

**REGULAR MEETING (Monday, November 7, 2022)****Members present**

Dr Celeste Hawkins, Gillian Ream Gainsley, Sharon Lee, Meredith Schindler, Yvonne Fields, Maria Goodrich, Jeanice Townsend

**Meeting called to order at 6:34 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. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Dr. Celeste Hawkins, Board President

3. ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA

Action: A. Acceptance of Amended Agenda

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

Motion by Sharon Lee, second by Meredith Schindler.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Dr Celeste Hawkins, Gillian Ream Gainsley, Sharon Lee, Meredith Schindler, Yvonne Fields, Maria Goodrich, Jeanice Townsend

4. ACHIEVEMENTS, AWARDS & RECOGNITION

Recognition: A. COGNIA Recognition

It is Time to "Celebrate!"

Recognizing excellence in education

YCS has received the Cognia SYSTEM of DISTINCTION 2022 award for Excellence in Education.

YCS is the only school district in the State of Michigan to receive this award.

What is the Cognia Award?

In 2021, Cognia initiated its Schools and Systems of Distinction award program. Across the world, educators dedicate themselves to maximizing opportunities for learners. The Schools and Systems of Distinction awards recognize schools and systems that truly stand out in their service to learners.

Many members of the Cognia Global Network seek accreditation from Cognia, which is earned as the result of extensive internal preparation and a review by a team of outside educators. Cognia's Performance Standards for accreditation are based on ever-expanding research and understanding of learning, and define high-quality education for today's world. Once an institution is accredited, it engages in similar preparation and review every five years to maintain that designation.

Cognia congratulates the schools and systems for demonstrating excellence in meeting the Cognia Performance Standards during their 2021-2022 accreditation reviews, thus earning the 2022 Schools/Systems of Distinction award. Each of these schools or systems effectively implements high-quality instruction, shows consistent organizational effectiveness, and maintains a commitment to continuous improvement. These institutions demonstrate energetic and sustained commitment to learners.

Michael Nauss, Cognia Senior Director, will be joining us to present the award.

People who spoke or presented:

Michael Nauss - Cognia

Debbie Dingell - State Senate

Rose Bellanca - WCC President

Brandon Tucker -WCC

Lois Richardson - Mayor

Jada Weatherspoon (Representative Peterson's Office)

Ryan Glidersleeve - EMU

Naomi Norman - WISD Superintendent

Recognition: B. Ypsilanti Connected Community School Points of Pride

The YCS Board of Education is excited to share wonderful things that are happening in our schools by reading our school's points of pride. Today's school is Ypsilanti Connected Community School.

[Click here to view the points of pride.](#)

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS #1

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.

Donald Johnson asked a question about contracted paraeducators and what they are getting paid.

## 6. PRESENTATIONS

Presentation: A. Head Start Training

Erin Bradley, Head Start Director will present an overview of the Head Start structure including the role of the Governing Body, Head Start Program Performance Standards, and the mission and purpose of the Head Start program.

Click [here](#) for the presentation.

**Vice President Lee:** If we can't get parent participation, are we in jeopardy of losing funds or the program being canceled?

**Erin Bradley:** Office of Head Start really tries to work with us and not take funding.

**Vice President Lee:** Maybe parents weren't volunteering because they needed child care. Is anything being done with that?

**Erin Bradley:** There is a stipend for parents and mileage that is available to them. We kept the meetings virtual this year so parents could stay in the home if they needed to.

**Trustee Townsend:** Is Head Start income based?

**Erin Bradley:** Yes. And there are other qualifications that give them at risk points. We have a system that helps us make sure we are serving the most at-risk children all the time.

**Trustee Fields:** Kudos for involving the parents and giving them the opportunity to get more training/education.

Presentation: B. Talent Management - Class Sizes, Staffing, and Enrollment

YCS Human Resource Director Sue McCarty will present student enrollment and staffing updates to the board. YCS Human Resource Director Sue McCarty will present student enrollment and staffing updates to the board.

Click [here](#) to view the presentation.

**Dr. Hawkins:** How are we handling the compliance issue with so many vacancies in the social worker area?

**Sue McCarty:** We are working with Ruth Jordan to get compensatory services taken care of. We are really striving to hire social workers. We have hired one. If we need to make up compensatory services we will have to do them in the summer.

**Trustee Gainsley:** Are we using our university partnerships to get December graduates?

**Sue McCarty:** We have that set up. U of M and EMU send us a list of names and we send congratulations/informational letters out to the graduates. We get responses from that.

