YOUNGSTOWN CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
ACADEMIC DISTRESS COMMISSION

Members:
Dr. John Richard
Nicholas Santucci
Dr. Maria Hoffmaster
Dr. Ben McGee
Anthony J. Farris, Office of the Attorney General

ADC REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2019 ~ 5 P.M.
EAST HIGH SCHOOL - LIBRARY
474 BENNINGTON AVENUE, YOUNGSTOWN, OH 44505

I. The Youngstown Academic Distress Commission meeting was called to order at 5:02 p.m. on October 22, 2019 by Dr. John Richard, ADC Chair. The meeting was held in the library at East High School, 474 Bennington Avenue.

II. Roll Call

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<th>Present</th>
<th>Absent</th>
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<td>Dr. John Richard</td>
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<td>Nicholas Santucci</td>
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<td>Dr. Maria Hoffmaster</td>
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<td>Dr. Ben McGee</td>
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III. Approval of October 22, 2019 Agenda

Motion by: N. Santucci
Seconded by: M. Hoffmaster

Roll Call Vote:

<table>
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<td>Dr. John Richard</td>
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<td>Dr. Maria Hoffmaster</td>
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<td>Dr. Ben McGee</td>
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IV. Approval of August 16, 2019 Minutes

Motion by: N. Santucci
Seconded by: M. Hoffmaster

Roll Call Vote:

<table>
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<th>Yes</th>
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<td>Dr. John Richard</td>
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V. Dr. Richard opened the meeting and provided an update regarding O.R.C. 3302.11; the process of appointing a new school board. The nominating panel will consist of two (2) Mayoral appointees - Germaine Bennett and Thomas DeGenova, Building Principal - Jeremy Batchelor, Teacher (YEA appointee) - Jane Haggerty, Parent representative - Ricky Queener, District Chief Executive Officer – CEO Justin M. Jennings, Youngstown ADC Chair - Dr. John Richard and Panel Chair/State of Ohio Superintendent of Public Instruction – Superintendent Paolo DeMaria. The panel must nominate and submit at least 10 individuals to the Mayor of the city of Youngstown for consideration within 30 days. Potential names must be submitted by 11/1/19 and the list finalized by 11/7/2019. The Mayor will then make the decision of the actual appointees to the new board from the list provided from the nominating panel. Dr. Richard expressed that anyone with interest to submit their name.

VI. Dr. McGee provided an update from the Financial Advisory Committee (FAC). An overview of the last meeting that took place on August 27, 2019 was shared with the ADC members. (Refer to meeting materials.) The next committee meeting will be held December 3, 2019.

VII. A.J. Ginnetti, Treasurer provided an update of the district financial status. (Refer to meeting materials). ADC members and Mr. Ginnetti discussed general fund revenue, expenditures and federal funds. It was recommended to change the financial report format to one that provides a side by side comparison of actual and estimate figures.

VIII. Ava Yeager, Chief of School Improvement presented updates on federal program funding and alignment of the strategic emphasis in the area of governance, partnerships, diversity, equity and inclusion talent & leadership and data & accountability. (Refer to meeting materials.) She reported that there is now a grants council and that building administrators are involved with program design. ADC members discussed various aspects of funding, protocols for spending, inventory policies, English learner program, and impact and effectiveness of how funds are being spent etc.

IX. ADC members discussed the consideration of establishing sub-committees (curriculum & instruction; parent & community engagement) in addition to the financial advisory committee (FAC). Dr. Richard mentioned the consideration of sub-committees along with member’s respective backgrounds. ADC members discussed and shared their thoughts.

X. CEO Jennings provided an overview of his first 90 days (observations, areas of emphasis, and the improvement plan). He explained the reasoning for a district wide emphasis on literacy with scholars and truancy of scholars and employees. He discussed the need for process and procedures being established and followed, along with executive cabinet team visioning. He shared that in many instances it is hard to focus on academics with numerous adult issues. Discussion continued with ADC Members and CEO Jennings.

XI. CEO Jennings and ADC members continued discussion on root cause analysis. Over twenty (20) individuals from the district leadership team and state support team representatives are working together with a focus on literacy on all levels in developing a district Reading Academic Plan.
XII. Potential changes to the improvement plan were discussed amongst the ADC members & CEO Jennings. Dr. Richard mentioned in general he would like to begin to see what is being discovered within the district, alignment of district improvement plan and the implementation. CEO Jennings mentioned the effectiveness and adjustment of weekly state support calls, the importance of instructional rounds within the school buildings and his plan in the future to address after-school programs/club and what school buildings would like next year. More in-depth discussion will occur during the next meeting.

XIII. Public Comment:

- **Angelo Perruzzi Jr.,** community member and educational assistant – Provided comments regarding the district researching other urban schools districts of comparable size and seeing what works best. He suggested utilizing students’ grandparents as community stakeholders, funding of the CEO’s Innovative Education Program and the Board being blamed for the district not receiving a C or better, when the district was under the CEO’s authority. He also shared that under H.B. 70 the school district is in year 3 not year 4 and the actions taken by State Superintendent in the implementation of the nominating panel for the appointment of a new school board.

- **Paula Valenti,** 5th grader teacher and Vice-President of YEA- expressed her urge to speak in regards to the former CEO’s policy of teachers being rated high. She expressed her past concern of micro-management, constant criticism and also being uncomfortable with the statement about the percentage of teachers rated high. She implored for district leadership to listen to teachers and to quit attacking and to ask the teachers what is the problem, what is the struggle? In general, administrators need to support the teachers. CEO Jennings clarified that the statistic he mentioned was across the state.

- **Leesa Boyer,** Intervention specialist spoke about purchased services and need for classroom supply needs. District training in identifying dyslexia. After-school programing – kids dislike Lstation, but she found it very effective when planned her own.

- **Pamela Abbey,** ESL teacher made comments about the support for neighborhood model of schools and the support of the middle school model. She expressed for the district to stay with the neighborhood model and focus on literacy.

- **Regina Bernard,** Harding teacher made comments about her love for teaching as a title teacher and expressed the need for children to read aloud with an individual and really taking the time to address the needs of those students that do not receive special services.
XIV. Executive Session: The Commission entered into executive session at 6:55 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 and performance bonus. It was announced that no formal would take place open return to open session.

Motion by: M. Hoffmaster  
Seconded by: N. Santucci

Roll Call Vote:
Dr. John Richard  Yes  x  No  
Nicholas Santucci  Yes  x  No  
Dr. Maria Hoffmaster  Yes  x  No  
Dr. Ben McGee  Yes  x  No  

XV. Return to open meeting at approximately 7:30 p.m.

Motion by: N. Santucci  
Seconded by: M. Hoffmaster

Roll Call:
Dr. John Richard  Yes  x  No  
Nicholas Santucci  Yes  x  No  
Dr. Maria Hoffmaster  Yes  x  No  
Dr. Ben McGee  Yes  x  No  

XVI. Adjournment at approximately 7:31 p.m.

Motion by: N. Santucci  
Seconded by: M. Hoffmaster

Roll Call Vote:
Dr. John Richard  Yes  x  No  
Nicholas Santucci  Yes  x  No  
Dr. Maria Hoffmaster  Yes  x  No  
Dr. Ben McGee  Yes  x  No  

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