YOUNGSTOWN CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
ACADEMIC DISTRESS COMMISSION & BOARD OF EDUCATION

YADC Members
Dr. John Richard, YADC Chair
Mrs. Selina Cotton
Dr. Maria Hoffmaster
Dr. Ben McGee
Anthony J. Farris, Office of the Attorney General

Board of Education Members
Ronald Shadd, School Board President
Jacqueline Adair
Tina Cvetkovich
Brenda Kimble
Tiffany Patterson
Juanita Walker
Jerome Williams

YADC & BOARD OF EDUCATION JOINT MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 16, 2021 ~ 4 P.M.

I. The Youngstown Academic Distress Commission meeting was called to order by Dr. John Richard, YADC Chairman at 4:01 p.m. via zoom video conference - Meeting ID: 974 7227 8416  Passcode: 456094 on Wednesday, June 16, 2021.

II. YADC Roll Call
Members present: Dr. John Richard, Mrs. Selina Cotton, Dr. Maria Hoffmaster, Dr. Ben McGee
Absent: None

III. Dr. Richard welcomed the Youngstown Board of Education members and Board President Ronald Shadd called the board meeting to order with roll call and the board approved the June 16, 2021 agenda.

IV. YADC Approval of June 16, 2021 meeting agenda
YADC Roll Call Vote
Motion by: M. Hoffmaster, Seconded by: B. McGee
Ayes: J. Richard, S. Cotton, M. Hoffmaster, B. McGee
Nays: None
Motion carried

V. YADC Approval of June 2, 2021 work session meeting minutes
YADC Roll Call Vote
Motion by: M. Hoffmaster, Seconded by: B. McGee
Ayes: J. Richard, S. Cotton, M. Hoffmaster, B. McGee
Nays: None
Motion carried
VI. Approval of April 19, 2021 meeting minutes

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

VII. Dr. Richard opened the meeting and welcomed the Youngstown Board of Education Members and expressed the goal of collaboratively working together. He provided the role of the YADC which is to 1) Hire the CEO and 2) Approve the strategic/improvement plan and review on annual basis. He explained that the YADC’s goal during meetings is to review portions of the plan along with the Financial Advisory Committee’s participation in reviewing financials of the district. Next, Board President Shadd shared the general format of the meeting, which is the presentation on the implementation of strategic plan major focus areas and follow-up questions by the YADC and YCSD Board members. Due to time constraints, if desired additional questions can be emailed and discussed at a later time.

VIII. The meeting continued with CEO Justin Jennings leading the power point slide presentation on the District Strategic Plan Implementation: Academic Improvement along with district leadership staff. (Refer to meeting materials)

Focus Area - Literacy
The first focus area was literacy was led by Mr. Aaron Bouie III, who has served as the principal at McGuffey elementary for the past two years. He outlined the work within the district regarding literacy. He shared the 5 year target goals along with the metrics of how the district evaluates and measures the progress within the buildings. He also shared the plan to attain the district literacy goals and the reading achievement plan (RAP) in detail. The following presenters provided the perspective of building level literacy work through the lens of a teacher (Krista Cala, Volney Rodgers Elementary kindergarten teacher) and principal (Mr. Robert Kearns, Chaney High School Principal & Mr. Bouie, McGuffey principal) and Dennis Yommer, English Language Learner (ELL) Coordinator provided a perspective through the lens of the ELL. John LaPlante, District Chief Information Officer presented the literacy data tools and reports used by district administrators and staff.

YADC and YCSD Board Members asked questions and discussed items pertaining to literacy with district leadership team participants which included, CEO Jennings, Mr. Bouie, Jennifer Walker, Curriculum Supervisor, Christine Sawicki, Chief Academic Officer, Mr. Yommer and Ava Yeager, Chief of School Improvement. The following topics were discussed:

- Request for baseline data in general – Statistically where were students vs. where they are now
- Cultural relevant reading material
- Measuring literacy – How is growth measured with NWEA testing?
- Funding for translators due to increase in ELL population
- Accredited classes schedule/Dual-certified teachers - Content/TESOL
- Utilizing universal best practices overall
- Monitoring fidelity systems by building level /district level and next steps
- Tier I & III interventions
Focus Area - Math
Mr. Kearns, Chaney Principal continued the presentation with the next focus area Math. He explained that literacy is very important and transcends into math and science. He spoke about the recent teacher clarity professional development, 8 mathematical practices embedded into instruction, interventions periods and math coaches. Emily Walker who is a district Preschool Supervisor shared that data is being collected in the subject area of math for district preschoolers. Preschool teachers use McGraw-Hill My Math for prekindergarten and it was expressed that all scholars that show a need for growth are provided intervention at choice time and/or rest period. Preschool teachers also participated in the teacher clarity professional development in order to enhance the learning of early mathematical practices.

