

**SCHOOL DISTRICT OF YPSILANTI**  
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**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**Monday, November 9, 2009**

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**

LaKayla Daughtery-Jenkins and Layne Grosshans, Perry Child Development Center kindergartners, led the Board of Education and audience members in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**STAFF RECOGNITION**

Hank McQueen, Ypsilanti Public Schools Foundation Executive Director, and Fulton Eaglin, YPSF Board of Directors President, presented 33 mini-grant awards to staff members. Mr. Fulton Eaglin extended congratulations to those present to receive their award. President Bates thanked the YPSF on behalf of the Board of Education.

**AGENDA ADJUSTMENTS**

President Bates asked that Action Item b. Approval of Ardis Elementary Food Service Program Bond Bids be moved to the last Action Item.

**PUBLIC INPUT**

Topics Included: the Enhancement Millage failed, support for the deficit reduction plan, support for reductions in transportation, maintenance, food service and central office staff, blame for the deficit should not be directed at teachers because all benefits and salaries were agreed upon and bargained for, the Board of Education should move on with transparency, an employee's suggestions for the transportation garage for energy efficiency and savings should be considered.

Board Response: thank you for your input, can the Board obtain estimates for the transportation garage suggestions made by the employee, teachers have not been blamed for the deficit, listen to suggestions but there are time and budget constraints to be considered, suggestions will be investigated and referred to the Superintendent.

## **ASSOCIATION REPORTS**

Kelly Powers, President of the Ypsilanti Education Association, thanked Hank McQueen for his work with the Ypsilanti Public Schools Foundation to provide grant funds for teachers to use in the classroom. She also reported YEA members have volunteered to work at the concessions booth at the U of M/Ohio State football game to benefit the YPSF.

Ms. Powers reminded those present that the “Bus Load of Hope” food drive has begun and encouraged the donation of food to fill the shelves at Hope Clinic.

President Powers announced a Save Our Schools Rally would take place in Lansing on November 10 and encouraged attendance by members of the Board of Education.

Ms. Powers said teachers are trying hard to do report cards but have had some log-in problems with their computers. She also said the YEA is concerned about layoffs and asked that teachers receive layoff notices as soon as possible so they can be prepared for the future.

In conclusion, Ms. Powers reported contract negotiations were slow and she hoped to set a date soon to return to the table.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Superintendent Martin acknowledged the donation of a 1995 Ford Taurus to the R.C.T.C. Auto Mechanics Program from Jeffrey Liederbach. Mr. Martin said this generous donation is appreciated.

## **PRESENTATIONS**

### Celebrating Success

Superintendent Dedrick Martin announced that Ypsilanti High School students will be involved in a Dental Health Day on November 14. He said this is part of a new partnership between the Ypsilanti Public Schools and the University of Michigan School of Dentistry and provides mentors for high school students interested in the field of dentistry.

President David Bates reported that YHS graduate Korinth Patterson has been named the Director of Compliance and Championships at the Mid-American Conference.

### 2008-2009 Audit Presentation

Jeff Higgins and Nathan Troyer from Plante and Moran presented the June 30, 2009 audit of financial statements to the Board of Education. Mr. Higgins stated the overall objective of the audit was for auditors to render an opinion on the district’s financial

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statement by performing tests and procedures. Mr. Higgins reported the auditors had issued an unqualified or clean opinion which is the highest level available. The Board of Education received the following documents from the auditors: the management letter, the Financial Report, and Federal Awards Supplemental Information. These topics were covered in the presentation: the General Fund balance sheet, expenditures and changes in fund balance, General Fund revenue, General Fund expenditures, a ten year fund balance comparison chart, and future uncertainties. Mr. Higgins said the district faces significant challenges including an increase in retirement system contributions and state aid prorations.

Topics Included: thank you for the thoroughness of the audit, thanks to Ms. Kelli Glenn who had full responsibility for the business office operation during the 2008-2009 school year.

Erickson Elementary Student Achievement Report

Principal Kevin Carney provided a PowerPoint presentation on student achievement at Erickson Elementary School. Mr. Carney stated that Erickson is one of the largest elementary schools in the district with an enrollment of 422. He reported that 65% of students are eligible for Free and Reduced lunch. Mr. Carney said he was grateful for the staff at the school where the motto is "Excellence at Erickson". The following topics were covered in the presentation: staff numbers, professional development training, the Reading First program, NWEA data, after school tutoring, the Collins Writing program, data teams, efforts to establish a culture of high expectations, school improvement goals, 2006-2009 MEAP scores, MEAP Reading Cohort 3 year demographics, MEAP Math Cohort 3 year demographics, the implementation gap, and the MEAP Writing Cohort 3 year demographics.

Topics Included: thank you to Kevin Carney and Richard Weigel, this is good news for Ypsilanti Public Schools, continued growth and progress is expected, compliments to Kevin Carney and the staff at Erickson, Erickson staff members in attendance were recognized.

The meeting recessed at 8:08 p.m. and reconvened at 8:14 p.m.

**ACTION ITEMS**

Consent Agenda

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

09-10     That the Board of Education approve the minutes of the October 26, 2009 Regular  
9147     Meeting and the minutes of the November 2, 2009 Special Meeting #1 and #2.  
           Action Recorded: 7/Yes:0/No.

Approval of Continuation of 100% Summer Property Tax Levy

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

- 09-10  
9148 That the Board of Education adopts the resolution authorizing the appropriate governing bodies to continue to impose a summer tax levy at 100% of the district's annual taxes. Action Recorded: 7/Yes;0/No.

