

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, April 26, 2010

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Education was called to order by President David Bates at 7:08 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

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

James Barmore/Absent, Jennifer Starr/Absent

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Ashley Green and Christina Pappas, fifth grade students from Estabrook Elementary School, led the Board of Education and audience members in the Pledge of Allegiance.

STUDENT AND STAFF RECOGNITION

Superintendent Martin recognized the members of the Ypsilanti High School Mock Trial Team who placed 4th in the state competition in March. He introduced Ypsilanti High School teacher Karen Siegel and she in turn introduced Brittilynn Hall, a law student at the University of Michigan. Ms. Hall noted that the team is sponsored by the Future Advocates in Training (FAIT), a U of M volunteer organization and explained the objectives of the organization. She introduced members of the team present at the meeting: Lucy Smith, Paul Good, Eric Green, Mayah Wells, and Charles Gillespie. President Bates congratulated the team and sponsors for their outstanding achievement.

Donna DeButts and Sandy Janowiak, representing the Ypsilanti Chamber of Commerce, announced that the Perry Child Development Center Montessori Program was the recipient of the Ypsilanti Public Schools 2010 E3 Award. A certificate was presented to teachers Jan Natelborg and Lee Ann Parks who were nominated for the award by Perry CDC Principal Sharine Buddin. The E3 award will be presented at the Chamber's First Tuesday Breakfast on May 4 at Washtenaw Community College.

AGENDA ADJUSTMENTS

President Bates asked Board members to pull Enclosure #9 – Termination of Non-Tenured Teacher Contracts and Enclosure #12 – Hiring of Assistant Superintendent from the agenda.

ASSOCIATION REPORTS

Kelly Powers, President of the Ypsilanti Education Association, thanked John Fulton, Executive Director of Human Resources, for working with her regarding staff transitions so that information was available to teachers quickly regarding 2010-2011 staffing of schools. She also said she was appreciative that YEA members have been patient and supportive of one another.

Ms. Powers clarified that there was not a YEA representative on the second interview team for the hiring of the high school principal. She reported that she was out of town and had chosen two high school staff members to be on the team but her request to have the YEA Vice-President on the team was denied.

Amy Doyle, YHS PTSO member, announced the high school parent teacher student organization would meet on Tuesday, April 27 and Principal Jon Brown would be the speaker and answer questions at the meeting. She invited parents and students to attend the meeting.

PUBLIC INPUT

Topics Included: the importance of music education and the secondary band program, the middle school and high school both need a band director, elementary music teachers will be overloaded with students if cuts are made, concerns about district restructuring and building enrollment/capacity numbers, students and parents asked that Mr. Jon Brown be allowed to remain for another year as Principal of Ypsilanti High School, support for continuing the Humanities class at Ypsilanti High School, opposition to the hiring of a new high school principal, school closings were handled poorly, cut overhead and salaries not student programs, an offer was made to provide free music instruction for a sixth grade student, East Middle School, West Middle School and Ypsilanti High School are the best kept secrets in southeast Michigan, students should be a part of the decision making process, secondary band teachers are a bargain because they serve so many students each period, reduction of the fine arts program will affect the school district's reputation, keep your focus on kids as you make decisions, Ypsilanti without music is like Vegas without casinos, vocal and instrumental music teachers were praised.

The meeting recessed at 8:48 p.m. and reconvened at 9:08 p.m.

Board Response: personal pride in the students who speak during public input, troubled by the same themes seen over the years: Humanities Program, music and performing arts, and leadership at the high school, the process used to close schools was inauthentic, remarks made during public input will guide future votes, what you say plays a big part in the decision making process, support was expressed for the music program at the high school, including students in the interview process in the future, enrichment programs make school fun and are a motivation to learn, disappointment expressed over the process used to make changes, thank you for expressing yourselves, support for vision meetings, thank you for offering to tutor a 6th grader, we are proud of our music heritage and will

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look for solutions, administrative staff have taken a 3% pay cut and contribute to health plan costs, support staff have also taken a 3% cut, principals are taking a similar pay cut, people are stepping up to the plate.

