Turquoise Neal: At the Middle School for sixth grade for sixth grade and are self-contained classrooms, they will resume or phase in on May 10th, and our 7th and 8th grade will phase in on May 17th. We will have our state PSAT testing on April 30th and that is for 8th grade students only. For the high school on behalf of Principal Gildersleeve students in grades nine through 11 will phase in on May 10th. For our seniors it's a little bit different schedule as they are nearing the end of their academic year and so they will participate in a senior checkout and that will be conducted during that week as well. State testing for high school students more information will be provided to those students who have opted to participate in State testing. **Jonathan Royce**: We are running pretty similar to what the high school is. We have our testing this week 27th, 28th, 29th. We'll look at it May 10th to bring back our 9th, 10th, and 11th graders and we're planning for our seniors to come in now (we just have a few) that week as well so we can see them, socially distance hug them, check in and see how they're doing. We're really looking forward to seeing the kids. It's been a long long time without them so each time there's that little push back, it's a little disappointing and heart-wrenching each time that happens so we're really looking forward to seeing those that are coming to test.

Vice President Lee: The Pre-school were started in person or no not yet? Dr. Lopez: Not yet. All the pre-schools will resume May 10th.

Vice President Lee: With the testing, how are we doing that? Are they doing it the same way that they have done it in the past or exactly how we're doing the testing? **Dr. Lopez**: With the standardized/state testing, parents have the option of either having their children tested or test out meaning their students won't take the test. Most of our parents, in our communities especially throughout the state of Michigan have opted not to have their student tested. There are a handful of students that are there currently tested so

at this point in time is about 194 students that are interested in testing throughout. Right now currently our fifth graders with the mstep testing and 8th graders on the PSATs, 9th graders on PSATs, 10th graders on PSATs, and 11th graders on SATs. So there are a handful of students and what is happening is like every other year they have to come in to take that test in person. So they are taking the test in person. So even students who are online who want to test and we have a number of students that we're scheduling in and providing testing for them in a building. **Vice President Lee**: So you're scheduling how many at a time? **Dr. Lopez**: Since we have small numbers we have spacing in essence you were looking at an auditorium or gymnasium so that space allows you to have the kids six feet apart. We're actually testing in small groups because we got a window that they gave us so in essence and since there's not that many students this year who opted to test, they will be in small groups in large open areas so the students are safe, the staff and everybody will be six feet apart.

Trustee Fields: So for this year because of the pandemic and the situation that we're in as far as that testing was an option and then will it go back to being a requirement as we go, like gradually read it back into that process? **Dr. Lopez**: We received from the MBE and Blaha and Collins, the biggest thing for us is the whole perspective of being responsive. What parents need to understand is that the accountability piece is not going to count against the students for not testing at this window and most people throughout the state aren't really testing their children. Some parents want to and the state recognizes that and the federal government understood that as well so those options are open and we will provide the parents with the scores when they come in. At this point in time it is hit or miss so the tests won't be that solid for young people. **Trustee Fields**: So my question is that it will eventually go back to being a requirement. **Dr. Lopez**: As it stands, yes. State assessments are not something that are going to go away. Quality shifts here and there but at this point in time they will resume for the following year if conditions are no different.

Presentation: B. YCS Language Program by Dr. Carlos Lopez

YCS Assistant Superintendent, Dr. Carlos Lopez will present our proposed K-12 World Language Program that includes the addition of a new Spanish immersion kindergarten classroom at Ford Early Learning Center as well as World Language courses in grades 4 and 5 at Holmes, Erickson, and Estabrook Elementary Schools. This 5-year World Language Plan includes offering Spanish in grades 6 through 8 as well as offering Spanish Levels 1 through 4 at YCHS. This plan also includes the continuation of Spanish at YIES as well as the adoption of our Seal of Biliteracy that provides the opportunity for our world language proficient students to graduate from YCS. For qualifying students, the Seal of Biliteracy will be added to their high school diploma letting employers, colleges, and universities know their language proficiency skills. Click here to see the presentation.

Vice President Lee: Will there be other languages offered or is it only Spanish, Arabic, and American sign language Dr. Lopez: This is only to get us started. It doesn't mean that our students cannot take other languages online as well cuz we offer those and so they could take those online but right now. The challenge is finding certified teachers in these world languages that it's very hard to attract them so we figure we will start with the language that we could get more teachers more readily than others. Vice President Lee: So maybe Swahili and French could be offered in the futrue. With the American sign language are you aware they are now offering black American sign language so with that be offered? Dr. Lopez: This is a growing of the department known as world language. So I think that the opportunity is as broad as we want it. The reality here is I think more exposure to our young people the better and so just because we didn't think it as we were developing it doesn't mean we won't bring it. Vice President Lee: I don't know if it's certified or not but I know if more like two-handed sign with black American sign language. Dr. Lopez: Swahili and French.