**Trustee Townsend:** Data on people leaving, how it's collected and how we can use it to improve.

**Sue McCarty:** She does an exit interview. Updated to a Google survey to capture the information. Right now people are leaving for financial reasons. The UKG does the whole thing with the confidential survey. Battelle is looking at our system to find what we can work on, to audit our HR. They said about 6 weeks to get us the results. We are going to Dearborn on November 9th and 10th for a conference on teacher retention redesign. Battelle will give us all information.

**Dr. Hawkins:** Do either of these systems have the ability to do a satisfaction survey throughout the year or do we already have that?

**Sue McCarty:** We don't. We are working on a stay interview.

## 7. CONSENT AGENDA

Action (Consent), Minutes, Report: A. Consent Agenda

Resolution: ... MOVE THAT the Board of Education approve the: 1) October 10, 2022, Regular Board Meeting Minutes 2) Personnel matters as per the presented list dated 10/26/22; New Hires, Resignations, and Retirements.

Seeking Board approval of the presented meeting minutes and personnel matters; see attachments below.

... MOVE THAT the Board of Education approve the:

1) October 10, 2022, Regular Board Meeting [Minutes](#)

2) Personnel matters as per the presented list dated 10/26/22; New Hires, Resignations, and Retirements.

Motion by Gillian Ream Gainsley, second by Sharon Lee.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Dr Celeste Hawkins, Gillian Ream Gainsley, Sharon Lee, Meredith Schindler, Yvonne Fields, Maria Goodrich, Jeanice Townsend

## 8. REQUEST FOR CLOSED SESSION

Action: A. Request for Closed Session- Pursuant to Sections 8(f) of the Open Meetings Act to review and consider the content of an application for employment

The Board of Education will be going into closed session pursuant to Section 8(f) of the Open Meetings Act to review and consider the content of an application for employment.

... MOVE THAT the Board of Education go into closed session pursuant to Section 8(f) of the Open Meetings Act to review and consider the content of an application for employment.

Motion by Maria Goodrich, second by Gillian Ream Gainsley.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Dr Celeste Hawkins, Gillian Ream Gainsley, Sharon Lee, Meredith Schindler, Yvonne Fields, Maria Goodrich, Jeanice Townsend  
Board of Education went into closed session at 7:50 p.m.

## 9. RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

Procedural: A. Reconvene to Open Session

The Board of Education will return to Open Session.

Board of Education returned into open session at 8:27 p.m.

## 10. ACTION ITEM: Human Resources

Action: A. Potential New Hire: Approval of Employment

The Board will consider the request and determine the employment opportunity.  
... MOVE THAT the Board of Education approve the district's employment request.

Motion by Meredith Schindler, second by Maria Goodrich.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Dr Celeste Hawkins, Gillian Ream Gainsley, Sharon Lee, Meredith Schindler, Yvonne Fields, Maria Goodrich, Jeanice Townsend

Action: B. Consideration of Revision to Superintendent Contract

The Board personnel subcommittee met to review the proposed superintendent's contract revisions and is recommending that this come before the full board for review and consideration.

...MOVE THAT the Board of Education approve the revisions to the superintendent contract.

Motion by Meredith Schindler, second by Sharon Lee.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Dr Celeste Hawkins, Gillian Ream Gainsley, Sharon Lee, Meredith Schindler, Yvonne Fields, Maria Goodrich, Jeanice Townsend

#### 11. ACTION ITEMS: Business and Finance

Action, Recognition: A. Great Start Readiness Program (GSRP) Contract for 2022-2023

This grant was awarded to support the operation of Great Start Readiness Programs (GSRP) serving eligible four-year old children with high-quality preschool services within the Washtenaw Intermediate School District.  
Click [here](#) to view the contract.

...MOVE THAT the Board of Education accept the Great Start Readiness Program contract for 2022-2023.

Motion by Jeanice Townsend, second by Meredith Schindler.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Dr Celeste Hawkins, Gillian Ream Gainsley, Sharon Lee, Meredith Schindler, Yvonne Fields, Maria Goodrich, Jeanice Townsend

Action: B. Adoption of Summer Tax Resolution, 2023 Tax Year

Ypsilanti Community Schools currently has a summer tax levy of 100%. It is recommended that we continue with this authorization for the 2023 tax year. The following Summer Tax Resolution supports the ongoing resolution, imposing a 100% summer tax levy. This is a standard resolution that is approved annually in order to collect taxes during the summer. A copy of the adopted resolution must be filed with each city and township within the YCS boundaries on or before December 31, 2022.  
Click [here](#) to view the resolution.

.... MOVE THAT the Board of Education adopt the Summer Tax Resolution to impose a summer tax levy to collect 100% of annual school property taxes, including debt service.

