YOUNGSTOWN CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
ACADEMIC DISTRESS COMMISSION

Members:
Dr. John Richard
Mrs. Selina Cotton
Dr. Maria Hoffmaster
Dr. Ben McGee

Anthony J. Farris, Office of the Attorney General

YADC REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, APRIL 19, 2021 ~ 5 P.M.
ZOOM VIDEO CONFERENCE MEETING
https://youngstown.zoom.us/j/92057656033?pwd=Q2V5cFYweTVEUTFCaFZib2FVMlppBZz09
MEETING ID: 920 5765 6033 PASSCODE: 777732 PHONE: 19294362866

I. The Youngstown Academic Distress Commission meeting was called to order by Dr. John Richard, YADC Chairman at 5:02 p.m. via zoom conference on Monday, April 19, 2021.

II. Roll Call – Members present: Dr. John Richard, Mrs. Selina Cotton, Dr. Maria Hoffmaster, Dr. Ben McGee

III. Approval of April 19, 2021 meeting agenda
Motion by: M. Hoffmaster, Seconded by: B. McGee
Roll Call Vote:
Ayes: J. Richard, S. Cotton, M. Hoffmaster, B. McGee
Nays: None
Motion carried

IV. Approval of February 22, 2021 meeting minutes
Motion by: M. Hoffmaster, Seconded by: B. McGee
Roll Call Vote:
Ayes: J. Richard, S. Cotton, M. Hoffmaster, B. McGee
Nays: None
Motion carried

V. Approval of November 24, 2020 meeting minutes
Motion by: M. Hoffmaster, Seconded by: B. McGee
Roll Call Vote:
Ayes: J. Richard, S. Cotton, M. Hoffmaster, B. McGee
Nays: None
Motion carried

Dr. Richard, YADC Chair opened the meeting and shared the meeting purpose which was to discuss the plans for ESSER funds rounds 1, 2, and 3. He also mentioned that he is working with Mr. Shadd, President of Youngstown Board of Education to invite the Board of Education members to future YADC meetings and conversations.
VI. **District Strategic Plan update**

CEO Jennings provided an update to the strategic plan with an emphasis on the “YOUprint 2030 Task Tracker” which was shared and presented in detail along with the purpose of the tracker. YADC members questioned and discussed the status of the tracker and how soon the information will be populated. The goal is for the tracker to provide documentation of what is being done within the strategic plan and can also be referred to during YADC meetings.

The meeting continued with a power point presentation from Dr. Michael Saville, Director of Choffin Career and Technical Center regarding updates at Choffin. He briefly shared his background and a timeline in relation to Choffin administration and the goal of expanding career tech education overall. He highlighted the 3 goals of Choffin: 1.) Graduate on time 2.) Earn Industry credentials and 3.) Be career and college ready. The timeline for existing and new programs at Choffin was also shared along with details regarding performance measures, PBIS/Growth mindset, graduation rates and credentials, building report card and upcoming program enhancements and changes.

Dr. Richard, Mrs. Cotton, Dr. McGee, CEO Jennings and Dr. Saville continued to discuss students’ post high school job placement and the data to support, certifications, program alignment and placement with the needs of the business community, collaborations and communication with community partners, medical needs assessment and capacity, expanded programs beginning in 7th and 8th grades, and the need to share the significant improvement of the building report card. Attendance was also discussed along with the need for a cohesive flow of programming with clear and consistent communication between Choffin programs and the high schools.

VII. **District Return to In-Person Discussion**

CEO Jennings provided a report on in person return to school in which secondary scholars attend Mondays and Fridays and elementary scholars attend Tuesdays and Thursdays with Wednesdays set for PBIS. It was reported that 47% of scholars came back to in person school and remaining scholars were remote learners. There have been minimal issues, while working out small issues with transportation. Summer enrichment will be in person and school in the fall will be in person while offering a virtual school 1st grade – 12th grade.

Dr. Richard, Mrs. Cotton, CEO Jennings, Mrs. Christine Sawicki, Chief Academic Officer and Mrs. Linda Yosay, Chief of Student Services discussed the plans for scholars that may have been disengaged during the pandemic. CEO Jennings stated that there is a tremendous amount of support being provided from parent engagement coordinators, student advocates, truancy officers and school police officers. PBIS planning for next year was discussed with an emphasis on the need for PBIS incentives for high school scholars. The need for specific documentation about the virtual school plan for parents and the criteria to attend was expressed along with a request for a teacher to be on the virtual school planning team. It was also requested for detailed district attendance data breakdown for scholars returning back to in person and remote learners, which is available via building principal in Tableau and teachers via Illuminate every Monday.