Trustee Gainsley: I know how many positions are going unfilled and how difficult it is to find Spanish-speaking and find bilingual people when you're trying to hire and so having our students have that advantage is just incredible so I really appreciate this program and would like to support it. There are quite a lot of students in our schools already who speak Spanish as their first language and so I guess I just love for you to address how it's going to be handled to put them in a very basic Spanish class if they have other alternatives or how that would be handled? Dr. Lopez: So when you do a Spanish immersion program you like to have a combination of students who are native speakers as well as students who are just starting. So you accelerate is how you immerse students and remembers students teach each other and work with each other so we visualize that by having a variety of students in the classroom that that will accelerate the learning and it does because having a native speaker of the language one or two in the classroom or three really empowers the other students to catch up even on the rapid basis so in essence we are looking at the kindergarten when we do it it's going to be very developmental, very project based, very engaging, just very non-traditional because really when you're learning a language not only are you learning the language but you are learning culture, the values. So I think the beauty is that we have an opportunity here. We have so much expertise and the people from Wayne State that are helping us also ran the Academy de Americas and so we have a lot of expertise in the table right now. This is why we can get this done. We have already started looking at materials and we are so excited about what we can put in front of our students. Trustee Gainsley: Could you talk a little bit about the evaluation that's going to go into this and what kind of feedback we might be able to expect to support about how it's going a year from now? **Dr. Lopez**: We were talking to Wayne State University from the get go to have an evaluation system of tracking and making sure that looking at those non-traditional factors that we need to take a look as our students learn world languages. In essence the cultural implications, the student relationships, the actual learning that is taking place, the bilingualism itself and the mental flexibility. The university will be meeting with us to really identify and since they have been working with other districts that have world language programs of that magnitude of Spanish immersion and other immersion languages we're going to be looking at mirroring what others and study and learn from others as well as we develop ours as well. So that's one of the biggest dialogue that is one step at a time as we are trying to get this approved so we can move to the next phase and the next phase is looking at materials, look at the assessment and the whole training that needs to happen and we are able to support and coach and mentor the teacher who's in that space because the first teacher is going to be pretty much by themself and we don't want a teacher to be by themself so we want that teacher to be supported and know that what they have this whole EL Network that exists in our district of support.

7. PUBLIC COMMENTS #1: Electronic Participation

Information: A. Guidelines for Public Comment

Public Comment Protocol

Pursuant to Board of Education Policy 0167.3

- *The Board recognizes the value of public comment on educational issues and the importance of allowing members of the public to express their view.
- *Please limit statements to three (3) minutes duration.
- *Participants shall direct all comments to the Board and not to staff or other participants; no person may address or question Board members individually.
- *Remarks shall be made in a respectful and professional manner.

Virtual Public Comment Information:

The public can register their attendance at the following link. If they would like to ask a question or make a public comment to the Board, there is a place for that, as well:

- Live form: http://bit.ly/YCS_BOE_Comments
- They can also call in to speak during public comments time at 734-221-1204

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Dr. Hawkins read public comments:

1. britney leedy, 1316 stamford rd, ypsilanti mi 48198, are you going to get sign language interpreters so that your deaf viewers can understand what's happening in the meeting?

8. CONSENT AGENDA

Action (Consent), Minutes, Report:

A. Consent Agenda

Seeking Board approval of the presented meeting minutes and personnel matters; see attachments below. Click here to see minutes. Click here to see HR list.

Resolution: ... MOVE THAT the Board of Education approve the: 1) April 12, 2021, Regular Meeting Minutes 2) personnel matters as per the presented list dated 4/16/21; New Hires, Termination, Resignations, and Retirements.

- ... MOVE THAT the Board of Education approve the:
- 1) April 12, 2021, Regular Meeting Minutes
- 2) personnel matters as per the presented list dated 4/16/21; New Hires, Termination, Resignations, and Retirements.

Motion by Sharon Lee, second by Yvonne Fields.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Dr Celeste Hawkins, Gillian Ream Gainsley, Ellen Champagne, Sharon Lee, Yvonne Fields, Maria Goodrich

9. ACTION ITEM: Business and Finance

Action, Recognition: A. Donation - \$1500 Donation from Maggie Gibbons

Maggie Gibbons is a longtime fan of YCS students and teachers. Maggie wants students to find joy and strength in reading and has made a \$1500 donation to Erickson Elementary. \$1000 of the donation will go to the library and \$500 for staff appreciation.