Motion by Yvonne Fields, second by Gillian Ream Gainsley.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Dr Celeste Hawkins, Gillian Ream Gainsley, Sharon Lee, Meredith Schindler, Yvonne Fields, Maria Goodrich, Jeanice Townsend

Action: C. Acceptance of the Explorer Club at Chapelle Leases

The Explorer Club at Chapelle would like to become a tenant at Chapelle and lease two rooms. Many youth and young adults are nervous to join their peers in athletic or sporting venues due to their own perception of self-image, weight, strength, or ability. Explorer Club Fitness is a place where kids can come to learn, grow, and build self-esteem in a semi-private and fun environment.  
Click [here](#) to view Rm 126 lease.  
Click [here](#) to view Rm 128 lease.

...MOVE THAT the Board of Education accept the Explorer Club at Chapelle Leases.

Motion by Yvonne Fields, second by Meredith Schindler.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Dr Celeste Hawkins, Gillian Ream Gainsley, Sharon Lee, Meredith Schindler, Yvonne Fields, Maria Goodrich, Jeanice Townsend

Action, Recognition: D. Acceptance of the Our House Lease

Our House is an existing tenant that would like to expand their footprint at Chapelle by adding Room 118 to their leased space. The mission of Our House, a Washtenaw County nonprofit, is to help young people (age 14-25) successfully transition from foster care to adulthood. Our vision is that they become successful, self-sufficient and can live independently with confidence.  
Click [here](#) to view the lease.

...MOVE THAT the Board of Education accept the Our House Lease.

Motion by Meredith Schindler, second by Maria Goodrich.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Dr Celeste Hawkins, Gillian Ream Gainsley, Sharon Lee, Meredith Schindler, Yvonne Fields, Maria Goodrich, Jeanice Townsend

#### 12. PUBLIC COMMENTS #2

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.

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\*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.

No public comments.

### 13. BOARD/SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS

**Trustee Goodrich:** Community Relations Subcommittee - was part of the latest round of interviews for the Marketing and Communications Director and wanted to thank the talent management team. Thank you for the professional development support from the district so we could go to MASB Annual Leadership Conference.

**Vice President Lee:** Attended the Head Start Meeting on October 21 and November 4. Next Meeting will be in December.

**Trustee Schindler:** Congratulations to the district, superintendent, and everyone involved in the Cogina award. It is joyful to be part of it and to watch.

**Trustee Fields:** Really enjoyed the MASB conference a couple weeks ago. Want to put on the table YCS being a part of United Way. They said they have reached out and not gotten any kind of response.

**Trustee Gainsley:** YCS Foundation had a Meet and Greet at the Ypsi Halloween event and Trustee Townsend and Trustee Goodrich joined her. They had about 150 people come through to learn more about the foundation. Mini-grants applications closed this week. We are continuing to fundraise for those mini-grants. Went to the POA meeting @ Ford (the first they have had in a while). They heard from quite a few parents, had a great turnout. Her big professional learning takeaway from the MASB Leadership Conference was Kalamazoo County is doing some cool things in career and technical education.

**Trustee Townsend:** Thank the district for the opportunity to attend the MASB Leadership Conference. She is going to attend the Middle school football team banquet this Thursday and ACCE's Thanksgiving Event on the Tuesday before Thanksgiving.

**Vice President Lee:** Asked Trustee Fields to elaborate on the United Way comment.

**Trustee Fields:** United Way used to get contributions from the employees but that stopped a few years ago. We have a joint movie on Friday with WCC and other partners and I think it is really nice for them to put something like this together for the students.

**Dr. Hawkins:** The middle school put on a play at the end of October. Pretty Brown Girl materials have all come in and they are going to start in Estabrook, Holmes, and YCMS in the next couple of months. Cognia recognition is a proactive way to talk about our district. These three people have run a stellar campaign and tomorrow is the day. I wish the incumbents well and lots of rest.

**Dr. Zachery-Ross:** Cognia is everyone, we are a team. The whole community should be proud. The district is getting 10 electric buses. Thank you everyone for help getting these buses. Thank you to everyone who wants to be on the board, especially the three that are on the ballot for tomorrow. We have PDs throughout the district tomorrow, high-level PDs. Holidays are coming up in November. The RCTC took part in the SkillsUSA fall leadership conference. They took part in the American Culinary Federation and all three of them earned a silver award with two of them competing against college students because there were no high school divisions. Chef Gaertner also earned a silver award in his professional-level competition. They are making sides and baked goods for the Thanksgiving holiday and taking orders - ordered must be placed by November 16th and picked up on November 22nd. Let's support our students. RCTC also did auto detailing. Our students are amazing.

**Dr. Hawkins:** Thank you to Trustee Gainsley for mentioning the website updates that we need to make to our calendar. Everyone have a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday.

### 14. ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

Meeting adjourned at 9:12 p.m.