

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF YPSILANTI
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**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Monday, October 27, 2008

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Education was called to order by President David Bates at 7:01 p.m. in Room 138 of Ypsilanti High School, 2095 Packard, Ypsilanti, Michigan.

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION PRESENT

Trustee Bates, Trustee Berman, Trustee Brumfield, Trustee Fanta, Trustee Jackson (arrived 7:20 p.m.), Trustee Snedacar-Horne

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION ABSENT

Trustee Devaney

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

Rachael Dozier/Absent, Samuel Egbert/Absent

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Joey Dulin and Coryn Rose, Erickson Elementary School fifth graders, led the Board of Education and audience members in the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA ADJUSTMENTS

President Bates requested that the minutes of the October 13, 2008 Regular Meeting be pulled from the Consent Agenda and be placed as item a. 1 and the Consent Agenda as item a.2 under Action Items.

PUBLIC INPUT

There was no Public Input.

ASSOCIATION REPORTS

Kelly Powers, Ypsilanti Education Association President, reported the Bus Load of Hope canned food drive challenge from Brighton would result in the awarding of a little brown jug decorated with the school district logos to the district with the most items collected for their respective charity. She displayed the hand-painted jug and asked for generous contributions from everyone. Ms. Powers also stated teachers have concerns about PowerSchool but would wait to give input until after the presentation.

PRESENTATIONS

Celebrating Success

Superintendent Hawkins announced Ypsilanti High School sophomore McKinnon Main will attend the Congressional Youth Leadership Conference in Washington, D.C. November 4-9. He said McKinnon was one of 350 students from across the United States who were nominated and selected to attend the conference. Dr. Hawkins said he is proud to recognize McKinnon for this special achievement.

PowerSchool

Gretchen Reist, Director of Technology, provided an update on the new PowerSchool program for the Board of Education. Topics of the presentation were: training dates and opportunities, current aspects of the program being used in the district (attendance, recording grades, progress reports, discipline reports, SRSD data), pending data to be available in the future (transcripts, food service, library, test scores). Ms. Reist said a PowerSchool program strength is parent and student access and announced high school parents will have passwords given to them at parent-teacher conferences this week. She noted the district would have continued the EdLine program for this school year had they been aware of the issues they would face in the PowerSchool roll out.

Other topics covered by Ms. Reist in her report were: middle school parent and student access will be available in approximately 30 days and elementary access by second semester. She stated she had asked high school staff by email and at their staff meeting if they needed help to prepare for the parent access of grade books and had not had requests for assistance. Ms. Reist provided a screen view of what parents and students see when they access their PowerSchool account. She provided information on the new technology being used in the district: four x-serves are in place, Mac Book laptops were distributed to all teachers, Mac student computers were installed at Estabrook and Perry. She said in the near future a high school laptop cart will be available, and middle school test labs will be opened. Ms. Reist reported in 2009-2010 Mac student computers will be installed in all other buildings and new x-serves will also be installed.

In conclusion, Ms. Reist said there were unanticipated network glitches in the transition from PC to Mac, difficulties deploying student machines in buildings under construction, outdated printers in classrooms need to be replaced, dongle adaptors for teacher laptops were not available, and two staff laptops have been stolen. She reported new sound field systems are in place at Perry CDC and Estabrook and teachers are testing demo white boards and projectors. Ms. Reist said she is planning to purchase new teacher printers and also provide back up solutions for the network. She noted that in the near future network electronics will be updated, a new e-mail system will be used, professional development planning to support new implementation will be developed and a replacement cycle to refresh technology will be established.

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Topics Included: estimate of when the complete PowerSchool program will be in place, assessing staff fluency by using a demo, data submission, how will high school parents be contacted with log-in information if they don't attend conferences, staff access to printed training manuals and materials, software compatibility, printing of transcripts, lap top cart procedures, obtaining discounts from vendors, providing discounts for home computers, support response time, professional development plan, a technology plan report to Board of Education in January 2009.

Equity Team Report

Richard Weigel, Assistant Superintendent for Educational Quality, provided a report on the newly formed Equity Team. Mr. Weigel stated the team began meeting last winter to discuss the issues of equity, race and student achievement and each school in the district is represented. He reported the group meets once a month and Ethan Lowenstein, a professor at Eastern Michigan University, also contributes to the team. Mr. Weigel said the Equity Team is planning a project by the end of the school year to show everyone how intelligent and capable our students are. In conclusion, Mr. Weigel noted the Equity Team is doing some work on systems theory and is an exciting group to work with.