PRESENTATIONS

Estabrook Elementary School Student Achievement Report

Principal Pat DeRossett introduced members of the Estabrook staff in the audience and thanked them for attending the meeting. The following topics were included in the PowerPoint presentation: enrollment, demographics, members of the staff, initiatives to raise student achievement (includes NWEA data, after school tutoring, Collins Writing Program, Data Teams, America Reads, Power Hour, CFG's), efforts to establish a culture of accelerated academic achievement (includes classroom breakfast program, PE-Nut Grant, EMU Science Lessons, Title I Parent Nights, Accelerated Reading and Math Programs, Student Treasures Program, Scrabble Club, Chess Club, Student Council, Oratorical Society, Safety Patrol, Jump Rope for Heart), Title I Goals for writing, reading and math, MEAP performance for writing, reading and math, NWEA scores for writing, reading and math, and strategies to improve writing, reading and math student performance. Mrs. DeRossett also provided ICT summary data as a form of response to intervention which she said has made an incredible difference with intervention through a great team effort.

Topics Included: acknowledgment of Mrs. DeRossett's leadership, a clarification regarding RIT scores, thank you for sharing data, kudos for the decrease in special education referrals through ICT, thank you to Mrs. DeRossett and staff for a fine job, MEAP scores are impressive and through the ICT data it can be seen that staff look at each student's individual needs, kudos to you and your staff, a community reception will be held on May 23 for Pat DeRossett.

2009 MEAP District Overview

Jerry Fouchey, Interim Administrator for Educational Quality, provided a summary of MEAP data for the past two years. Mr. Fouchey presented a chart that compared the Fall 2008 and Fall 2009 grade level scores for Washtenaw County school districts. This chart provided the percentage of students who achieved Level 1 and 2 on the MEAP test. Mr. Fouchey noted that YPS overall performance was less than ideal. He presented a second chart that showed the percentage of MEAP improvement from Fall 2008 to Fall 2009. He noted that the overall rate of improvement for YPS is the highest in the county and if you look at the disaggregated data we are making significant progress in closing the achievement gap.

Topics Included: Trustee Devaney reported that as she worked with similar data at the WISD she came to the same conclusions about the significant amount of growth and the narrowing of the achievement gap, thank you for the excellent job on the report, a lot of good things are in place in the district and the staff at the middle school and elementary schools were complimented for their hard work.

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Celebrating Success

Superintendent Dedrick Martin congratulated the Air Force JROTC Unit for the outstanding review they received from the Staff Assistance Visit. Mr. Martin said the program was noted to exceed Air Force standards.

Mr. Martin announced that Willie Washington, Jr., an Ypsilanti High School senior, has received the Gates Millennium Scholarship. He said the scholarship will provide funding for all of Willie's post-high school education and he plans to attend Kettering University to study mechanical engineering. Mr. Martin congratulated Willie Washington, Jr. and his family for this outstanding accomplishment.

BOARD DISCUSSION/REQUESTS

Board Committee Structure

President Bates suggested postponing discussion on this topic to another meeting due to the late hour. Board members concurred.

Strategic Plan Framework

President Bates stated that Mr. Martin has been researching the strategic plan process and suggested the Board of Education discuss the outcomes they were seeking from the strategic plan. President Bates said copies of local school district's strategic plans had been included in the Friday packet and he was struck by how different they all were from one another. President Bates said he wanted to know if the Board would like to discuss this process at a future Board Meeting or schedule a retreat. After a brief discussion, a decision was made to schedule a retreat on a Saturday and Board Secretary Karen Allen was asked to provide possible meeting dates to the Board of Education in the near future.

ACTION ITEMS

Consent Agenda

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

09-10 That the Board of Education approve the minutes of the March 18, 2010 Special
9195 Meeting, the minutes of the March 22, 2010 Regular Meeting, the
acknowledgment of a \$500 donation to the R.C.T.C. Program by Roger Peterson
and the monthly bills payable for March 2010 in the amount of \$5,604,419.29.
Action Recorded: 7/Yes:0/No.

