

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, January 28, 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 Brumfield, Trustee Devaney, Trustee Fanta, Trustee Reiber, Trustee Snedacar-Horne

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION ABSENT

Trustee Temple (out of town)

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

Samuel Egbert/Present, Ayanna Thomas/Present (arrived 7:05 p.m.)

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Samuel Egbert, a junior at Ypsilanti High School, led the Board of Education and audience members in the Pledge of Allegiance.

STUDENT AND STAFF RECOGNITION

Joanne Hartmeyer, Executive Director of the Ypsilanti Public Schools Foundation and Steve Manchester, President of the YPSF Board of Directors presented 28 mini-grants to Ypsilanti Public Schools staff members. Staff members receiving mini-grants were: Molly Porter, Pat DeRossett, Alice Gannon-Boss, Beth Koryzno, Mary Buckwalter, Julia Bryant, Barbara Martin, Jan Natelborg, Mark Salzer, Carolyn Falsetta, Judy Floyd-McLeod, Karen Stapleton-Bower, Jacquelin Kilburn, Jason Malloy, Jack Bauer, Helene Mayleben, Cory McElmeel, Sue Smith, Carolyn Griffin, Mary Collins, Sharon Warring, Gwen Guthrie, Jennifer Puckett, Ellen Chenier, Arlene Clark, Karla Knighton-Beatty, Sophia Hubbard, and Cathy Bies.

Ms. Hartmeyer stated that \$9,766 was distributed to staff through mini-grants. She invited everyone to attend the annual fundraiser at Cady's in May. Dr. Hawkins encouraged those present to support mini-grants and student scholarships by using the payroll deduction option. He said United Way contributions could be earmarked for the YPSF. Dr. Hawkins also reported that the district's snow removal vendor was contributing 15% of its net profits to the foundation.

Page 2 – Regular Meeting – 1/28/08

Genevieve Jones, a senior at Ypsilanti High School, read her grand prize winning essay for the district's Martin Luther King Jr. Essay Contest. Dr. Hawkins noted that Ms. Jones was also the grand prize winner last year. He also pointed out the prize winning art work displayed in the Board Room from students throughout the district. In conclusion, Dr. Hawkins recognized Paula Sizemore, the coordinator of the Martin Luther King, Jr. contest.

AGENDA ADJUSTMENTS

President Bates said YEA representatives asked to speak to the Board after the action item on the YEA contract rather than during Association Reports.

PUBLIC INPUT

Topics Included: a timeline needs to be in place to hire replacements for contractual administrative employees, contracted employees do not contribute to the state retirement system.

Board Response: hiring the very best employees qualified to serve the district on all levels is important, the Board does need to address filling positions of contracted employees and needs to receive input from the public, Board leadership should devise a proposal for the administrative replacement process.

ASSOCIATION REPORTS

Larry Hankins, YSSA President, reported the YSSA membership ratified the contract on January 22, 2008. He thanked the Board of Education for their dedication, saying they were appreciated.

Joe Guillen, YPAA President, said the YPAA is preparing for negotiations and looking forward to the process. He also said he hoped to present a contract to the Board in the near future.

Ayanna Thomas, YHS liaison, said the following events were scheduled for Black History Month: February 4-8 is movie week, February 11 an assembly is scheduled on NAAPID Day, February 20 a Poetry Slam from 6 to 8 p.m., February 23 the Coming Home Dance, February 27 a Diversity Night potluck dinner and February 29 a Gospel Concert.

PRESENTATIONS

Celebrating Success

Dr. Hawkins stated he had attended the Michigan Association of School Administrators Midwinter Conference last week where Richard Weigel, Executive Director of Educational Services, received a MASA Winner's Circle Award for the Critical Friends Group program. Dr. Hawkins recognized Mr. Weigel for bringing

Page 3 – Regular Meeting – 1/28/08

positive attention to the district, saying he was proud of him for being an outstanding educator and leader.

The Superintendent also reported the YHS “Palladian”, a creative arts magazine had received a second place award from the American Scholastic Press. He said he had sent a congratulatory note to Carolyn Griffin, YHS English teacher, who is the advisor for the “Palladian”.

USDA Regulations for Food Service Management Company Contracts

Alan Dowdy, Deputy Superintendent/CFO, reported on recent changes at the Michigan Department of Education regarding how food service contracts were bid. He stated the district would have to base their decision solely on price and not on quality. Mr. Dowdy reported the Michigan Association of School Administrators, the Middle Cities Education Association, and the Michigan School Business Officials Organization had representatives contact the State Superintendent and the Department of Education to raise concerns about the requirement of a fixed price contract for food management services. Mr. Dowdy said the Michigan Department of Education is now re-formulating the bid document to allow interviews and reimbursable contracts and that all districts will have to re-bid their food service contracts in the 2008-2009 school year. He also said this item would be placed on the agenda of the Finance Committee after changes have been made.

