

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, September 8, 2008

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Education was called to order by President David Bates at 7:03 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 (arrived 7:08 p.m.), Trustee Fanta, Trustee Jackson, Trustee Snedacar-Horne

AGENDA ADJUSTMENTS

There were no agenda adjustments.

PUBLIC INPUT

There was no Public Input.

ASSOCIATION REPORTS

Kelly Powers, Ypsilanti Education Association President, thanked the following support staff employees for their outstanding effort to prepare Estabrook Elementary School for opening on September 4: Larry Hankins, Rob Harris, Shakia Williams, Shunda Frye, April Hankins and Keith Reed.

Amy Doyle, representing Ypsilanti High School PTO and West Middle School PTO, reported the first meeting of the YHS PTO is Tuesday, September 16 at 6:00 p.m. with Principal Jon Brown as the featured speaker. She also noted Eric Temple is the President of the West Middle School PTO and no date has been set for the first meeting.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Superintendent Hawkins acknowledged the donation of computers to Ypsilanti High School from Huron Valley Ambulance. He also said school supplies had been donated to each elementary school by an anonymous donor. Dr. Hawkins stated these generous donations will be acknowledged with a thank you letter.

ACTION ITEMS

Consent Agenda

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

- 08-09
8968 That the Board of Education approve the minutes of the August 25, 2008 Regular Meeting, the hiring of Tu-Anh Tran and the resignation of Shrecee Lewis, Kristen Madigan, and Chad Stolly. Action Recorded: 7/Yes;0/No.

Adoption of Board of Education Goals for 2008-2009

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

- 08-09
8969 That the Board of Education adopt the attached Board Goals for the 2008-2009 school year. Action Recorded: 7/Yes;0/No.

Sale of Ardis School

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

That the Board of Education reject the \$3 (three) million dollar offer from the Hidaya Muslim Community Association and immediately advertise Ardis School for sale in the open market.

After Board discussion Trustees Brumfield and Berman accepted an amendment to the motion and action was recorded as follows:

- 08-09
8970 That the Board of Education reject the \$3 (three) million dollar offer from the Hidaya Muslim Community Association and immediately advertise Ardis School for sale in the open market and that administration obtain an appropriate broker who will meet with the Board of Education and present an aggressive marketing plan for the Ardis property and further, that administration is directed to work with the relevant Ypsilanti City and Township officials concerning the marketing of the Ardis property. A roll call vote was recorded as follows: Trustee Horne/Yes; Trustee Jackson/Yes; Trustee Brumfield/Yes; Trustee Fanta/Yes; Trustee Bates/Yes; Trustee Devaney/Yes; Trustee Berman/Yes.

Topics Included: the Superintendent summarized the efforts of representatives of administration and the Hidaya Muslim Community School to come to an agreement, the Board discussed the amendment to the motion.

Page 3 – Regular Meeting – 9/8/08

Trustee Fanta asked to read a resolution recognizing members of the YSSA to publicly thank them for their work preparing Estabrook School for the first day of class. After he read the resolution Board members agreed to add this resolution to the agenda for adoption.

Resolution of Appreciation Honoring YSSA Members

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

08-09
8971 Whereas the Ypsilanti School District is undergoing school renovations pursuant to the recent bond issue, and whereas these projects have impacted our schools with significant internal construction and renovation, and whereas the Estabrook Elementary School underwent significant internal refurbishment on a tight time schedule, and whereas members of the YSSA worked with diligence, and personal sacrifice through the night to ready the Estabrook Elementary School for the first day of school. Therefore be it resolved that the Board of Education publicly thanks the individual members of the YSSA and its President Larry Hankins who went beyond the call of duty to ready Estabrook Elementary School for the first day of classes; and asks that this resolution be publicly posted and communicated in an appropriate manner by a grateful Board of Education. A roll call vote was recorded as follows: Trustee Berman/Yes; Trustee Devaney/Yes; Trustee Bates/Yes; Trustee Fanta/Yes; Trustee Jackson/Yes; Trustee Horne/Yes; Trustee Brumfield/Yes.

BOARD STUDY/DISCUSSION

President Bates noted with the Board of Education's rejection of the offer to sell Ardis School, the district was placed in a \$2.7 million dollar budget deficit. He suggested a committee made up of district employees and community members be formed to study the budget and how to address the budget shortfall. The Board of Education discussed his suggestion and the following topics were covered: have administrators review staff and recommend positions to be eliminated, identifying people to serve on the committee, there are external forces controlling the budget that are beyond the control of the Board of Education, the district is running as lean as possible, how to approach Lansing and Washington in a meaningful way, examine the internal structure of the district and brainstorm on how to deal with the external considerations, over the last four years the district has cut \$17.5 million out of a \$54 million budget and there are no major cuts left to be made, there have not been major program reductions over the past four years, the budget can't be balanced with program cuts, privatization or closing buildings – by June 2009 the district will be in a \$5-\$5.5 million deficit, a committee that includes local citizens should be formed so they can understand the full impact of the situation, a suggestion to lobby in Lansing was made, a suggestion was made to contact Brad Banasik at MASB to talk about filing a lawsuit against the state, joining with other school board members in the county and state to be more visible to the legislature, there is a

Page 4 – Regular Meeting – 9/8/08

moral obligation to educate citizens of the state, receiving input from the public before making a decision, holding budget hearings, forming a focus group, forming a committee to engage in the political process that includes community members, the Board will discuss this subject at the September 22 Board Meeting and the September 27 Board Retreat, receive input from the Washtenaw Association of School Boards prior to taking action.

PUBLIC INPUT

Topics Included: the YEA will help the Board address politicians regarding the budget deficit, the broker for the sale of Ardis School thanked the Board of Education, the Finance Committee, Acting CFO Kelli Glenn and Superintendent James Hawkins for their professional demeanor in negotiations with the Hidayat organization.

SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS

Dr. Hawkins said he wanted to acknowledge publicly the hard work of YSSA staff members to prepare Estabrook Elementary School for the first day of school.

The Superintendent recognized Kevin Carney, Erickson Elementary School principal, and Katherine Fisk, Erickson Elementary art teacher, for receiving a \$500 Art and Literacy Grant from the Michigan Art Education Association . Ms. Fisk reported she plans to use the grant to bring a local comic artist to the school to work with students to write stories and characterizations with illustrations. Ms. Fisk was congratulated.

Dr. Hawkins said State Superintendent Michael Flanagan would visit the district on February 25, 2009. He said the visit would showcase YPS schools, teachers and programs and more details would be available at a future date.

In conclusion, Dr. Hawkins provided a status report on the Drop Back In Program. He said an administrator, Barbara Easley, had been hired and she plans to operate three sites in the area with 50 students per facility. Dr. Hawkins said the program is advertising on the radio, TV and in local newspapers. He also said Alternatives Unlimited Vice-President, J. Vincent Brown, is on the agenda to make a presentation at the Washtenaw Superintendent's Association meeting on Friday, September 12.

BOARD REQUESTS/COMMENTS

Trustee Fanta said he would like to host a Board reception for Superintendent Flanagan when he visits in February. He also asked about enrollment figures. Dr. Hawkins reported the numbers do not stabilize until the fifth or sixth day but anticipated meeting enrollment projections. **President Bates** said a recent article in the Ann Arbor News on the engineering program at Adams was a credit to the district.

Page 5 – Regular Meeting – 9/8/08

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen S. Allen, Secretary
Ypsilanti Board of Education