

REGULAR MEETING (Monday, February 10, 2025)**Members present**

Dr Celeste Hawkins, Sharon Lee, Yvonne Fields, Maria Goodrich, Jeanice Townsend, Talisha Sutton-Kennedy, Dawn Espy

Meeting called to order at 6:33 PM

1. CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL OF BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Dr. Celeste Hawkins, Board President

Action: A. Roll Call of Board of Education Members

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Dr. Celeste Hawkins, Board President

3. ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA

Action: A. Acceptance of Agenda

... MOVE THAT the Board of Education accept the agenda, as presented.

Motion by Sharon Lee, second by Jeanice Townsend.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Dr Celeste Hawkins, Sharon Lee, Yvonne Fields, Maria Goodrich, Jeanice Townsend, Talisha Sutton-Kennedy, Dawn Espy

4. ACHIEVEMENTS, AWARDS & RECOGNITION

Recognition: A. Ypsilanti Connected Community School Points of Pride

The YCS Board of Education is excited to share wonderful things that are happening in our schools by reading our school's points of pride. Today's school is Ypsilanti Connected Community School.

Click [here](#) to view the Points of Pride.

Principal Kier Ingraham presented with her staff, Mrs. Reeves, Mrs. Puckett-Newell, Erin Anderson, and Ms. Hanrahan

Recognition: B. A Champion for Career and Technical Education - Dylan Presley

Ypsilanti Community High School student Dylan Presley is truly making a difference as a champion for Career and Technical Education (CTE). Through his experiences in the Ypsilanti Community Schools (YCS) Engineering/Manufacturing CTE program, Dylan has inspired others and advocated for expanded opportunities in this essential field. Over the past couple of months, he has demonstrated impressive leadership by presenting to the Michigan State Board of Education, where he highlighted the critical role of CTE in student development and addressed the pressing issue of "CTE Deserts" in Michigan, particularly in Washtenaw County. His compelling testimony not only called for increased funding for CTE programs but also led to significant attention from the Michigan Department of Education. Dylan's ongoing efforts, including his participation in the WISD CTE Brand Immersion Workshop and his impactful appearance at the Michigan Career Education Conference, showcase his dedication to creating a sustainable system of CTE opportunities. His remarkable leadership continues to inspire others to join him in advocating for the future of career and technical education for students across Michigan.

Congratulations, Dylan Presley!

Dylan Presley: Thank you. Does anyone have any questions?

Trustee Townsend: What field do you want to go into?

Dylan Presley: Robotics and engineering.

Trustee Goodrich: How should school district increase access to this important opportunity?

Dylan Presley: This program can help many because it has helped me. Even possibly helping injured athletes to find something else they enjoy and can make money.

Trustee Fields: What year are you and are you going to college?

Dylan Presley: I'm a junior. I'm going to college for sure for robotics and business.

Trustee Espy: What would you share with a student who is interested in engaging in the CTE program?

Dylan Presley: There are more options. It can lead to so much more. Everyone needs this in every school everywhere.

Dr. Hawkins: What sparked your interest in CTE?

Dylan Presley: My dad. I saw what he was doing and I realized there were more options than play sports or be a rapper. It's another way out. More opportunities. You can do a lot. More people/parents need to know about it. There should be a different narrative for it.

5. PRESENTATIONS

Presentation: A. CTE Presentation - Dr. Ryan Rowe

Dr. Ryan Rowe, Director of CTE at the Washtenaw Intermediate School District, will present on Career Technical Education in Washtenaw County.

Click [here](#) to view the presentation.

Click [here](#) to view the Career Development Cycle.

Click [here](#) to view the Michigan Career Development Targets.

Click [here](#) to view the MDE press release.

Dr. Ryan Rowe presented.

Trustee Townsend: Have you thought about how this program will continue if there is a shift in the economy?

Dr. Rowe: We are working with some world class organizations. We may not be able to plan for everything but we are doing so really good predicting of what may occur and how we would pivot.

Dr. Hawkins: There is a lack awareness. How do you plan to raise that awareness?

Dr. Rowe: We are doing surveys. We are putting a succinct message together on what we are trying to achieve and what CTE means to us and we will hand it over to another company who will do a report to the community. We will present it to the Summit on March 18th and then we will start marketing through social media and print. People will know it is a pathway through college, not around college.

Vice President Lee: According to the data, low income black and Hispanic students are less like to be involved in CTE. How will you address this?

Dr. Rowe: For the last three years, we have focused our grants on Ypsilanti and Lincoln to address this. We have been laser focused on expanding CTE on the east side of the county.

Vice President Lee: Does that include African American females also?

Dr. Rowe: We want students to have access to non-tradition fields.