Appointment of Board of Education Treasurer

**A motion was made by Trustee Horne, supported by Trustee Berman:**

- 09-10  
9149 That the Board of Education appoint David Houle as Treasurer to the Ypsilanti Board of Education for the remainder of the 2009-2010 school year Action Recorded: 7/Yes;0/No.

2009-2010 Participation in the Michigan School Readiness Program

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

- 09-10  
9150 That the School District of Ypsilanti adopt the attached resolution to serve at least 80 four-year-old children according to all standards and criteria for the Great Start Readiness Program for the 2009-2010 academic year. Further, the district will comply with all timelines and other requirements as indicated in the resolution. Action Recorded: 7/Yes;0/No.

2009-2010 Superintendent Evaluation Process and Format

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

That the Board of Education approve the attached 2009-2010 Superintendent Evaluation process and document.

After a brief discussion, the motion was amended to read:

- 09-10  
9151 That the Board of Education approve the attached 2009-2010 Superintendent Evaluation process as a working document. Action Recorded: 7/Yes;0/No.

Topics Included: adding “special education students” in Domain B, Target Objective 2, the lack of measurable objectives, application of metrics as the year goes on, after the Strategic Plan process is complete there will be indicators for each area and baseline data.

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Approval of EMS and WMS Choir Overnight Field Trip Request

**A motion was made by Trustee Fanta, supported by Trustee Berman:**

- 09-10 That the Board of Education approve the attached 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade choir field trip  
9152 for students from East and West Middle School that will be overnight in Orlando,  
Florida, for a choir performance at Disney World. The trip will take place June  
18-23, 2010. Action Recorded: 7/Yes:0/No.

Approval of WMS 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Overnight Field Trip Request

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

- 09-10 That the Board of Education approve the attached field trip for 8<sup>th</sup> grade students  
9153 from West Middle School that will be overnight in Washington, D.C. for a tour of  
our nation's capitol. This trip will take place April 28-May 3, 2010. Action  
Recorded: 7/Yes:0/No.

Approval of Ardis Elementary Food Service Program Bond Project Bids

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

- 09-10 That the Board of Education accept the bids from the vendors listed above for a  
9154 total of \$479,363.00. This cost will be charged to the 2007 Building and Site  
Fund. 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: review of the Ardis School floor plan, timelines, the Fletcher RCTC kitchen, moving the program to Ardis from Fletcher and additional options explored, bathroom renovations, instructor Alice Gannon Boss was introduced.

**BOARD STUDY/DISCUSSION**

MASB Fall Conference Report

**Trustee Fanta** reported he had attended a CBA class on bond programs that was informative and revealed YPS had done everything right with their 2007 bond program. He also said he was aghast when shown data and statistics at the Charter School Association's session. Trustee Fanta suggested political action be taken by school districts against the charter movement in Michigan due to its failure to offer a successful alternative educational experience. **Vice-President Horne** said she enjoyed a clinic on developing a brand for school districts and shared materials from the session. She also said she received a booklet from the American Civil Liberties Union entitled "Reclaiming

Michigan's Throw Away Kids" and said she would like to invite the ACLU to give a presentation to the Board of Education on this topic. **Trustee Jackson** stated he attended a class on policy and procedure where it was suggested the Board of Education review policies on an ongoing basis. He also said he attended the Black Caucus session and the topic was balancing the discipline gap in schools. Trustee Jackson said a committee was formed to share ideas on this topic. **President Bates** suggested hosting a meeting of the committee in Ypsilanti. **Trustee Brumfield** said he attended a session on the role of the Board of Education. He also reported State Superintendent Flangan said the State of Michigan is unable to supply someone like Robert Bob (Detroit Public Schools) to each district. **President Bates** stated Superintendent Flangan raised several interesting points on the direction Michigan is headed. He also said he was excited to attend a class led by Oxford Community Schools Superintendent William Skilling. In conclusion, he reported he also attended a Board Policy and Student Achievement clinic. President Bates said the Board's current policy manual doesn't reflect student achievement goals and he found other districts had a better policy manual and suggested re-examining the district's use of NEOLA for policy development.

#### **SUPERINTENDENT'S COMMENTS**

Superintendent Martin said he was disappointed with the outcome of the Enhancement Millage election and stated the district will continue to focus on a quality educational experience for students regardless of the budget. Mr. Martin reported there will be a Save Our Schools Rally in Lansing on Tuesday to communicate dissatisfaction with school funding to state legislators. The Superintendent said he worked at the Ypsilanti Public Schools Foundation concession stand at the U of M/Purdue football game and enjoyed working side by side with Ypsilanti students. In conclusion, Mr. Martin stated he had attended a Town Hall Meeting at the VFW on Saturday morning where he had an opportunity to speak about moving forward after the millage defeat and doing what is best for students.

#### **BOARD COMMENTS**

**Trustee Fanta** asked if a local agency could partner with the district for bus inspections to replace the State Police. **President Bates** said the State Police force is the only agency that can perform bus inspections. **Trustee Fanta** reported 160 MASB members had signed up for the Board of Education list serve he had created. He thanked the Superintendent for the School of Choice growth chart and asked for School of Choice graduation data and in district student graduation data. **Superintendent Martin** said the graduation information would be included in the Superintendent's Memo this week. **Trustee Brumfield** distributed a Free Press article on classroom spending and said the Policy Committee would meet on November 18 at 4 p.m. **Vice-President Horne** asked if Karen Cross would be returning to conduct a Board Retreat in the near future. **President Bates** said he would contact Ms. Cross about scheduling a retreat. He also said it is important to not be discouraged and continue to do good work, playing the cards dealt.

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There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen S. Allen, Secretary  
Ypsilanti Board of Education