REGULAR MEETING (Monday, June 29, 2026)

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

Members absent
Dawn Espy

Meeting called to order at 6:30 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 AMENDED AGENDA
Action: A. Acceptance of Amended Agenda
... MOVE THAT the Board of Education accept the amended 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

4. ACHIEVEMENTS, AWARDS & RECOGNITION
Recognition: A. Recognition of 2025/26 Retirees of Ypsilanti Community Schools: Sue McCarty, Human Resources Director
Recognition of 2025/26 Retirees of Ypsilanti Community Schools. We appreciate your dedication, commitment, and service to the students of Ypsilanti Community Schools.
Congratulations to:
Cynthia Abraham-Caddell: Special Education Social Worker, Perry Early Learning Center
Wendy Hubbard: Math Interventionalist, Estabrook Elementary School
Lois Nowling: Administrative Assistant, District
Stephanie O'Laughlin: Title I Teacher, Erickson Elementary School
Lenora Rapelyea: Food Service, Ypsilanti Community High School
Julius Roberson: Custodian, Ypsilanti International Elementary School
Marie Taylor-Allen: Special Education Teacher, Ypsilanti Community High School
Forever a Grizzly!

Recognition: B. Recognition of MASB Awards
Master Board Member Award Certificate of Achievement - **Dr. Celeste Hawkins**
Master Diamond Award Certificate of Achievement - **Dr. Celeste Hawkins**
Master Board Member Award Certificate of Achievement - **M. Jeanice Townsend**
Master Platinum Member Award Certificate of Achievement - **Sharon Lee**
Data Specialty Award Certificate of Achievement - **Yvonne Fields**
Master Board Member Award Certificate of Achievement - **Yvonne Fields**
Thank you for your service and your extra dedication to achieve these levels of achievement.

5. 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.
Emily Carroll - daughter in cosmetology program
Steven Keranen - PD hours

6. REQUEST FOR CLOSED SESSION: Section 8(1c) OMA, Collective Bargaining Strategy
Action: A. Request for Closed Session - Pursuant to Section 8(1c) of the Open Meetings Act to consider a Collective Bargaining Strategy, Negotiations
In accordance with Michigan's Open Meetings Act (OMA), enacted in 1976 as Public Act 267, all closed meetings must be called by a motion at a public meeting of the Board of Education followed by a roll call vote. The Board of Education needs to meet in closed session under Section 8(1c) of the Open Meetings Act, Collective Bargaining Strategy/Negotiations.

The Board of Education went into closed session at 7:00 p.m.
... MOVE THAT the Board of Education convene in closed session under Section 8(1c) of the OMA to consider a Collective Bargaining Strategy, Negotiations.

Motion by Maria Goodrich, second by Talisha Sutton-Kennedy.
Final Resolution: Motion Carries
Roll Call: Aye: Dr Celeste Hawkins, Sharon Lee, Yvonne Fields, Maria Goodrich, Jeanice Townsend, Talisha Sutton-Kennedy

7. RETURN TO OPEN SESSION
Procedural: A. Reconvene to Open Session
The Board of Education will return to Open Session.
The Board of Education returned into open session at 8:05 p.m.

8. ACTION ITEM: Human Resources
Action: A. Approval of the YCEA Collective Bargaining Agreement: Sue McCarty, Director of Human Resources
A tentative agreement has been reached between the District and the Ypsilanti Community Education Association, MEA/NEA on a new collective bargaining agreement. This tentative contract is for "July 1, 2026 - June 30, 2029."
Charlotte Tillerson: Thank you to the administration for always listening. I am proud to be part of the negotiation team and the union. Thank you, everyone for your time and dedication to getting the contract done. Thank you to the board for passing the contract.
....MOVE that the Board of Education approve the collective bargaining agreement between the District and the Ypsilanti Community Education Association, MEA/NEA, effective upon ratification through June 30, 2029.

Motion by Maria Goodrich, second by Yvonne Fields.
Final Resolution: Motion Carries
Aye: Dr Celeste Hawkins, Sharon Lee, Yvonne Fields, Maria Goodrich, Jeanice Townsend, Talisha Sutton-Kennedy

9. REQUEST FOR CLOSED SESSION: Section 8(h) OMA, Attorney-Client Privilege
Action: A. Attorney-Client Session
In accordance with Michigan's Open Meetings Act (OMA), enacted in 1976 as Public Act 267, all closed meetings must be called by a motion at a public meeting of the Board of Education followed by a roll call vote. The Board of Education needs to meet in closed session under Section 8(h) of the Open Meetings Act, Attorney-Client Privilege.
The Board of Education went into closed session at 8:07 p.m.
... MOVE THAT the Board of Education convene in closed session under Section 8(h) of the OMA: Attorney-Client Privilege.