Dr. Zachery-Ross: All nine superintendents are commissioning this work. We said this would be our priority and our collective work for the next few years. We looked at other counties to see what worked for them, what didn't work for them. We collectively agreed that we would not put money into areas that were already saturated. We focused on Ypsilanti and Lincoln because there was no place for our students to go. We need a collective voice. We need a shared understanding. We want to make sure students have stackable credentials and opportunities to know what the next steps are. This is a form of access.

Trustee Townsend: Once students have the stackable credentials, we need to make sure they get there and are prepared for the send off. If we are going to align students with the credentials, I would like to see the data to see how many of them are using the credentials.

Presentation: B. Universal FAFSA Challenge Presentation - Mrs. Leslie Davis and Dr. Chelsea Harris-Hugan
Dr. Chelsea Harris-Hugan, principal of Ypsilanti Community High School, and Mrs. Leslie Davis, principal of YCS ACCE, will present on the Senior Portfolio and how it relates to the Universal FAFSA Challenge.

Click [here](#) to view the Universal FAFSA Challenge Award.

Click [here](#) to view the YCHS flier.

Mrs. Davis and Dr. Harris-Hugan presented.

Vice President Lee: When do you start the process?

Mrs. Davis: For ACCE, since we have rolling graduation, as soon as the student applies for college, they send a check list to complete. The colleges are encouraging the students to fill out the FAFSA.

Vice President Lee: When is the application due?

Mrs. Davis: It opens December 1st and they have right up until the end of the school year to complete it.

Vice President Lee: Do you help them fill out scholarships?

Mrs. Davis: Yes, both local and specific college scholarships.

Dr. Harris-Hugan: The Divine 9 is coming to do a presentation on scholarships. We have a career success coach through the University of Michigan.

Dr. Zachery-Ross: We applied and were awarded this money because this work has been getting done without the additional funds. Now they have funds to promote getting the application done. Filling out the FAFSA has always been a requirement on the senior checklist. Not filling it out will not keep you from graduating. Parents can opt out, administrators can say they don't have the information they need to fill it out. There are multiple opt out options so there are no students at YCS who will be kept from graduating if they don't fill out the form. At least they applied. It doesn't hurt anything. If they don't access the funds, it won't take away from the family. We don't want to stop our scholars from graduating.

Vice President Lee: Do you make them aware of the scholarship deadlines?

Dr. Harris-Hugan: Yes. Whoever reached out the high school and gave us scholarship information, we shared with all the students. We have a Google classroom for scholarships. They identify the students who would benefit from the scholarships and encouragement to apply for them.

Mrs. Davis: You will find most of the items in the portfolio are instrumental in helping our scholars so for instance they don't need to write their essays over and over again. Although we don't have a counselor, Parkridge has been instrumental in supporting our students with the college and financial aid process.

Trustee Espy: When do you introduce the students to the process? Pleased to see it is digital as well as physical. It's very helpful.

Dr. Harris-Hugan: We introduce it in 11th grade.

Mrs. Davis: We give them networking opportunities.

Dr. Harris-Hugan: We had Wolverine Pathways come today and they talked about the application process. They talked about the importance of building relationships with teachers.

Trustee Goodrich: Great to see how you are putting the work in in advance for letters of recommendation.

Trustee Sutton-Kennedy: What is Zello?

Mrs. Davis: Students can see what they are interested in and see what career opportunities that can lead to. Starting in 9th grade, they work in Zello and complete tasks to get some clarity as to who they are as a person, what they do and do not like to do and turn that into a potential career. We also have people come into the building and share what they do as a career.

Dr. Harris-Hugan: By using stackable credentials, we are able to create a personal curriculum for the students.

Mrs. Davis: Individualized support for each student is what we aim to provide.

Trustee Fields: How long do you retain their digital portfolio?

Dr. Harris-Hugan: I keep them.

Mrs. Davis: We encourage students to create a personal email account so they can transfer all their materials to that email.

Trustee Townsend: The IEP should be included in this portfolio. A list of honors and awards and any type of community service. Interview readiness, some type of class.

Dr. Harris-Hugan: We still have the interview readiness piece.

Mrs. Davis: It is also something we do school-wide. We have a career fair and students can interview with potential employers.

Trustee Espy: A FAFSA looks a lot different if you are independent as a student. How are you helping students who might need to access special services?

Mrs. Davis: The staff are trained and they will cover this in their areas.

Dr. Zachery-Ross: We have Missi Ayars who is in charge of secondary support services. The checklist is in general.

Mrs. Ayars: We do have a modified version of this for students who are exceptional learners that include some of the pieces you were talking about. We help them apply for their accommodations. There is an addendum to this list.