.... MOVE THAT the Board of Education accept a donation of \$1500 made to Erickson Elementary for the library and staff appreciation.

Motion by Maria Goodrich, second by Ellen Champagne.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Dr Celeste Hawkins, Gillian Ream Gainsley, Ellen Champagne, Sharon Lee, Yvonne Fields, Maria Goodrich

10. ACTION ITEM: Other

Action: A. YCS Seal of Biliteracy Policy

The District is recommending the adoption of YCS Seal of Biliteracy Policy that will provide the opportunity for our world language proficient students to graduate from YCS. For qualifying students, the Seal of Biliteracy will be added to their high school diploma letting employers, colleges, and universities know their language proficiency skills. Click here to see the policy.

.... MOVE THAT the Board of Education accept the resolution for the Seal of Biliteracy.

Motion by Maria Goodrich, second by Ellen Champagne.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Dr Celeste Hawkins, Gillian Ream Gainsley, Ellen Champagne, Sharon Lee, Yvonne Fields, Maria Goodrich

11. PUBLIC COMMENTS #2: Electronic Participation

Information: A. Guidelines for Public Comment

Public Comment Protocol

Pursuant to Board of Education Policy 0167.3

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No public comments.

12. OTHER

YCS Subcommittee Meetings

Dr. Hawkins: Our board of education subcommittee reports and we will have several board members who will be presenting summaries of their subcommittee work and if the board doesn't mind I'll go ahead and kick us off. First I'll read from the policy subcommittee and as I said earlier Trustee Schindler is the chair of that committee and Trustee Champagne and I also sit on that committee and the summary of the work is as follows for what we've been doing and these are notes from the chair Trustee Schindler: The policy committee has been privileged to work with a committed and creative group of YCS teachers and administrators to bring the Seal of Biliteracy to our students who qualify. The Seal of Biliteracy recognizes facility in two or more languages and we'll go hand in hand with a new world language teaching initiative that is going to be phased in it YCS as that happens though the working group will be asking the board to pass the policy which we just did to be placed on the diploma of qualifying students as early as this year. Ypsilanti is an international community and this seal is a fantastic way to recognize the dedication and intelligence of our multilingual students. The policy committee supports this work and we are glad to see this Seal of Biliteracy come to our community. Next another report from Trustee Schindler who serves on the Sex Education Advisory Board shared that the Sex Education Advisory Board is going to present at one of the boards May meetings to ask the board to approve a slate of updated sex education curriculum materials and to give us an update on the YCS sex and program. The committee is composed of health professionals, parents, clergy, YCS teachers and administrators, and board of education member and it is a very dedicated and knowledgeable group. The materials have been reviewed by the committee and are informational, timely, and in compliance with state law. And lastly the other committee that Trustee Schindler serves on is the Coordinated School Health Team committee and the health team hasn't met lately she shares that she's aware of and the last time they met was in January. Next I will share the work of the District Turnaround Network Committee also known as MICIP this as of this year and this committee the focus of this particular year what we do as far as the DTN is really to help the administration to assist the board with its responsibilities for the organization's mission, vision, and strategic direction by analyzing the internal and external environments. The DTN helps the board identify risk, challenges, and opportunities and as board members who serve on this committee our role is really to listen, provide input, and engage in two-way communication to advance the educational goals of Ypsilanti Community Schools. So this past Wednesday on April 21st we met as they as a group to hear about the MICIP and the SEL process and really the meeting was just to get the group familiarized with the Michigan Integrated Continuous Improvement Process which is what MICIP stands for to dive a little bit deeper into the data and to inform the work of our District Network team as we develop our plan for continuous improvement. We will meet quite a few times between now and June as a group and we want to make sure that everything that we discuss we document and it can be shared with the MICIP leadership team so that we can ensure that all voices are heard and that everything we share and discuss is embedded into the district Social Emotional Learning (SEL) plan MICIP work that will be submitted ultimately on June 30th, 2021. The committee is comprised of students, parents, YCS staff, and board of education members. We will meet five times this year from April to June 2021. Some of our norms and protocols as far as the meeting goes Dr. Lopez's instrumental in making sure that we have the agenda, presentation materials, and expectations are clear for what our role is as board members as part of our work on this subcommittee and I just want to note that our role is not to make decisions but to engage in dialogue on matters for the committee to consider that will inform the work of the district and just to also note that MICIP represents a mindset, a process, and a platform so that's really what is going to kind of drive our work and really looking at student outcomes and assessing the whole child needs to develop plans and coordinate funds and then lastly the top priority focus for this year is really to substantially improve the quality of teaching and learning of both the teacher and the student thereby significantly advancing the learning for all YCS students and this was shared by Dr. Lopez and our goal is to create and cultivate culturally responsive and intellectually safe classrooms that humanize learning for all students by bringing learning to life using minds on strategies like daily dialogue, inquiry, and respect for students' minds which cultivates the genius within each student through the right level of rigor and support. We meet again this Wednesday on the 28th, we meet on May 12th, May 19th,