Motion by Talisha Sutton-Kennedy, second by Maria Goodrich.
Final Resolution: Motion Carries
Roll Call: Aye: Dr Celeste Hawkins, Sharon Lee, Yvonne Fields, Maria Goodrich, Jeanice Townsend, Talisha Sutton-Kennedy

10. RETURN TO OPEN SESSION
Procedural: A. Reconvene to Open Session
The Board of Education will return to Open Session.
The Board of Education returned into open session at 9:00 p.m.

11. PRESENTATIONS
Presentation: A. 2025-26 Final Budget Presentation
YCS Director of Business Services and Finance, Barbara Boone, will share the 2025-26 Final Budget for 2025-26 and the Initial Budget for 2026-27 for the YCS.
Click here to view the presentation.

12. CONSENT AGENDA
Action (Consent), Minutes, Report: A. Consent Agenda
Resolution: ... MOVE THAT the Board of Education approve the: 1) June 1, 2026, Regular Board Minutes 2) Personnel matters as per the presented list dated 6/12/26; New Hires, Resignations, and Retirements.

... MOVE THAT the Board of Education approve the:
1) June 1, 2026, Regular Board Minutes
2) Personnel matters as per the presented list dated 6/12/26; New Hires, Resignations, and Retirements.

Motion by Jeanice Townsend, second by Yvonne Fields.
Final Resolution: Motion Carries
Aye: Dr Celeste Hawkins, Sharon Lee, Yvonne Fields, Maria Goodrich, Jeanice Townsend, Talisha Sutton-Kennedy

13. ACTION ITEMS: Student Affairs
Action, Procedural: A. Acceptance of Field Trip Request: YCHS, July 23, 2026 (Cedar Point, OH)
Seeking board approval for a Grizzly Learning Camp field trip to Cedar Point on July 23, 2026.

Click here to view the field trip request.
... MOVE THAT the Board of Education approve the field trip for YCHS to Cedar Point on July 23, 2026.

Motion by Talisha Sutton-Kennedy, second by Jeanice Townsend.
Final Resolution: Motion Carries
Aye: Dr Celeste Hawkins, Sharon Lee, Yvonne Fields, Maria Goodrich, Jeanice Townsend, Talisha Sutton-Kennedy

Action: B. Acceptance of the Concentric Educational Solutions Contract
Concentric's bundled student reengagement services provide targeted, high-impact support that rapidly expands a school's capacity for student outreach and attendance recovery. Through structured Home Visits for disengaged or chronically absent students, Concentric will partner with district and school stakeholders to build collaborative, trust-based relationships, leveraging family engagement and targeted interventions to improve student attendance and sustain reengagement.
Click here to view the contract.
.... MOVE THAT the Board of Education accepts the Concentric Educational Solutions Contract for $24,970.

Motion by Yvonne Fields, second by Sharon Lee.
Final Resolution: Motion Carries
Aye: Dr Celeste Hawkins, Sharon Lee, Yvonne Fields, Maria Goodrich, Jeanice Townsend, Talisha Sutton-Kennedy

14. ACTION ITEMS: Business and Finance
Action: A. RESOLUTION, 2025/26 Year-End Final Budget
The proposed year-end budget revision reflects the most current budget data available for the current fiscal year. The attached is the General Fund June Budget Amendment.
The same amount of Revenue and Expense has been revised to accommodate the submitted budget amendments to the State for Title I, II and Title III (budgeting all allocated dollars and carryover allocated to the District for the year). Grant dates are for the period of July 1, 2025 - September 30, 2026.
Click here to view the resolution.
... MOVE THAT the Board of Education approve the attached resolution for the 2025/26 final budget.

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

Action: B. RESOLUTION, 2026/27 Initial Budget
Michigan's Uniform Budgeting and Accounting Act requires the adoption of the budget before the new fiscal year begins. The proposed 2026/27 budget is built based on a number of assumptions. After the annual financial audit is completed, and after the Fall 2026 student enrollment data is available, a budget revision will be prepared to reflect the most current financial information and projections.
The budget impact is as detailed in the attached General Appropriations Resolution for fiscal year 2026/27.
Click here to view the 2026-27 general fund initial budget resolution.
Click here to view the 2026-27 food service initial budget resolution.
Click here to view the 2026-27 Willow Run initial debt resolution.
Click here to view the 2026-27 Ypsilanti initial debt resolution.
Click here to view the 2026-27 sinking fund initial resolution.
Click here to view the 2026-27 school activity fund initial resolution.
... MOVE THAT the Board of Education approve the attached 2026/27 General Appropriations Resolution.

Motion by Yvonne Fields, second by Talisha Sutton-Kennedy.
Final Resolution: Motion Carries
Aye: Dr Celeste Hawkins, Sharon Lee, Yvonne Fields, Maria Goodrich, Jeanice Townsend, Talisha Sutton-Kennedy

Action: C. Approval of FSMC with SFE
The YCS Administration conducted the RFP for the Food Service - FSMC Cost Reimbursable Contract for the fiscal year 2026-2027. Upon review of the bids received and the rubric designed for the RFP, the district recommended SFE to the Michigan Department of Education (MDE). The Michigan Department of Education has approved the 2026-2027 - FSMC Cost Reimbursable Contract. The Administration is seeking the Board's approval of the contract for the fiscal year 2026-2027 with an opportunity to renew over the next (4) years.
...MOVE THAT the Board of Education accept, as presented, the contract agreement for the Food Service Management Company Cost Reimbursable Contract for the period of July 1, 2026- June 30, 2027.

