

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF YPSILANTI
Administrative Offices
1885 Packard Road – Ypsilanti, Michigan 48197-1817
Telephone: (734) 714-1218
Fax: (734) 714-1220

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

Monday, November 10, 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 Devaney, Trustee Fanta, Trustee Snedacar-Horne

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION ABSENT

Trustee Jackson

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

Rachael Dozier/Absent, Samuel Egbert/Absent

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Ani Freeborn, Emma Freeborn and Justin Stovall, Estabrook Elementary School fifth graders, led the Board of Education and audience members in the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC INPUT

Topics Included: an AP English class at Ypsilanti High School does not have textbooks yet and this is unacceptable, a parent reports she loves the PowerSchool program.

Board Response: thank you for bringing this to our attention. Dr. Hawkins reported the books were delivered damaged and a new shipment will arrive this week.

ASSOCIATION REPORTS

Rob Harris, representing the Ypsilanti Support Staff Association, said the bus purchase on the Board's agenda is much needed and the staff appreciates the purchase of new buses.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Superintendent James Hawkins reported Perry Child Development Center received a donation of \$500 for their Kindergarten Backpack Program from the Kiwanis Club of Ypsilanti. He also said the RCTC Computer Systems Technology Program received the donation of a computer, keyboards and miscellaneous parts from Diane Parfitt. Dr.

Page 2 – Regular Meeting – 11/10/08

Hawkins noted that appropriate recognition of these donations will be made to the donors.

PRESENTATIONS

Celebrating Success

Dr. Hawkins recognized Ypsilanti High School teacher Susan Bloom for developing positive strategies for students and her own personal growth in her “positivity” program for the 2008-09 school year. The Superintendent said as a part of this program Ms. Bloom is planning to oversee an Armed Forces Honor Board to recognize former YHS students currently serving in the military.

Presidents Bates informed those present that Trustee Edward Jackson’s nephew was killed last week in Atlanta. He asked that everyone keep the family in their thoughts and prayers.

ACTION ITEMS

Consent Agenda

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

08-09
8992 That the Board of Education approve the minutes of the October 27, 2008 Regular Meeting and the monthly bills payable for September 2008 in the amount of \$9,677,274.88. Action Recorded: 6/Yes;0/No.

Approval of Continuation of 1005 Summer Property Tax Levy

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

08-09
8993 That the Board of Education adopts the resolution authorizing the appropriate governing bodies to continue to impose a summer tax levy at 100% of the district’s annual taxes. Action Recorded: 6/Yes;0/No.

Purchase of School Buses

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

08-09
8994 That the Board of Education adopts the resolution to participate in the 2008-2009 MSBO/MAPT Bus Purchasing Program and purchase three (3) 71-passenger school buses at a cost of \$206,601.00. This expense will be charged to the 2007 Building and Site Fund. A roll call vote was recorded as follows: Trustee Berman/Yes; Trustee Devaney/Yes; Trustee Bates/Yes; Trustee Fanta/Yes; Trustee Horne/Yes; Trustee Brumfield/Yes.

Page 3 – Regular Meeting – 11/10/08

Topics Included: the district plans to buy 10 buses over a three year period with bond funds, the bus radio is not included in the bid.

BOARD STUDY/DISCUSSION

MASB Fall Conference Review

Trustee Brumfield said it had been an exciting conference. He stated he had registered Estabrook School for a wellness program. Trustee Brumfield said he would provide information he received regarding an insurance program for all employees after they retire, which includes Board members. **Vice-President Horne** said it was a very good conference and she enjoyed the classes and networking with other Board members. She reported she and President Bates had conducted a session regarding school funding at the conference. **President Bates** reported he and Vice-President Horne conducted a meeting attended by representatives from 25 school districts and MASB staff members where they shared concerns regarding the State of Michigan's inability to provide adequate funds for the education of children. He said afterwards the MASB staff said they would form a task force and create an agenda with a timeline to address this issue at the state level. President Bates said he attended an excellent budget and parliamentary procedure class. **Trustee Berman** said she attended two classes and two clinics which she found very useful. She thanked the district for the opportunity to attend the conference. **Trustee Fanta** said he was disappointed in several aspects of the Delegate Assembly. He also noted he was exchanging information with other Board members and he had contacted Kathy Hayes, the MASB's Executive Director, regarding establishing a MASB listserv. Trustee Fanta also commended President Bates for his remarks at the conference.

First Read – Board Policies

The Board discussed Policy 2430 and Policy 5460. President Bates stated a second read and adoption of the policies would take place at the November 24 Regular Meeting. He asked Board members to call him with questions about the policies prior to the meeting.

PUBLIC INPUT

Topics Included: a question about the G.P.A. in Policy 2430.

Board Response: how changes to policies are illustrated in the materials from NEOLA.

SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS

Dr. Hawkins reminded everyone of the November 20 Public Forum on School Finance which will be held at 7:00 p.m. in the Board Room.

The Superintendent also announced the "Bus Load of Hope" canned food drive for Hope Clinic would take place November 10-14 throughout the district with a Saturday collection at Shadford Field for community contributions.

Page 4 – Regular Meeting – 11/10/08

In conclusion, Dr. Hawkins stated he would be attending a funeral on Tuesday and would be unable to attend the Chamber of Commerce's Education Committee panel discussion. He said Assistant Superintendent Richard Weigel would attend the meeting and represent the district.

BOARD REQUESTS/COMMENTS

Trustee Horne said she was concerned about the lack of AP English books and that it was troubling that books were not in the classroom after 8-9 weeks of school. **Trustee Fanta** stated the students were receiving xeroxed copies of the material and while it was not ideal it was serving the students well. He noted that in the future textbooks will be outdated by new technology.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen S. Allen, Secretary
Ypsilanti Board of Education