

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

YADC WORK SESSION MINUTES

THURSDAY, JULY 16, 2020 ~ 8 A.M. - ZOOM VIDEO CONFERENCE MEETING

- I. The Youngstown Academic Distress Commission work session was called to order at 8:15 a.m. via Zoom Video Conference, <https://youngstown.zoom.us/j/3754434782> Meeting ID: 375 443 4782 Password: ycsd One tap mobile: +13126266799,,3754434782#,,,0#,424512# US (Chicago)

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

III. Approval of July 16, 2020 Agenda

Motion by: B. McGee

Seconded by: M. Hoffmaster

<i>Roll Call Vote:</i>	Yes	No
Dr. John Richard	x	
Dr. Maria Hoffmaster	x	
Ms. Jennifer Kluchar	x	
Dr. Ben McGee	x	

- IV. The Commission entered into executive session in a separate zoom conference at 8:18 a.m. to consider the employment, promotion, demotion, compensation and/or discipline of public employees; as it relates to the Chief Executive Officer's performance evaluation.

Motion by: B. McGee

Seconded by: M. Hoffmaster

<i>Roll Call Vote:</i>	Yes	No
Dr. John Richard	x	
Dr. Maria Hoffmaster	x	
Jennifer Kluchar	x	
Dr. Ben McGee	x	

V. Return to zoom video conference open meeting at approximately 9:49 a.m.

Motion by: B. McGee

Seconded by: J. Kluchar

<i>Roll Call:</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>
Dr. John Richard	x	
Dr. Maria Hoffmaster	x	
Jennifer Kluchar	x	
Dr. Ben McGee	x	

VI. Discussion of the Improvement Plan

Dr. Richard opened the meeting and provided an overview of the meeting and purpose of the district improvement plan. CEO Justin Jennings along with members of the district leadership team discussed the district improvement plan/strategic plan in which they provided detailed focus points and highlights.

Goal I – Academic Achievement

CEO Jennings and Christine Sawicki, Chief Academic Officer provided areas of targeted focus, expectation, action and change within Goal I – Academic Achievement (listed below) of the strategic plan/district improvement plan. Dr. Richard explained that ADC members were glad to hear and see that the main focus of the district improvement plan is Goal I which emphasizes Academic Achievement. Discussion continued regarding Goal I with Dr. Hoffmaster & Dr. McGee providing comments, recommendations, and acclamations to the leadership staff.

OBJECTIVE A - Ensure every child in every classroom receives high-quality instruction every day

Strategies:

1. Define high-quality instruction and be clear about what it looks like in the classroom
2. Monitor high-quality, rigorous instruction through daily walk-throughs tied to the Ohio Learning Standards
3. Provide a learning experience that leads to a minimum of a full-year of academic growth for all students, preparing every student to achieve grade-level standards in reading and math.
4. Make attendance a priority, engaging students to attend school on a daily basis and come prepared to learn.

OBJECTIVE B - Provide the necessary support to all district employees so that they have the skills needed to deliver the highest-quality education to students.

Strategies:

1. Engage all staff in comprehensive professional learning series aligned to the standards and the instructional framework
2. Provide all needed resources to staff so they have the tools to be successful
3. Offer one-on-one instructional and leadership coaching to classroom teachers, school administrators, and district leaders
4. Create a mentoring program for teachers and leaders

OBJECTIVE C - Prepare all children to succeed in post-secondary opportunities.

Strategies:

1. Identify, monitor and support student who are not on-track
2. Expose students to post-secondary options and prepare them accordingly throughout their PreK - 12 experiences
3. Provide training to all families and students on various post-secondary financial aid opportunities.

OBJECTIVE D - Eliminate the achievement gap

Strategies:

1. Offer expanded opportunities for the district's earliest learners.
2. Provide out-of-school learning time for all students
3. Monitor student progress with a focus on challenged sub-groups

Goal II - Supporting the Whole Child

Linda Yosay, Chief of Student Services & Ava Yeager, Chief of School Improvement provided areas of targeted focus, expectations, actions and changes within Goal II – Supporting the Whole Child within the strategic plan/district improvement plan. Discussion continued regarding Goal II with Dr. Hoffmaster, Dr. McGee and Ms. Kluchar all providing comments and questions directly regarding the plan for virtual instruction for scholars with IEPs. Acclamations were given to Mrs. Yosay and Mrs. Yeager for her detailed work and dedication to our scholars.

OBJECTIVE A - Ensure all students have access to appropriate services to support learning.

Strategies:

1. Deliver high-quality instruction and support for students receiving Special Education Services
2. Deliver high-quality instruction and support for students receiving English learner services
3. Deliver high-quality instruction and enhance access to support for students identified as gifted learners.