Approval of Apple Computer Purchase

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

09-10 That the Board of Education accept the bid from Apple Education in the amount
9196 of \$435,938.65 for the purchase of staff computers. This cost will be charged to
the 2007 Building and Site Fund. And further, that administratin is authorized to
execute the contracts on behalf of the Board of Education. 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: teacher's laptops need to be ordered now so that they can receive them before the end of the school year, current teacher laptops will be re-conditioned for New Tech students, a revised bid was provided, staff professional development will be included, technology bond funds available, staff will have state of the art computers.

Non-Renewal of Contract

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

09-10 That the Board of Education terminate and not renew the contract of Jerilyn Lynn
9197 and Tulani Smith upon the expiration and termination of their present contract on
June 30, 2010 as specified in the attached resolution. Action Recorded:
7/Yes;0/No.

Topics Included: Ms. Lynn and Ms. Smith were praised for their service to the district.

Teacher Layoffs

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

09-10 That the following teachers be laid off effective June 12, 2010: Megan Abraham,
9198 Greg Anglin, Tracy Armstrong, Christopher Bennett, Christa Dolan, Steve
Feltner, Carlton Fields, Kathleen Hardy, Frances Heires, Candice Hurst, Kristen
Nester, Elizabeth Patterson, Lisa Radar, Lynn Schwab, Mary Beth Strassel, Tu-
Anh Tran, Latoya Williams, Raleigh Woods, and Laura Wyderko. A roll call
vote was recorded as follows: Trustee Berman/No; Trustee Devaney/No; Trustee
Bates/Yes; Trustee Fanta/No; Trustee Jackson/Yes; Trustee Horne/Yes; Trustee
Brumfield/Yes.

The motion was placed on the table and a lengthy discussion ensued. During the discussion the following motion was made:

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

That the motion be tabled. Action Recorded: 3/Yes; (Berman, Devaney, Fanta);4/No (Bates, Brumfield, Horne, Jackson). The motion failed for lack of support.

Topics Included: More information is needed prior to voting, the process was explained by John Fulton (Human Resources) and Kelly Powers (YEA), this vote is a curricular decision due to the number of music teachers being laid off, what is the seniority process, teachers could be recalled if there are retirements, supporting rationale is needed, the Board needs to be informed with facts, this motion will have a roll call vote.

Approval of Ypsilanti Principals and Administrators Association Contract

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

09-10
9199 That the Board of Education approve the Y.P.A.A. contract agreement for the 2009-2010 school year to include a 3% rollback in salary and a payment contribution toward benefit costs at a rate of \$100 per month/family and \$50 month/single. Action Recorded: 7/Yes;0/No.

Topics Included: the members of the Y.P.A.A. were thanked.

Hiring of High School Principal

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

09-10
9200 That the Board of Education approve the hiring of Justin Moore for the position of Principal of Ypsilanti High School at Step 6 of the YPAA principal salary schedule. A roll call vote was recorded as follows: Trustee Brumfield/Yes; Trustee Devaney/No; Trustee Fanta/No; Trustee Horne/Yes; Trustee Berman/No; Trustee Jackson/Yes; Trustee Bates/Yes.

Topics Included: why is the candidate hiring in at Step 6, calls made to school board members in Champaign regarding the candidate, he deserves the opportunity and this could take the district to another level, respectful sharing of opinions without taking offense or being offensive, concerns about financial oversight of the district, this hiring should have been referred to the Human Resources Committee prior to being placed on the agenda, Mr. Moore's resume and experience, he was the best candidate interviewed by the committee, appreciation for the work of Principal Brown that has changed the climate at the high school, explanation of contractual agreement with Mr. Brown.

PUBLIC INPUT

Topics Included: clarification of hiring of contractual employees if someone is retired.

BOARD COMMENTS

Trustee Berman said inconsistent data had been given regarding elementary openings and asked that an explanation be provided. **President Bates** noted it had been a stressful night and said there is a reason there are seven trustees on the Board of Education.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 11:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen S. Allen, Secretary
Ypsilanti Board of Education