Dr. Harris-Hugan: Even after they graduate, we still have students coming in needing letters, etc. and we are still serving them helping them get into school or find a job.

Trustee Townsend: We need to make sure we have financial supports outside the district even for those students who don't want to fill out the FAFSA.

Dr. Hawkins: This portfolio is very helpful because the process can be overwhelming and attaching deadlines is important.

6. ACTION ITEM: Student Affairs

Action: A. Approval of the YCS Senior Portfolio

The Senior Portfolio and the Universal FAFSA Challenge have been presented.

... MOVE THAT the Board of Education approve the YCS Senior Portfolio.

Motion by Sharon Lee, second by Yvonne Fields.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Dr Celeste Hawkins, Sharon Lee, Yvonne Fields, Maria Goodrich, Jeanice Townsend, Talisha Sutton-Kennedy, Dawn Espy

7. PUBLIC COMMENTS #1

Information: A. Guidelines for Public Comment

Public Comment Protocol | Pursuant to Board of Education Policy 0167.3

*The Board recognizes the value of public comment on educational issues and the importance of allowing members of the public to express their view.

*Please limit statements to three (3) minutes duration.

*Participants shall direct all comments to the Board and not to staff or other participants; no person may address or question Board members individually.

*Remarks shall be made in a respectful and professional manner.

Jeremy Haley - other opportunities besides college

Veronica Bodary - special education services are not happening for her son, her son will now need compensatory services outside of school

John Weiss - thank you, for being courageous

Eric John Roberts - WISD board of education

8. CONSENT AGENDA

Action (Consent), Minutes, Report: A. Consent Agenda

Seeking Board approval of the presented meeting minutes and personnel matters; see attachments below.

Resolution: ... MOVE THAT the Board of Education approve the: 1) January 13, 2025, Regular Board Meeting Minutes 2)

Personnel matters as per the presented list dated 2/4/25; New Hires, Resignations, and Other.

... MOVE THAT the Board of Education approve the:

1) January 13, 2025, Regular Board Meeting [Minutes](#)

2) [Personnel matters](#) as per the presented list dated 2/4/25; New Hires, Resignations, and Other.

Motion by Sharon Lee, second by Yvonne Fields.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Dr Celeste Hawkins, Sharon Lee, Yvonne Fields, Maria Goodrich, Jeanice Townsend, Talisha Sutton-Kennedy, Dawn Espy

9. ACTION ITEM: Business and Finance

Action: A. Acceptance of the SIS 4 Teachers Proposal

Strategic Intervention Solutions (SIS) 4 Teachers is a program to support the professional development and coaching for 2 of our Early Learning Centers and our 4 elementary schools. There will be professional development and coaching for our K-5 teachers. Click [here](#) to view the proposal.

... MOVE THAT the Board of Education accept SIS 4 Teachers proposal for professional development and coaching for K-5 teachers for \$293,800.00.

Motion by Maria Goodrich, second by Talisha Sutton-Kennedy.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Dr Celeste Hawkins, Sharon Lee, Yvonne Fields, Maria Goodrich, Jeanice Townsend, Talisha Sutton-Kennedy, Dawn Espy

Action: B. Acceptance of the SIS 4 Teachers Proposal - Instructional Coaches

Strategic Intervention Solutions (SIS) 4 Teachers is a program to support the professional development and coaching for 2 of our Early Learning Centers and our 4 elementary schools. There will be professional development and coaching for instructional coaches. Click [here](#) to view the proposal.

... MOVE THAT the Board of Education accept SIS 4 Teachers proposal for professional development and coaching for instructional coaches for \$17,000.00.

Motion by Jeanice Townsend, second by Talisha Sutton-Kennedy.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Dr Celeste Hawkins, Sharon Lee, Yvonne Fields, Maria Goodrich, Jeanice Townsend, Talisha Sutton-Kennedy, Dawn Espy

Action: C. Acceptance of the 1st Makerspace Professional Development Proposal

1st Makerspace will provide professional development for each year of the grant to staff and administrators. The proposal also includes summer workshops to staff up-to-date on new methods to deliver high-quality, engaging instruction utilizing makerspace equipment such as 3D printers, laser cutters, and the makerspace curriculum. Monthly professional development will include sessions designed to sustain instruction and makerspace usage. The total cost of \$323,658 is for all four buildings (elementary schools will participate together) for each year of the grant.

Click [here](#) to view the proposal.

... MOVE THAT the Board of Education accept the 1st Makerspace Professional Development Proposal for \$323,658.00.

