I. Call to Order
The Youngstown Academic Distress Commission meeting was called to order by Dr. John Richard, YADC Chairman at 4:04 p.m. in the Youngstown Rayen Early College High School (2nd Floor Meeting Room), 20 W. Wood Street, Youngstown, Ohio 44503 on Thursday, August 12, 2021. The meeting was a joint meeting with YCSD Board of education members.

II. Roll Call
Members present - Dr. John Richard, Mrs. Selina Cotton, Dr. Ben McGee
Member absent - Dr. Maria Hoffmaster

III. Approval of August 12, 2021 meeting agenda
Motion by: B. McGee, Seconded by: S. Cotton
Roll Call Vote:
Ayes: J. Richard, S. Cotton, B. McGee
Nays: None
Motion carried

Dr. Richard opened the meeting and welcomed the Youngstown Board of Education members. Board President Ronald Shadd called the board meeting to order with roll call and the board approved the 8/12/2021 agenda. Dr. Richard shared that the initial intent was to have a work session, but due to the recent passing of the budget bill, the YADC members needed to work on items within executive session, while the YCSD Board members continued meeting to work on the Academic Improvement Plan (AIP). Dr. Richard briefly spoke about the newly enacted legislation - Ohio Revised Code 3302.103. He shared that the YCSD Board is to submit their AIP by September 30, 2021 to the State Superintendent of Public Instruction. If the plan is submitted after September 24, 2021 it will be submitted to the Interim State Superintendent, due to the retirement of Superintendent Paolo DeMaria. Once the AIP is approved by the State Superintendent the plan will not take effect until July 1, 2022. The role of the YADC and CEO during the transition period will continue to focus on the current strategic plan while also supporting and advising in efforts to transition to the district board plan implementation. The
YADC will remain in place in an advisory role after next July, while working in conjunction with the board of education.

At this time, Dr. Richard entertained questions from the Board of Education members. Board President Shadd commented and asked if Dr. Richard will stay on as chair of the YADC, due to the announcement of Richard’s upcoming resignation? Dr. Richard responded that he is transitioning from Ohio Department of Education (ODE) as the Deputy State Superintendent effective October 2021 and that he will remain as the YADC chair through his transition. He anticipates to continue as chair, if his new employer allows him to. Mrs. Cotton asked what would be the protocol if his employer chooses not to allow him to do so or due to another circumstance. Dr. Richard explained he is an appointee of the State Superintendent, so there would be a new appointee to replace him. He commented on possible alternatives which maybe someone from the ODE, who would be able to step into the role, such as Dr. Marva Jones who has worked closely with academic distress commissions.

Jackie Adair, YCSD Board member asked what will be the role of the State School Board in this process after September 30, 2021. Dr. Richard stated they don’t have an immediate role, but once the AIP is implemented in 2022, the local board of education will submit an annual report to the State Board of Education. Mrs. Adair asked if there were addendums, adjustments, and/or changes to the AIP during the next school year, who would the board submit that to. Dr. Richard responded the State Superintendent, but unsure if revisions can be made later this year or after July 2022 once the AIP has been approved.

Mrs. Cotton asked will there be a transition period for the new YADC chair, if Dr. Richard is no longer able to serve. Dr. Richard responded that he would believe so and would desire that to happen.

**Public Participation:**

Dr. Richard opened the meeting for public participation for anyone providing comments in relation to the agenda.

CEO Justin Jennings stated that he wanted to publicly thank Dr. Richard for his service to YADC as the chair and expressed his appreciation for the hard work and dedication he displayed through the many obstacles that were faced. He provided best wishes for his future endeavors.

Jackie Adair, Board member asked for clarification of how should YCSD board members communicate with YADC? Dr. Richard responded that board communication should be directed to Board President Shadd and he can communicate directly with him as the YADC chair.
Pastor Kenneth Simon, New Bethel Baptist Church – Provided comments that he along with others worked with legislators to pass the bill in efforts to restore local control to the school district. He thanked the YADC, Board and the CEO for their work within the previous bill, which was challenging and thanked Dr. Richard for his leadership and communication. He said now is a great opportunity to move the district forward and that the community is praying and hoping that everyone would come together with a spirit of cooperation and collaboration in the process of developing the AIP especially with the urgency of time and importance. He shared his sentiments and also that of the community that all stakeholders need to work together collaboratively in cooperation for the cause of improving the education of children as a whole. The community is here to help.

**Board Business**

President Shadd shared that at the last board meeting the board selected the Ohio School Boards Association (OSBA) along with Ohio Education Association (OEA) to provide support and guidance in preparation of the AIP. He introduced Kim Miller-Smith, representative from OSBA who was in attendance, will represent OSBA in supporting the board with the AIP. Ms. Davis from OEA, who was not in attendance will also assist

IV. The Commission entered into executive session at 4:28 p.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: S. Cotton
Roll Call Vote:
Ayes: J. Richard, S. Cotton, B. McGee
Nays: None
Motion carried

(Note: At this time the YCSD Board members continued their regular meeting focusing on the development of the Academic Improvement Plan)

V. Return to open meeting at 5:42 p.m.

*Motion by: B. McGee, Seconded by: S. Cotton
Roll Call Vote:
Ayes: J. Richard, S. Cotton, B. McGee
Nays: None
Motion carried

VI. Meeting adjourned at 5:43 p.m.

*Motion by: B. McGee, Seconded by: S. Cotton
Roll Call Vote:
Ayes: J. Richard, S. Cotton, B. McGee
Nays: None
Motion carried