

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

Monday, August 24, 2009

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

AGENDA ADJUSTMENTS

There were no agenda adjustments.

PUBLIC INPUT

Public Input: a parent who had the opportunity to meet with Mr. Martin when he visited the district said all the parents who attended the interview were supportive of his candidacy for superintendent. She also said a unanimous Board decision would be good for the community.

ASSOCIATION REPORTS

Deborah McQueen, Ypsilanti Education Association Vice-President, thanked the Board of Education for the opportunity to visit Mr. Dedrick Martin and the Champaign Unit 4 school district as part of the superintendent search site visitation team. Mrs. McQueen reported that she found Mr. Martin had been an effective and successful employee in the position he held in Champaign, Illinois. She also said he was a good listener, creative, professional, responsive, calm under pressure and strived for all students to achieve. Mrs. McQueen also voiced several concerns: Mr. Martin wasn't an original finalist, he does not have Superintendent experience, has not written curriculum, doesn't have direct contact with teachers in his current position, and he has not overseen a large budget. She also said she was concerned he has had minimal union interaction and has not been involved with collective bargaining. In conclusion, Mrs. McQueen said no matter who the Board selects the YEA will honor the choice.

Candice Churchwell, East Middle School Principal, represented the Ypsilanti Principals and Administrators Association on the visitation team to Champaign, Illinois. She thanked the Board of Education for the opportunity to be a member of the visitation team. Mrs. Churchwell said she was impressed with the variety of people who spoke in support

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of Mr. Martin. She said the following strengths were reported: he is an excellent listener, he works closely with the administrative team and Superintendent, he is considered a “fix-it” man in his current district, and his current Superintendent endorses his candidacy. In conclusion, Mrs. Churchwell said she feels he is an excellent choice and the YPAA endorses Mr. Dedrick Martin as a superintendent candidate.

Joseph Dukes, a parent of students in the district, was also a member of the site visit team. He thanked the Board of Education for inviting him to visit Champaign as a team member. Mr. Dukes said he was looking for leadership qualities in a new superintendent. He stated community members and parents spoke highly of Mr. Martin and this is important. Mr. Dukes said he was also impressed with Mr. Martin’s work in Texas to raise student achievement when he was a principal there. He stated he would like to have a Superintendent in place soon and children lose if a candidate is not hired. Mr. Dukes endorsed Dedrick Martin as a superintendent candidate.

PRESENTATIONS

Drop Back In Academy

Mr. J. Vincent Brown, Chief Marketing Officer, Alternatives Unlimited, and Mr. John Orr, Director of the Drop Back In Academy, provided an update on the program for the Board of Education. Their PowerPoint presentation provided information on the following topics: participants in the program and their former school district, location, curriculum, assessment tools, number of graduates and their future plans, student demographics, tutoring, support for students with special needs, program capacity, students are provided with photo identification and before students graduate they have a driver’s license or state I.D., a social security card, a completed passport application, a resume and letter of recommendation. Mr. Brown stated the staff has high expectations for students and the program provides opportunities for academic and social growth. He invited Board members to visit the program. In conclusion, Mr. Brown reported one of the biggest challenges for students is transportation. He said they cannot currently measure the program’s success beyond graduation but will be able to do this in the future.

Topics Included: Mr. Orr shared student success stories and his goals for the coming year, the new school store, student attendance, this program does not compete with high school programs in the county.

Summer School Programs Update

Richard Weigel, Assistant Superintendent for Educational Quality, provided a PowerPoint presentation on the 2009 Ypsilanti Public Schools Summer Programs. Mr. Weigel said all programs supported student achievement. Information was presented on the following programs: elementary, middle school and high school summer school, Collins Writing training, Reading Apprenticeship training, the Summer Science Institute at U of M, the Elementary Math Lab at U of M, the Algebra Project at U of M, and Professional Learning Community training. Mr. Weigel said these programs are improving our schools from within.

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Topics Included: Ypsilanti Public Schools is leading the way in many areas and is able to provide amazing opportunities for students and staff, NWEA scores, communication with parents, the book give away at end of program, preparing a parent guide.