Motion by Jeanice Townsend, second by Dawn Espy.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Dr Celeste Hawkins, Sharon Lee, Yvonne Fields, Maria Goodrich, Jeanice Townsend, Talisha Sutton-Kennedy, Dawn Espy

10. ACTION ITEM: Other

Action: A. Voting for MASB Board of Directors Region 7 Representative

The YCS Board of Education will exercise their voice and decide who governs their Association. This year, eight seats are up for election (three-year terms unless otherwise noted). Five candidates are unopposed (Regions 1, 3 and 4 and Groups V and VI). Regions 6, 7 and 8 are the only regions who will be voting this year. We are region 7.

... MOVE THAT the Board of Education choose Guillermo Lopez for the MASB Board of Director Region 7 representative.

Motion by Jeanice Townsend, second by Sharon Lee.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Dr Celeste Hawkins, Sharon Lee, Yvonne Fields, Maria Goodrich, Jeanice Townsend, Talisha Sutton-Kennedy, Dawn Espy

11. PUBLIC COMMENTS #2

Information: A. Guidelines for Public Comment

Public Comment Protocol | Pursuant to Board of Education Policy 0167.3

*The Board recognizes the value of public comment on educational issues and the importance of allowing members of the public to express their view.

*Please limit statements to three (3) minutes duration.

*Participants shall direct all comments to the Board and not to staff or other participants; no person may address or question Board members individually.

*Remarks shall be made in a respectful and professional manner.

No comments.

12. DISCUSSIONS

Discussion: A. Board of Education Subcommittee Reports

Trustee Townsend: Financial and Operational Planning subcommittee met last week. We discussed tax rates for mileages, moving SSS, furniture, Tyler Drive, financial training that board members are required to have, and the debt relief funds. Everything is moving forward. WASB had our Legislative Breakfast on January 27th and talked specifically about CTE, Special Education and a number of other things. Some WASB dates: Annual Meeting - March 13th, Legislative Breakfast - May 17th at 7:30 a.m. at the WISD, WISD Budget Meeting - April 17th at 6:00 p.m. via Zoom. During the annual meeting, we usually have some professional development training. Board members are trained.

Trustee Fields: The Community Relations subcommittee met on February 3rd. We discussed Together Tuesdays, athletic spotlights, the media about the school book vending machines, talking about different certifications, NAAPID, PD opportunities, Signing Day last week, U of M Rollback Project, Strategic plan.

Trustee Sutton-Kennedy: Legislative Breakfast at the end of January, legislators expressed their concerns of the future of public education and reiterated their commitment to protect it. Proposed road improvement plan would use sale tax to fund repairing the road which is concerning because the K-12 education budget is largely funded by state sale tax. This road plan could result in a loss of 700 million to 1 billion dollars in school funding in Michigan. We are all strongly encouraged to advocate for the school funding across the state. WISD presented on mental health wrap around services. A presentation on Grow-Your-Own was highlighted.

Vice President Lee: We didn't have a quorum at the Head Start Meeting. We opened a new Early Head Start classroom at Beatty Early Learning Center.

13. BOARD/SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS

Trustee Goodrich: Thank you for the webinar hosted by MASB/MASA on the Executive Orders. Thank you for the open meetings act workshop. Will be missing February 24th meeting.

Trustee Townsend: Congrats to the athletes who attended Signing Day. Attended NAAPID at the high school with coffee and conversation. Kudos to the two new board members, Trustee Espy is on the board of directors for the WASB, Trustee Sutton-Kennedy took great notes and did her thing at the Legislative Breakfast.

Trustee Sutton-Kennedy: Thank you to everyone who has taken their time to onboard me and Trustee Espy. Thank you for the district tour with Jon and Randy. Attended NAAPID at Ford and really appreciated all the information that Principal Young shared. Also attended the Coffee and Conversation at the high school and saw the great work that is happening with podcasting.

Trustee Fields: Attended the Coffee and Conversation at the high school. I really like the onboarding process.

Trustee Espy: Thank you for the onboarding. It was a feat. It was wonderful to see the passion and joy of the principals and educators had as we went through their buildings.

Dr. Hawkins: Thank you to the board for always advocating for our students. I'm proud to serve with you and proud of what we have accomplished.

Dr. Zachery-Ross: Thank you for the statement. We will continue to lead the way. We are stronger together. Our students and families need to see us being steady and focused. The fifth pursuit is joy. Thank you for attending the NAAPID events. Thank you for supporting the CTE programs. Thank you to the new board members sacrificing all that time and giving your input on the strategic plan because that work is not just sitting there. Our scholars are the ones who benefit. There is PD day this week. No school on Friday or Monday. We want our staff to take care of themselves. Thank you for all your contributions that go above and beyond.

14. ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

Meeting adjourned at 9:02 p.m.