OBJECTIVE B – Provide rich instructional offerings that can unlock the potential of every child.

Strategies:

1. Complete a comprehensive review of all schools and programs within the district
2. Increase highly rigorous course offerings for students, such as Advanced Placement (AP) and college credit plus
3. Align science instruction with STEM in all building
4. Create student personalized learning plans focusing on growth

OBJECTIVE C - Ensure every child attends a safe and nurturing school environment with a positive and vibrant culture that promotes the success of the whole child.

Strategies:

1. Create a culture and expectation of positive behavior through district-wide implementation of Positive Behavioral and intervention supports (PBIS).
2. Use student discipline data to identify school safety and security needs.
3. Provide necessary health services to students within the school setting
4. Increase student engagement in school-sponsored afterschool activities

GOAL III - Parent, Family and Community Engagement

The presentation continued with Linda Hoey, Chief of Parent Engagement sharing target focus points and highlights within Goal III – Parent, Family and Community Engagement. Discussion continued with Ms. Hoey, CEO Jennings and Dr. McGee along with Dr. Hoffmaster who thanked Ms. Hoey and the parent engagement coordinators for their work and communication especially during COVID19 pandemic.

OBJECTIVE A - Support parents in engaging in their child’s or children’s education.

Strategies:

1. Educate families in their children’s education
2. Engage families with the district
3. Provide professional learning to district employees on best practices to engage families
4. Provide wrap-around services to families as needed

OBJECTIVE B - Partner with the community to support the mission and vision of the district

Strategies:

1. Review and renew the district mission, vision and brand
2. Develop a council of agencies to support the district mission
3. Adopt servant leadership mindset and encourage participation in community service projects
4. Invite community members to observe the instructional program at schools through community walk-throughs

OBJECTIVE C - Engage with families and the community through clear, timely communications and customer service

Strategies:

1. Create a comprehensive communication plan that meets the needs of students, families and the community.
2. Effectively market the district to retain current families and attract families who have recently left to come back to the district, as well as families from the surrounding communities

GOAL V - Operations, Budget and Accountability

CEO Jennings presented focus points, updates, and highlights within Goal V – Operations, Budget and Accountability. He provided an update regarding interviews for transportation supervisor and overall being fiscally responsible and to that credit it was noted that the district will have a yearend positive balance of \$2.4 million. CEO Jennings stated that the ADC members will receive a draft of the changes and modifications.

OBJECTIVE A – Create a culture of shared accountability.

Strategies:

- 1. Create a system to monitor, track and assess the completion of improvement efforts
- 2. Develop a comprehensive accountability system that incorporates and reflects a system of checks and balances
- 3. Implement a systemic operational approach to district processes in order to facilitate effective human resource management for the district.

OBJECTIVE B – Ensure all facilities are warm, safe and dry.

Strategies:

- 1. Develop a long-term, operational “warm, safe, and dry” plan

OBJECTIVE C – Provide safe, efficient, and reliable transportation for students to and from school.

Strategies:

- 1. Maintain all buses to ensure they are safe to be on the road
- 2. Staff all routes with certified drivers
- 3. Operate effective routes that minimize students’ extended time on the bus
- 4. Establish clear communication with families and students about bus routes and issues.

OBJECTIVE D - Operate with fiscal responsibility and sound management

Strategies:

- 1. Align the district budget, school budgets, and all purchases to the goals, objectives and strategies of this strategic plan
- 2. Create a five year general fund financial forecast that includes all known revenue and expenditures, assumptions, made in cases where information is not known, and explanations for trends and changes.

VII. CEO Jennings provided a brief overview of the 2020-2021 district reopening plans which will be strictly online only. The goal of going online is to keep everyone safe. The decision was based upon factual knowledge from the local health department along with science and medical guidelines and resources. The district is partnering with the Youngstown Foundation and Youngstown Rotary to insure all students have devices and/or internet connectivity. Teachers will meet with students 4 days of the week online live Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday with Wednesday being office hours/meetings/professional development. The district’s remote learning plan has been submitted to the Ohio Department of Education. CEO Jennings stated that it is a priority in remote learning to find out the best methods in staying engaged with our scholars and making sure our most vulnerable scholars are on track for success.

VIII. It was announced that at the next work session on July 22, 2020 the plan for reopening would be discussed in detail along with improvement plan, negotiations update and district finances.

IX. Adjournment 11:20 a.m.

Motion by: B. McGee

Seconded by: J. Kluchar

Roll Call Vote:

Yes

No

Dr. John Richard

x

Dr. Maria Hoffmaster

x

Jennifer Kluchar

x

Dr. Ben McGee

x