Topics Included: Equity Team member conversation with staff in their respective buildings, how students are affected, how to measure changes in teaching methods, is the staff receptive and positive, this can be an uncomfortable subject, have changes in teacher behavior been noted, impressed with candor of the group.

ACTION ITEMS

Amendment of October 13, 2008 Regular Meeting Minutes

President Bates directed the Board of Education to page 4 of the October 13, 2008 Meeting minutes and asked them to amend the motion regarding adoption of Board Meeting Ground Rules by changing the word "attaching" to "attached" and deleting the end of sentence one "for the 2008-2009 school year" and re-attach the minutes to the Consent Agenda.

Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Trustee Brumfield, supported by Trustee Horne:

08-09 That the Board of Education approve the minutes of the October 13, 2008 Regular
8985 Meeting, the minutes of the October 20, 2008 Special Meeting, the minutes of the
October 21, 2008 Special Meeting and the minutes of the October 21, 2008
Closed Session with corrections made. Action Recorded: 6/Yes;0/No.

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AdvancEd District Accreditation

A motion was made by Trustee Berman, supported by Trustee Jackson:

08-09
8986 That the Ypsilanti Board of Education support the administration and staff in the pursuit of *District Accreditation* with AdvancEd. And also that the Ypsilanti Board of Education pledge support for this effort by being engaged in and informed about district and school initiatives initiated and put in place to raise achievement for ALL students. Action Recorded: 6/Yes;0/No.

Topics Included: an explanation of what district accreditation with AdvancEd consists of and how it is beneficial.

Approval of Snow Removal Contract

A motion was made by Trustee Fanta, supported by Trustee Brumfield:

08-09
8987 That the Board of Education approves the service contract for snow removal and salting to R & R Customs estimated to be \$73,025.50 for the 2008-09 school year according to the attached bid information. Action Recorded: 6/Yes;0/No.

Topics Included: this is the same company that gave 15% of their earnings from this job to the YPS Foundation last year and they will do the same for 2008-2009.

PUBLIC INPUT

Topics Included: a parent said she was glad to hear PowerSchool access was imminent, are AP English books in the classroom, the YEA does not want to provide parent access to PowerSchool until second semester because teachers are not ready and have not received proper training, the grading system has changed and new report cards are also being used at the elementary level.

Board Response: implementation is never perfect, support each other and work toward solutions, a Board demonstration of PowerSchool is planned at a later date, providing support for teachers, EdLine was popular with parents and the district should have had dual systems in place during the transition, all district professional development this year will be technology training, parents are waiting for this information, having the YEA do a survey to see who is prepared in each building for parent login, Gretchen Reist has worked hard to provide training for teachers and secretaries, YEA needs to talk to Gretchen, PowerSchool is important to parents and they want to partner with teachers, doing what is best for students, is a help source for parents available for PowerSchool, there is a separate log-in for each student in a family.

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COMMUNICATIONS

The Board of Education acknowledged a thank you note from the family of Gerald Gerstler for flowers sent upon his death.

SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS

Dr. Hawkins said he was sending a note of congratulation to YHS student McKinnon Main for his selection to attend the National Young Leaders Conference in Washington, D.C.

The Superintendent reported he was participating in the University of Michigan Diversity Summit on Tuesday, October 28 and would be part of a roundtable discussion with other Superintendents on partnership initiatives.

Dr. Hawkins said two weeks ago the Big Ten Network taped a segment to highlight the Summer Elementary Math Lab and he and Dean Ball and two Ypsilanti Public Schools students were filmed for a future feature on the University of Michigan.

Dr. Hawkins reported the YHS Girls Cross Country team placed first in the Mega White Division on October 18 in Whitmore Lake.

In conclusion, the Superintendent noted an East Middle School student who suffered with muscular dystrophy died last week.

After his comments, Dr. Hawkins introduced Dr. Hope-Jackson, Superintendent of Willow Run Community Schools, and Claudette Braxton, Willow Run Community Schools Board of Education President.

BOARD REQUESTS/COMMENTS

Trustee Berman said she could provide a list of public lectures and programs at the University of Michigan to the Superintendent. **Trustee Fanta** said he would like to reiterate two previous requests: developing a packing moving protocol for future bond work and district goals provided by the Superintendent. **President Bates** said he and the Superintendent are discussing goals and will meet again to finalize them. President Bates also announced it was Trustee Brumfield's birthday and everyone sang "Happy Birthday" and shared cake in celebration of the event.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen S. Allen, Secretary
Ypsilanti Board of Education