Trustee Goodrich: I just have a couple of reports to share from earlier this year just to get caught up. As a delegate to the Legislative Relations Network I just wanted to briefly catch everyone up on Vice President Lee and I were able to attend the legislative coffee but took place back on January 25th and of the state and federal legislators representing constituents at our district congresswoman Debbie Dingle and state senator Jeff Irwin participated. Most of the discussion at that time was around vaccination and dispersive models for COVID funds. Much has happened since then and Superintendent Zachary-Ross keeps us well updated on the legislative progress both at the State and national levels but I wanted to highlighted the next legislative coffee is scheduled for May 17th 7:30 a.m. so of course everyone is welcome to attend that but I also just wanted to say I would welcome any feedback from any of the board on questions and issues that you'd like addressed or the kinds of information you would like to get back from these sessions. The second report I wanted to make was from the communication subcommittee and again this one is from a while ago but on January 28th Trustee Fields, Trustee Gainsley, and I attended the communications subcommittee meeting together with the core team of cabinet and administrators including it that meeting, Taryn Willis, Jerilyn Lynn, and Cory Gildersleeve. We discussed messaging and outreach efforts to ensure that our community is connected with all the things that are district has to offer and similar to the MICIP work, where they're really in a advisory role and to help facilitate two way communication. The efforts that we discussed include events like the April 21st town hall with the National Alliance on Mental Illness and other initiatives of the in progress Boots on the Ground campaign and just as an aside I wanted to say that I was privileged to be able to attend the Boots on the Ground community meeting.

Trustee Gainsley: I could offer a very brief update from the finance and operations committee. We met last month and the finance operations committee primarily talked about some of the effort funding that has come through the federal government through to the schools. This is going to be a large discussion that you're probably going to be hearing a lot about. I know I got text messages today from advocacy groups that had something to say about it. The state has is still in the process of the allocating a lot of those dollars and the federal government is also in the process particularly for the most recent bill is in the process of drafting the precise rules on how the funding is going to get allocated, what the restrictions are for using it but we do know is that there's quite a lot of money that's going to be coming into education. It's an incredible opportunity to make some important investments in our schools but there are limitations and how we use it and so we're waiting to hear exactly what those limitations are before forming a plan. The other important thing for the public to know is that particularly the largest allocation which is the most recent one does require a fairly robust public process and so we are going to be reaching out to the public talking about what kind of investments we want to make in our schools and so I just want to kind of give a heads up that is coming since you folks may be hearing about those funds in the news. We are going to be inviting the community in to have a conversation about what kind of investments they would like to see.

Vice President Lee: Regarding the preschool. Unfortunately I have not spoken with her since January but I did reach out and she did send me a report. Back in February, they were getting the preschoolers ready to return to in person so now she's reporting that Beatty has 80 in-person students and 42 students online. The online only students participate in a large group time with their inperson classmates each day. Beatty, Ford, and Perry are holding monthly parent meetings and they are held in all YCS preschool parent meeting each month. The next meeting is April 29th at 3:30 which I do plan on attending. For the YCS foundation, I wasn't able to make this month which was on the 13th but I do know they were in the process of creating an application for members to join. They're looking for members. I did reach out to Kathy Bill but she didn't respond and I was waiting for her to respond to see if they have any applicants yet. Cuz they are in the process of looking for applicants so I still don't know that much about that yet so I am planning on meeting with them next month. It is the first Tuesday of the month every month for their meetings.

13. BOARD/SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS

Dr. Hawkins: Thank you and congratulations, Superintendent Zachery-Ross **Superintendent Zachery-Ross**: We are stronger together. We are here to support each other. Thank you for your support, well-wishes, patience, and encouragement.

14. ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING Adjourned at 8:01