Bond Phase I Report

Greg VanKirk and Paul Wills from Plante Moran CRESA provided a detailed update on Phase I of the bond project. Topics covered included: a review of the bond proposition application Phase 1 scope of work, scope of work reconciliation, budget, schedule, update on technology implementation, next steps and key milestones. Mr. Wills stated work would begin at Perry CDC, Estabrook and Ypsilanti High School after students are dismissed for summer vacation and jobs will be placed out for bid in March. He also thanked the principals, custodians and maintenance staff for taking the time to meet with the Bond Team. Mr. VanKirk said the district was required by the state to pay a prevailing wage on the bond work but needed to discuss whether union vs. non-union workers would be used and if there was a preference for using local companies for the work. He also reported the Bond Team had worked diligently with York to test the chiller at the high school to insure proper operation and that further tests would be made prior to the cooling season. Mr. Wills stated that Gretchen Reist, the new Technology Director, had joined the Bond Team at their regular meetings and that the decision regarding the technology designer would be made soon and a contract negotiated and brought to the Board for approval.

Topics Included: technology plan details were requested, especially as related to the computer platform recommended.

ACTION ITEMS

Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Trustee Devaney supported by Trustee Reiber:

07-08
8858 That the Board of Education approve the minutes of the January 14, 2008 Regular Meeting, the minutes of the January 14, 2008 Closed Session,, the minutes of the January 16, 2008 Special Meeting, the resignation of Kelly Gould, the monthly bills payable for November 2007 in the amount of \$3,690,491.50, the monthly bills payable for December 2007 in the amount of \$3,682,459.69 and the conditional reinstatement of student #808831. Action Recorded: 6/Yes;0/No.

Approval of Ypsilanti Education Association Contract

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

07-08
8859 That the Board of Education approve a three (3) year contract from September 1, 2007 through August 31, 2010 with the Ypsilanti Education Association. Action Recorded: 6/Yes;0/No.

Topics Included: gratitude was expressed to the YEA and YSSA for all they do for students. Mrs. Deb McQueen, YEA Vice-President and Chief Negotiator, thanked the Board for approving the contract, saying it was very reasonable when economic conditions were considered. She stated the union looked forward to a time when the district is more solvent and both parties could return to the bargaining table.

Approval of Ypsilanti Support Staff Association Contract

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

07-08
8860 That the Board of Education approve a three (3) year contract from September 1, 2007 through June 30, 2010 with the Ypsilanti Support Staff Association. Action Recorded: 6/Yes;0/No.

Approval of Ypsilanti Federation of Teachers Contract

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

07-08
8861 That the Board of Education approve a three (3) year contract from September 1, 2007 through August 31, 2010 with the Ypsilanti Federation of Teachers. Action Recorded: 6/Yes;0/No.

Extension of Superintendent's (JVH & Associates, Inc.) Contract

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

07-08 That the Board of Education approve the attached contractual agreement between
8862 the Ypsilanti Public School District and JVH & Associates, Inc. of Ypsilanti,
Michigan for the period of July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009. Action Recorded:
6/Yes;0/No.

Topics Included: commending the Superintendent for performing a difficult job and agreeing to serve the district another year.

INFORMATION AND INQUIRY

Home Schooling Resolution

Trustee Fanta stated in February 2006 he drafted a resolution regarding home schooling that was amended and adopted at a MASB Delegate Assembly later the same year. He said there are no rules for home schooling provided by the Michigan Department of Education. He asked that the state representative come to a meeting in the near future and that she be asked about this issue.

SUPERINTENDENT'S COMMENTS

Dr. Hawkins thanked the Board of Education for the vote of confidence expressed by extending his contract for another year. He said he has a great team that makes his job easier and publicly commended his administrative team consisting of Alan Dowdy, Deputy Superintendent/CFO, John Fulton, Executive Director of Human Resources, Richard Weigel, Executive Director of Educational Services and Emma Jackson, Public Relations Director. Dr. Hawkins also thanked the unions for their support.

The Superintendent recognized two Ypsilanti High School football players, Kwame Searcy and Marvon Sanders for honors they recently received. He said Kwame has received Academic All-State Special Mention from the Michigan High School Football Coaches Association and Marvon has been chosen to play in the Michigan High School All Star Game in July at Michigan State University. Dr. Hawkins also reported that Marvon will attend Eastern Michigan University on a full scholarship.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

President Bates asked that the Board discuss topics for the upcoming Board Retreat agenda. Trustee Reiber asked for an opportunity to discuss the Technology Plan. President Bates stated Trustee Temple would not attend the retreat because he is out of town to attend the funeral of his wife's grandmother. Trustee Fanta said he would like to discuss the use of union contractors on the bond project.

COMMUNICATIONS

The Board acknowledged thank you notes from Rod Kirchoff for flowers sent upon the death of his mother-in-law and from Beth Faulkner for flowers sent upon the death of her father.

PUBLIC INPUT

There was no public input.

BOARD REQUESTS

Trustee Brumfield requested that contractual employees have their contracts renewed by the first meeting in April and that the Board be provided with their goals and most recent evaluation. President Bates said the Human Resources Committee was asked to address this issue and that the committee consisted of himself, Trustee Temple and Trustee Fanta.

BOARD COMMENTS

Trustee Fanta said he thought the bond project work should be publicized at critical juncture points so that members of the public can be informed about educational opportunities for youth provided because of bond upgrades. **Trustee Horne** thanked the YEA, YSSA, and YFT and the administrative negotiating team for their hard work in contract negotiations. **Trustee Bates** also thanked the YEA, YSSA and YFT for their hard work and their partnership in working with the Board in the best interests of children.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 8:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen S. Allen, Secretary
Ypsilanti Board of Education