

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, August 25, 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 Jackson, Trustee Snedacar-Horne

AGENDA ADJUSTMENTS

There were no agenda adjustments. Trustee Brumfield suggested registering early for the MASB Fall Conference in order to receive a discount. Trustees Bates, Brumfield, Fanta and Horne stated they wished to attend the conference in October.

PUBLIC INPUT

Topics Included: a request was made to the Board of Education asking them to look at the results of the AP English test and to compare the results with last year's test to determine if students in Humanities are doing as well as students in AP English.

Board Response: the Board needs to see the data and discuss the implications, the Curriculum Committee was asked to get the data and provide it to the Board of Education.

ASSOCIATION REPORTS

There were no Association Reports

PRESENTATION

Summer School Report

Richard Weigel, Assistant Superintendent for Educational Quality, presented an overview of the five week Summer School Program, saying the teachers did a wonderful job. He reported that the three district programs included kindergarten students at Chapelle Elementary, students in grades 1-5 at Erickson Elementary, and middle and high school students at East Middle School. Mr. Weigel reported he was pleased with the results of the program, especially in Algebra. Mr. Weigel covered the following topics in his report: the high school credit recovery class in language arts, communication to staff and parents, attendance, and data provided to parents in letters home.

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Topics Included: holding meetings with parents during the school year to improve communication home, is communication with parents part of teacher evaluation instrument, encouraging parents to contact the school, the students who passed algebra have had their lives changed – teachers were commended, support provided for failing students, the math support program at the high school, feedback received from parents in an on-line survey, following up on students who dropped out of summer school, data will be provided to principals on students who attended and dropped out of summer school and they will pass information on to teachers, what type of academic help is available during the school year in after school programs and the Saturday Academy, home visits by the parent coordinator, NWEA (Northwest Evaluation Association).

ACTION ITEMS

Consent Agenda

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

08-09 That the Board of Education approve the minutes of the August 11, 2008 Regular
8967 Meeting, the hiring of Amber Bishop, Valerie Canter, Taranch Makhmali, Dawn Richardson and Rebekah Lynn DeCook and the resignation of Linda Portell.
Action Recorded: 7/Yes;0/No.

BOARD STUDY/DISCUSSION

President Bates said the Board had discussed the Board of Education Strategic Plan and Board Goals for 2008-2009 at the August 11 meeting. He asked if Board members had items to add to the list. Trustee Berman asked that review of the teacher evaluation process be added to the list. President Bates asked the Human Resources Committee to look at the new teacher evaluation. The Board placed high priority on the following items: establish targets for student achievement, review data on achievement, discipline and ethnicity, review district drop-out data, establish a process to address the projected 2009-2010 budget deficit, establish a process to identify attitudes about the district and its operation, develop a plan for hiring a new superintendent, develop a plan for the smooth transition of superintendents, and board professional development. The Board agreed the superintendent evaluation process needs to be developed early in the school year and Board ground rules need to be established. In conclusion, President Bates said he would work with Vice-President Horne and Superintendent Hawkins to prioritize the goals and place them on a calendar to distribute to Board members. He also said the superintendent evaluation process would be on the agenda for the September Retreat and Trustee Fanta had said he would provide information from the MASB classes he took in August to Board members for the retreat.

President Bates said the Board of Education would work as a committee of the whole as they discussed the data from the 2002-2007 Senior Exit Surveys. The following questions were discussed: communication with teachers, lessons requiring interpretation of real world data, challenging coursework, opportunities to work with other students, selection of course options and electives, providing a safe school environment, how to

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read effectively in subject areas, high expectations for students, the general studies program, students who did not take an English course, the rate of return ranged from 48% to 89%, Career Pathways, plans for the next two years, and reading is challenging in subject areas. The Board also discussed designing an YPS Senior Exit Survey that is shorter and less intrusive. The Board suggested providing surveys to parents and staff as well as students in the elementary, middle school and high school. Vice-President Horne stated she had a copy of a survey done several years ago that she would provide to other Board members. Trustee Devaney indicated she would like to survey students who have dropped out. President Bates stated he would add a cross grade attitude and safety survey to the list of Board Goals and asked the Curriculum Committee to discuss formulation of the survey.

PUBLIC INPUT

There was no public input.

COMMUNICATIONS

The Board of Education acknowledged a thank you note from Terry Russell for flowers sent upon the death of his mother. Dr. Hawkins reported he had recommended a student be reinstated to the district and a Reinstatement Committee would convene in the next two weeks.

SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS

Dr. Hawkins provided a status report on the Phase I Bond Construction at Perry CDC, Estabrook and Ypsilanti High School. He said the time schedule would be tight but school would open on time on September 4.

The Superintendent also said high school registration would take place on Tuesday, August 26 and Wednesday August 27.

Dr. Hawkins reported the Welcome Back Convocation on September 2 had been modified and shortened to get staff into their school buildings earlier than in the past.

Dr. Hawkins said the Board had been provided with a copy of an “Education Week” article on the elementary math program partnership with the University of Michigan. He stated this publication has national coverage. Dr. Hawkins said Dean Deborah Ball would continue to meet with elementary teachers who participated in the program throughout the school year.

In conclusion, Dr. Hawkins reported he is getting calls regarding the new Drop Back In Program and said this program would maximize opportunities for all students to be successful.

BOARD REQUESTS/COMMENTS

Trustee Brumfield asked if someone is trained to maintain the high school pool after it is re-opened. Dr. Hawkins stated the pool would not open until October and the YHS head custodian has received extensive training. **Trustee Brumfield** also asked that the senior citizens who use the Estabrook pool receive information on when it will re-open. Auxiliary Program administrator Bob Wilkinson stated a phone fan out will be used to contact Community Education participants about swim classes. **Trustee Devaney** asked when standing Board Committees were planning to meet. The Board Secretary will distribute those dates to Board members by e-mail. Dr. Hawkins said he would notify Board members in his Superintendent's memo if there is a committee meeting and will notify by e-mail if there is a meeting that is not on the schedule. **Trustee Berman** stated she visited the Summer Math and Science Academy and said she was impressed by the hard work and the hands on conceptual teaching. **Trustee Jackson** asked how the Drop Back In Program was progressing. Dr. Hawkins reported recruitment of students is taking place and that he will meet with the program administrator on Thursday morning. **Trustee Fanta** thanked President Bates for the letter he sent to Tom Manchester. He also requested the Adams Restructuring Plan as a future agenda item, information about the YHS Athletic Director search and information on the sale of Ardis School. Trustee Fanta suggested interfacing with Ypsilanti Township to assist in marketing the Ardis School property. He thanked Dr. Hawkins for the quick response to his request for information on the senior class graduation rate and stated the district should publicize the rate of graduation which he estimated to be 93%. In conclusion, he asked other Board members to review the data received regarding the MME tests and asked that discussion of this data be placed on the Board Retreat agenda.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen S. Allen, Secretary
Ypsilanti Board of Education