

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 22, 2008

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Education was called to order by President David Bates at 7:00 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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Sela Boettcher and Brian Williams, Adams STEM Academy fifth graders, led the Board of Education and audience members in the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA ADJUSTMENTS

There were no agenda adjustments.

PUBLIC INPUT

There was no Public Input.

ASSOCIATION REPORTS

Kelly Powers, Ypsilanti Education Association President, reported the YEA is excited about the student count and said working as a team makes great things happen.

Larry Hankins, Ypsilanti Support Staff Association President, thanked the YEA, Board of Education and administration for their kind words of appreciation for support staff efforts to prepare buildings for the beginning of school.

ACTION ITEMS

Parent Appeal of Superintendent's Denial for Waiver Request

The parent was not present and the Board of Education deferred action on this item to the end of the meeting.

Page 2 – Regular Meeting – 9/22/08

Consent Agenda

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

08-09
8972 That the Board of Education approve the minutes of the September 8, 2008 Regular Meeting, the hiring of Greg Anglin, Candice Hurst, Megan Mitchell and Mary Beth Strassel, the monthly bills payable for June 2008 in the amount of \$4,477,557.68, the monthly bills payable for July 2008 in the amount of \$2,974,831.77, and the reinstatement of student #809369 and student #810915. Action Recorded: 7/Yes;0/No.

Approval of Sound System Equipment Purchase

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

08-09
8973 That the Board of Education accept the bid from GCC Technologies for installation of a sound system in the Ypsilanti High School gymnasium and pool area and modification of the distance learning room, installation of a sound system in the Estabrook Elementary multi-purpose room and installation of a sound system in the psycho-motor room at Perry Child Development Center for a total cost of \$53,680.00. This expense will be charged to the 2007 Building and Site Fund. A roll call vote was recorded as follows: Trustee Bates/Yes; Trustee Brumfield/Yes; Trustee Fanta/Yes; Trustee Devaney/Yes; Trustee Jackson/Yes; Trustee Berman/Yes; Trustee Horne/Yes.

Approval of West Middle School Overnight Field Trip

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

08-09
8974 That the Board of Education approve the attached West Middle School field trip for students that will be overnight to Lansing for attending YMCA Michigan Youth in Government conference on 11/23/08-11/25/08 to see government in action. Action Recorded: 7/Yes;0/No.

Approval of Ypsilanti High School Overnight Field Trip

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

That the Board of Education approve the attached Ypsilanti High School field trip for students that will be overnight in Jackson attending Choir Camp on 9/19/08-9/22/08.

Page 3 – Regular Meeting – 9/22/08

After a discussion of why this field trip was being approved after the choir had returned from the trip the following amendment was made to the motion. Trustees Devaney and Brumfield accepted the amendment as suggested by Trustee Fanta:

08-09 8975 That the Board of Education approve nunc pro tunc the attached Ypsilanti High School field trip for students that will be overnight in Jackson attending Choir Camp on 9/19/08-9/22/08. Action Recorded: 7/Yes;0/No.

BOARD STUDY/DISCUSSION

The Board convened as a “committee of the whole” to discuss the 2009-2010 budget. President Bates began the discussion by saying he felt it was important to receive input and recommendations on the budget from the community. He also said he had contacted the Michigan Association of School Boards and had conferred with Brad Banasik to discuss the topic of litigation against the State of Michigan for its inability to properly fund public education. President Bates stated Mr. Banasik had recommended the YPS Board of Education participate in the MASB’s Lobby Day in February. Mr. Bates also reported Mr. Banasik said the district may not have standing to sue the state and he would discuss this idea further with the MASB Board of Directors. The Board discussed the following: this topic was mentioned at a Washtenaw Association of School Boards meeting and they wanted an attorney’s opinion and more discussion before getting involved, it was suggested the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate receive an invitation to a future Legislative Breakfast, a community forum is a good idea, discussing with community members the idea of a lawsuit, contacting the ACLU for information, taking the information to the delegate assembly at the Fall MASB Conference, contacting the Board’s attorney, the possibility of the MASB organizing a lawsuit on behalf of districts, forming a committee of community members to review the budget, the feasibility of a class action suit, working closely with the MASA, MSBO, MCEA, MASB to generate strong support, a lawsuit is not the first alternative, if advocates for public education are supportive there is more chance for success, a committee of community members and staff may be an effort in futility since the outcome is already known, scheduling two community forums to educate the community about the financial condition of public education, drafting a complaint and asking for support from groups, this effort needs to be organized and follow through will be necessary, the Superintendent was asked to schedule two public forums, discuss further at the October 13 meeting, the President will contact other WISD school board presidents, Trustee Fanta will contact the ACLU, a suggestion that the media run a series on the financial health of the 10 schools districts in Washtenaw County.

ACTION ITEM

Parent Appeal of Superintendent’s Denial for Waiver Request

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

08-09
8976 That the Board of Education support the Superintendent’s decision in denying the request of Ms. Debra E. Calvert to have her daughter released to attend the Saline School District. Action Recorded: 7/Yes;0/No.

The parent did not attend the meeting.

PUBLIC INPUT

Topics Included: the YEA President agreed that a committee of staff and community members would not be productive and would adversely affect staff morale, a legal product is needed prior to meeting with other groups, support for the Board’s idea of pursuing litigation.

SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS

Dr. Hawkins reported the Washtenaw County Superintendents have been discussing an enhancement millage in November 2009 for the county. Dr. Hawkins said a 1-1.5 mill increase is being considered which equals approximately \$300 per student. He also said the WISD Board of Education needs strong support from all ten districts and he will bring the Board additional information and a plan of action at a future date.

Dr. Hawkins announced enrollment is looking good and count day is Wednesday. He said he will send a PACE message to staff and parents as a reminder about the student count.

The Superintendent also said the district has 13 foreign exchange students enrolled at Ypsilanti High School from the Youth for Understanding program. He commended former principal, Brenda Clough, for her work with the organization to arrange placement of students with families in Ypsilanti. Dr. Hawkins reported the enrolled students are from the following countries: China, Denmark, Germany, Ghana, Japan, Korea, and Thailand.

Dr. Hawkins noted former Ypsilanti High School student LaTisha Campbell is doing well at Yale University. He said she had nominated YHS teacher Nina Davis as the educator who made a difference in her life and Yale University selected Ms. Davis as the winner of the “2008 Yale Teaching Award”.

BOARD REQUESTS/COMMENTS

Vice-President Horne said she attended the Ypsilanti High School PTO meeting where Principal Jon Brown was the speaker and the K-12 Partnership Program meeting last week. She encouraged others to attend these valuable meetings. **Trustee Fanta** thanked Trustee Jackson for the article on charter schools that he sent to Board members.

Trustee Jackson requested a report on the Washtenaw Country Drop Back In Academy at a future meeting. **Trustee Brumfield** said the Policy Committee will meet on September 24 at 4:00 p.m. He also said a Willow Run Community Schools Board of Education member had offered a ride to the MASB Conference in Traverse City if anyone is interested. **President Bates** commended the staff of East Middle School for the enthusiasm he witnessed at their recent open house. He reminded everyone of the Adams STEM Academy Open House on September 23 and the Forest School Open House on September 24. President Bates also said the Ypsilanti Public Schools is a leader in Washtenaw County in many educational initiatives and have a School of Choice enrollment of 30%. He stated “we must be doing something right”. President Bates distributed meeting evaluation forms and a calendar of goals and meeting topics for the 2008-2009 school year. In conclusion, President Bates read a statement that illustrated his views on the lack of state funding for education.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen S. Allen, Secretary
Ypsilanti Board of Education