YADC and YCSD Board Members asked questions and discussed items pertaining to math with district leadership team participants which included Mr. Kearns, CEO Jennings, and Christine Sawicki. The following items were discussed:

- Data to show growth in Math
- Intervention
- Measurement tools
- Additional math coaches
- Formative assessments/Creation of success criteria
- The infusion of math across the curriculum and all subjects

Focus Area - Science
Dr. Bridget Lambright-Tommello, district STEAM K-12 coordinator spoke about the importance of the teacher clarity professional development and the collaboration impact. The district is providing STEAM programming to all buildings and grades to support literacy, math and science through the arts. The STEAM program consists of partnerships, exposure and experiences.

Patricia Lyden, Assistant Principal Rayen Early College Middle School spoke about the role of building leadership to improve science achievement outcomes. Building administrators also participated in the teacher clarity professional development and recognized the need for OCBA science preparation for grades 5-8 and intentional planning for science instruction in the master schedule.

Mr. Yommer spoke about the science textbook adoption in which a committee of twenty (20) was formed from various grade levels and district staff. He spoke in detail about the needs and requirements from a district perspective, the initial review process, screening process, and final decision. It was determined that the resources for science will be updated and aligned with standards.

YADC and YCSD Board Members asked questions and discussed items pertaining to science with district leadership team participants which included Christine Sawicki, Jeremy Batchelor, Chief of Staff, and Dr. Lambright-Tommello. The following topics were discussed:

- Approved list of textbooks by the State Superintendent of Public instruction and the plan to consult parents, students and community about the adoption
- Computer technology and science curriculum within the district for all grades
- Teaching of science in a culturally competent/responsive perspective
- Robotics
- The need for keyboarding/typing skills and basic computer skills according to grade level

The presentation concluded and a possible work session was discussed for later this summer. YCSD and YADC members were told that if they had additional questions to submit via email.

IX. **District Financial Report**
Arthur Ginnetti, III Treasurer/Chief Financial Officer, presented the Five year forecast that was submitted in May 2021. He discussed in detail the revenue and expenditures for both actual and forecasted figures of the report. It was noted, that the 5 year forecast was to be sent to all members, due to the end of fiscal year and timing of meeting, CEO Jennings thought it was best to provide overview during meeting.

YADC and YCSD Board Members asked questions and discussed items pertaining to district finances with district leadership team participants which included CEO Jennings and Mr. Ginnetti. The following topics were discussed:
- The plan to put more funds in classroom instruction
- The need for tax levy renewal
- Clarification of ESSER funds, why is that not reflected in revenue/expenditures
- Plan for ESSER funds and impact
- How funds are used for the pandemic and delayed learning

X. **Dr. Richard** explained the themes of upcoming meetings which will cover the four (4) major areas of the strategic plan listed below:
   - August: Culture of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Excellence
   - October: School-Community Relations
   - December: Positive Environment that encourages responsibility

CEO Jennings requested the creation of a document for both YADC and YCSD members to submit their questions prior to future meetings and/or work sessions, so that everyone is on the same page.

XI. **Acknowledgement of public participation comments** submitted prior to meeting via email. Comments were received from Angelo Perruzzi, Jr. regarding monthly financial presentation from the Treasurer/CFO and the lack of general fund outstanding encumbrances at the month’s end along with the beginning and ending cash fund balances for all funds. The funding source and sustainability of the virtual academy; what happens when federal (ESSER funds) and state COVID 19 funding are exhausted.

XII. **At this time, the YADC members expressed congratulatory remarks to retiring Superintendent Joseph Meranto for his service to education for fifty (50) years.**
XIII. The Commission entered into executive session at 6:50 p.m. to consider the employment, promotion, demotion, compensation and/or discipline of public employees. For the purpose of the Chief Executive Officer’s contract of employment and evaluation cycle. It was announced that no formal action would take place.

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

XIV. Return to open meeting at 7:01 p.m.

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

XV. Meeting adjourned at 7:02 p.m.

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