

# YOUNGSTOWN CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT ACADEMIC DISTRESS COMMISSION

## *Members:*

Dr. John Richard

Dr. Maria Hoffmaster

Jennifer Kluchar

Dr. Ben McGee

Anthony J. Farris, Office of the Attorney General

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## **ADC REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

**THURSDAY, JUNE 18, 2020 ~ 10 A.M. - ZOOM VIDEO CONFERENCE MEETING**

I. The Youngstown Academic Distress Commission meeting was called to order at 10:04 a.m. via Zoom video conference <https://youngstown.zoom.us/j/3754434782> Meeting ID: 375 443 4782 Password: ycsd One tap mobile +13126266799

II. Roll Call	<i>Present</i>	<i>Absent</i>
Dr. John Richard	x	
Dr. Maria Hoffmaster	x	
Dr. Ben McGee	x	

III. Approval of June 18, 2020 Agenda

*Motion by:* M. Hoffmaster

*Seconded by:* B. McGee

*Roll Call Vote:*

Dr. John Richard	Yes	x	No
Dr. Maria Hoffmaster	Yes	x	No
Dr. Ben McGee	Yes	x	No

IV. Approval of meeting minutes January 24, 2020

*Motion by:* M. Hoffmaster

*Seconded by:* B. McGee

*Roll Call Vote:*

Dr. John Richard	Yes	x	No
Dr. Maria Hoffmaster	Yes	x	No
Dr. Ben McGee	Yes	x	No

Dr. Richard opened the meeting with a moment of silence in honor of Leonard Pearce IV, a Youngstown Rayen Early College High School scholar who tragically passed away June 15, 2020.

Attorney Anthony Farris, of the State of Ohio Attorney General's office administered the oath of office to Ms. Jennifer Kluchar as a Youngstown Academic Distress Commission member. Dr. Richard thanked Mrs. Brenda Kimble, school board member for the appointment and Ms. Kluchar for her willingness to serve in this manner. Ms. Kluchar thanked Mrs. Kimble for the appointment and provided a brief background of her career and shared her dedication and passion for the scholars and the district.

V. Improvement Plan updates & changes

Dr. Richard provided the purpose of the Academic Distress Commission according to the statute 3302.10 (g) (1) which states that it is the Chief Executive Officer's (CEO) responsibility to implement the district's improvement plan and for any changes to be submitted, presented and approved by the YADC prior to implementation by the CEO. Justin Jennings, CEO began his presentation by recognizing the memory and legacy of Anthony Deniro Jr., who recently passed from COVID19. CEO Jennings acknowledged and thanked Mr. Deniro for his many years of service within the district. CEO Jennings began his discussion regarding his modifications to the district improvement plan which was initially created and approved under the leadership of former CEO Krish Mohip. Mr. Jennings' draft of the plan will include input collected from various meetings and surveys from community members, teachers and staff. The input was gathered earlier in the year and will be incorporated into the overall comprehensive plan for the district.

The drafted focus points within the improvement/strategic plan were discussed with the YADC members. Those areas of focus included the following:

- Reading Achievement Plan
- PBIS rollout within the district; Champs (k-8) and working on secondary classrooms. Efforts to have social workers in each school building to focus on the social & emotional support and needs of our scholars.
- District Data –with the district being close to receiving a letter grade of D, scholars should be tested and placed accordingly to support the scholars' needs.
- Monthly building special education meetings
- Creation of grants committee
- Special Education Data collection binder – evidence, goals and objectives so that all needs are met of special education scholars
- Mindfulness training for every building, and incorporating mindfulness in the regular curriculum
- All staff being trained on CPI

Dr. Richard commented that the 2 specific areas of focus that should be highlighted within the current plan are the following:

1. State standards are aligned to curriculum
  - a. Instructional practice in the classroom. What is the plan to get the district there?
2. Student Equity - assuring that every student has the same access and ability to access instruction (especially during COVID19 pandemic). How do we address our scholars with the most needs and how that will be addressed in every manner of instruction?

The YADC members continued discussion regarding equity, instruction and social workers. CEO Jennings explained that within his improvement plan modifications, he plans to have 3 areas of focus 1.) Goal 2.) Measure of progress and 3.) Equity. It is the goal of the YADC to have 2 work sessions to work through the improvement plan in July, with a regular meeting in August to adopt the new plan.

**VI.** Dr. Ben McGee, YADC Financial Advisory Committee Chair provided an update from the last Financial Advisory Committee which met virtually on May 29, 2020 at 3 p.m. CEO Jennings and CFO/Treasurer Arthur Ginnetti III participated in the meeting with the committee and provided a detailed overview of district funding and operations. Dr. Richard mentioned that the district monthly financial reports are expected and should be sent to both the ADC members and the Board of education members monthly. CEO Jennings responded that the financial reports will be sent to the YADC members and that the reports in the past months were done and given at the Board of education meetings and CEO update meetings, somehow it was an oversight.

**VII.** District Financial Update

CEO Jennings began addressing a past audit report which reported \$11 million deficit spending that occurred prior to his appointment in 2017-2018. He stated that \$1.6 million of the \$11 million deficit was not recorded by the previous treasurer, so the actual deficit was \$9.4 million. To clarify this information CEO Jennings provided overview of what the \$9.4 million was spent on, see below:

- \$2.3 million – YREC high school renovations
- \$500,000 – Sports/Athletics
- 2.4 million – Discovery Ed/ICLE
- \$500,000 – Substitutes
- \$1.4 million – Deans
- \$900,000 – Instructional Framework specialists
- \$500,000 – Bus and vans
- \$400,000 – Additional administrative working days
- \$650,000 – Technology devices
- 750,000 – Purchased services, energy, some salaries and benefits and any contracts with the educational service center (ESC)

Total = Approximately \$9.4 million

A.J. Ginnetti, III CFO/Treasurer began his presentation and apologized to the YADC members for not providing them with the monthly financial reports. All past monthly reports up to the current will be sent to YADC members. Mr. Ginnetti provided an overview of the 5 year forecast and reported that the district will need to renew the emergency levy which will provide 5.3 million. He continued to report the overall revenue and expenses within the district. YADC members continued with discussion of the district finances and health insurance consortium.

**VIII.** CEO Performance Evaluation

Dr. Richard mentioned to ADC members that they will discuss the annual CEO Performance Review/Evaluation in upcoming work sessions within executive session and open meeting. The goal is to work through the process and to have a performance review completed by August 1, 2020.

**IX.** Plan for Reopening

Dr. Richard briefly provided insight on what reopening may or may not look like from a state level. He explained that the goal should be for everyone to be agile and flexible in instructional delivery. With COVID19, things may change day to day, it is important to be flexible and to adjust accordingly. CEO Jennings briefly shared the plan for the district reopening for the 2020-2021 school year. He stated that the main focus for district is to keep everyone healthy and safe.