ACTION ITEMS

Consent Agenda

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

- 09-10
9122 That the Board of Education approve the minutes of the August 4, 2009 Special Meeting, the minutes of the August 5, 2009 Special Meeting, the minutes of the August 10, 2009 Regular Meeting, the minutes of the August 10, 2009 Closed Session, the hiring of Frances Buckheister-Heires, and Christopher Gadjev, the resignation of Nina Davis, the recall from layoff of Kathleen Hardy and the monthly bills payable for June 2009 in the amount of \$7,428,686.51. Action Recorded: 7/Yes:0/No.

Board Action on Superintendent Candidate

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

- 09-10
9123 That the Board of Education offer a contract to Dedrick Martin as Superintendent of Schools and that the Board President is authorized to appoint a three person committee to negotiate the contract to be brought to the full Board for approval. A roll call vote was recorded as follows: Trustee Devaney/Yes; Trustee Jackson/Yes; Trustee Berman/Yes; Trustee Horne/Yes; Trustee Bates/Yes; Trustee Brumfield/Yes; Trustee Fanta/No.

Prior to voting, the Board of Education discussed the hiring of Mr. Martin. President Bates led the discussion by referring Board members to the Superintendent Candidate Profile created at the beginning of the search process. Trustee Fanta stated Mr. Martin was not an excellent fit for the district at this time and he shared Mrs. McQueen's concerns regarding his qualifications. Trustee Devaney said the Board should not confuse inexperience with inability and said she was confident Mr. Martin would be successful as Superintendent. Trustee Brumfield said once a selection is made by the Board of Education all must agree to work with the newly hired superintendent. After voting, President Bates asked Vice-President Horne and Trustee Brumfield to join him on a committee to negotiate a contract with Mr. Martin. Trustee Fanta asked the team to consider adding a monetary inducement to the contract if Mr. Martin completes his dissertation.

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Hiring of East Middle School Assistant Principal

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

09-10 That the Board of Education approve the hiring of Alexander Ofili as assistant
9124 principal of East Middle School at an annual salary of \$72,769.75, representing
Step I of the middle school assistant principal salary table. Action Recorded:
7/Yes;0/No.

Topics Included: Mr. Ofili's resume was not included in board packet, the Human Resources Committee reviewed his credentials and the interview process and recommended hiring Mr. Ofili, the interview process and number of candidates was discussed along with Mr. Ofili's educational background, he is a graduate of Ypsilanti Public Schools.

Reconfirming Children's Internet Protection Act Compliance

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

09-10 That the Board of Education re-confirms the Ypsilanti Public Schools is CIPA
9125 compliant on August 24, 2009 as previously approved. The Ypsilanti Public
Schools enforces an acceptable use policy including Internet content filtering. A
hard copy of the Computer Networks and Technology policy and acceptable use
policy is available at this public meeting. Action Recorded: 7/Yes;0/No.

Topics Included: being CIPA compliant is a requirement for receiving E-rate funding, school districts must be compliant and reinforce they are following the law, content filtering in the school district, further discussion by the Policy Committee was recommended.

PUBLIC INPUT

There was no public input.

SUPERINTENDENT'S COMMENTS

Dr. Hawkins reported the sale of Fletcher School to Eastern Michigan University for \$2.2 million was complete. He said the RCTC Culinary Arts Program would remain at Fletcher until December when the renovations at Ardis School would be completed.

The Superintendent announced the opening day convocation would take place on Tuesday, September 8.

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Dr. Hawkins said he would be meeting with staff from the University of Michigan School Dental School this week to explore creating a new partnership to benefit Ypsilanti Public Schools students.

In conclusion, Dr. Hawkins announced a local committee for the November 3 Enhancement Millage has been established.

BOARD REQUESTS/COMMENTS

President Bates reported he and Acting CFO Kelli Glenn, and Vice-President Horne recently attended a Michigan Association of School Boards Conference addressing issues facing districts in deficit. He also announced John Weiss, the Executive Director of the Neutral Zone in Ann Arbor, had extended an invitation to Board members to attend an open house tour on Friday, August 28. President Bates congratulated the YHS Marching Band on their fine performance in the Heritage Festival Parade. **Human Resources Director John Fulton** noted that Frances Buckheister-Heires, who was hired earlier in the meeting, was an Ypsilanti High School graduate. **Vice-President Horne** stated she enjoyed working at the Ypsilanti Public Schools booth during the Heritage Festival. She also reminded trustees that East and West Middle School are celebrating their 50th anniversary this year.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 9:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen S. Allen, Secretary
Ypsilanti Board of Education