VIII. **Extended Learning Plan**

CEO Jennings stated that the extended learning plan can be found on the district website. Mrs. Sawicki, CAO provided an overview of the plan which details the academic needs and social emotional support of district scholars for Spring/Summer2021 and the following two years. Overall the district is looking at utilizing data through assessments to meet the needs of all scholars on all levels. A professional development day has been established to meet the needs of scholars. The state support team and instructional coaches will assist and guide teachers in looking at data to prepare appropriate instruction during the summer.
Summer enrichment 2021 will be Monday through Wednesday (K-8) and Thursday & Friday will be academic enrichment days partnering with local organizations. Pre-K will be Mondays through Wednesdays, their academic and enrichment will be blended together. High school scholars will be able to attend Monday – Thursday with the option to pick based upon their needs morning or afternoon with academic, enrichment opportunities and/or credit recovery. Dr. Hoffmaster shared her appreciation for the delivery of partnership with outside agencies to address the whole child and that it is directly aligned with the strategic plan.

IX. ESSER Discussion and Plan
CEO Jennings, Ava Yeager, Chief of School Improvement provided an overview of how ESSER funds are being planning and spent.
ESSER 1 – Fully funded and encumbered. Documentation was sent to YADC members, funds were spent on technology, internet access for scholars at home, etc.
ESSER 2 – Fully funded, $22.3 million. Using funds for summer enrichment. CEO Jennings stated that the monies will not be spent on items that are not sustainable. Buildings are equipped with what they need. Focus on things that are sustainable. Areas of budgeting focus were Academics, Technology, Business, Maintenance, Nursing and Student Services.

Dr. Richard agreed and was glad to hear that funds will not be spent on items that are not sustainable. Discussion continued with Mrs. Cotton, Mrs. Yosay & Dr. McGee & Mrs. Yeager regarding funds being used towards SEL program, academic support, specifically EL support, and intervention specialists. It was also discuss to increase the ability of the general education teachers to work collaboratively with intervention specialists to develop strategies to meet the needs of all scholars more effectively. The goal is intensify training next year.

X. YADC Financial Advisory Committee Update
Dr. McGee provided an update on the FAC committee sharing the purpose and intent, which is advisory in nature. The last meeting that was held was attended by FAC members Ben McGee, Germaine Bennett, Lewis Macklin, Brian Rela, Jerome Williams, Justin Jennings, Arthur Ginnetti and Ava Yeager (Note: Dr. Hoffmaster did not attend). Dr. McGee shared topics that were discussed during the meeting. Dr. Richard thanked the committee for their work and how helpful the committee has been for transparency and understanding.

XI. District Financial Update
Arthur Ginnetti, CFO/Treasurer provided an overview of the revenue and expenses of the general fund and all funds for the past nine months. CEO Jennings looks forward to possible surplus of funds, by utilizing ESSER funds. He also commended Mr. Ginnetti & Mrs. Yeager for making sure the district spends grant funds first before using general funds.

XII. Acknowledgement of public participation comments – no comments were received.
In closing, Dr. Richard reiterated that the district Board of Education members will be invited to the next regular meeting. Also, the possibility of additional sub-committees; strategic plan and academics with members from the board of education participating. To further discuss, it will be planned to have a work session in May/June. All YADC members agreed that they should move forward to discuss the subcommittees in the work session.

Dr. Richard also posed the question to fellow YADC members of an interest of an in-person meeting in June or August. Dr. McGee shared that maybe gradually phase to in person as we return to a state of normalcy. Mrs. Cotton expressed concern and Dr. Hoffmaster was fine either way. The work session in May/June will be held virtually to further discuss.
XIII. Meeting adjourned at 6:42 p.m.
Motion by: B. McGee, Seconded by: M. Hoffmaster
Roll Call Vote:
Ayes: J. Richard, S. Cotton, M. Hoffmaster, B. McGee
Nays: None
Motion carried