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

Action: D. Acceptance of a Holmes STEAM Elementary School Furniture Purchase for their Innovation Space
Seeking Board approval of the presented quote for a furniture purchase for Holmes STEAM Elementary School's Innovation Space to support project based learning for $38,895.81 from Lakeshore Learning Materials.
Click here to view the quote.
... MOVE THAT the Board of Education accept the Lakeshore Learning Materials quote for $38,895.81 to purchase furniture for Holmes STEAM Elementary School's Innovation Space.

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

Final Resolution: Motion Carries
Aye: Dr Celeste Hawkins, Sharon Lee, Yvonne Fields, Maria Goodrich, Jeanice Townsend, Talisha Sutton-Kennedy

Action: E. Donation: STEM Grant from Burns & McDonnell
Seeking Board approval for the donation of a $5,000 STEM Grant from Burns & McDonnell to ACCE expand hands-on learning opportunities for our scholars. The grant will fund the development of a school greenhouse and the purchase of hydroponic and aquaponic growing systems, allowing students to engage in authentic scientific investigations related to biology, environmental science, sustainable agriculture, and engineering.
The greenhouse and growing systems will support Life Sciences courses, interdisciplinary STEM projects, and student clubs, creating a lasting resource that will benefit ACCE scholars for years to come.
We are grateful to Burns & McDonnell for investing in innovative learning opportunities that prepare our students for future college and career pathways. Thank you!
.... MOVE THAT the Board of Education accept the donation of a $5,000 STEM Grant from Burns & McDonnell to ACCE.

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

Action: F. Donation: Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated, Ann Arbor Alumnae Chapter
Seeking Board approval for the donation of feminine hygiene products from Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated, Ann Arbor Alumnae Chapter.
Thank you, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated, Ann Arbor Alumnae Chapter, from all the students that you are impacting with this donation!
.... MOVE THAT the Board of Education accept the donation of feminine hygiene products from Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated, Ann Arbor Alumnae Chapter.

Motion by Yvonne Fields, second by Sharon Lee.
Final Resolution: Motion Carries
Aye: Dr Celeste Hawkins, Sharon Lee, Yvonne Fields, Maria Goodrich, Jeanice Townsend, Talisha Sutton-Kennedy

15. MID-TERM MONITORING/EVALUATING
Discussion: A. Board Self Evaluation/Superintendent Progress Monitoring
The YCS Board of Education engages bi-yearly in progress monitoring of the Superintendent. They also provide an opportunity to self-assess. Mary Kerwin, from the Michigan Association of School Boards facilitated the discussion.
Click here to view the Process for Mid-term Monitoring.
Click here to view the Mid-Year Progress Report.

16. 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.
Jeremy Haley - comments on Public Comments, enjoy your summers, and go to the summer concert series

17. DISCUSSIONS
Discussion: A. Board of Education Subcommittee Reports
Trustee Goodrich: Policy Subcommittee met on June 17th and will meet on July 14th, hopefully to conclude the new policies to put this thrilling new policy package in front of the board to get adopted
Trustee Fields: The AATA bus wraps should be out for our ads, we met on June 15th and talked about the videos that Lambert is making, we talked about our Say Yes to YCS campaign on social media. Thank you, Lambert, for what you are doing.
Trustee Townsend: The Finance and Operational Planning Subcommittee also met on June 15th, and we discussed what was discussed earlier in the meeting. YCS Foundation is gearing up for YCS activities over the summer, and the next meeting is on July 8th.
Dr. Hawkins: A huge thanks to all our subcommittees for all the important work they lead in the district.

18. BOARD/SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS
Trustee Sutton-Kennedy: I hope everyone enjoys their summer breaks.
Dr. Hawkins: We are off for July and I hope you all find peace, joy, and relaxation during the month. Congrats to all the board members on their MASB awards and the commitment we have to continuing to learn. Everyone did a great job at the community engagement.
Trustee Goodrich: Thank you for the community engagement around the next board election and we will know who is running at the board retreat.
Dr. Zachery-Ross: Congratulate everyone on a wonderful conclusion of a wonderful 2025-26 school year. Thank you for the YCEA contract. Congratulations on your MASB accomplishments. Grizzly Learning Camp is going strong. New Holmes Ambassadors are having their celebration on Wednesday. Over the summer there is the Rutherford Pool and Reading in the Park

on July 10th, the Back to School Bach on August 1st, and Touch a Truck on August 5th. You are invited to join the Administrators' Retreat historical tour of Ypsilanti on August 3rd. Thank you, Mary, for being here and leading us through the board self-assessment and my mid-term monitoring.

19. ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING
Meeting adjourned at 10:43 p.m.

