YOUNGSTOWN CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
ACADEMIC DISTRESS COMMISSION

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

Anthony J. Farris, Office of the Attorney General

YADC REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2021 ~ 5 P.M.

ZOOM VIDEO CONFERENCE MEETING
https://youngstown.zoom.us/j/92368718461?pwd=WE9YQzVJMW1KbkF2UUFmajRRejBjUT09
Meeting ID: 923 6871 8461 Passcode: 438993 Phone: 19294362866

I. The Youngstown Academic Distress Commission meeting was called to order by Dr. John Richard, YADC Chairman at 5:03 p.m. via zoom video conference on Monday, February 22, 2021.

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

III. Approval of February 22, 2021 meeting agenda
Motion by: M. Hoffmaster, Seconded by: B. McGee
Ayes: J. Richard, S. Cotton, M. Hoffmaster, B. McGee
Nays: None
Motion carried

IV. Dr. Richard opened the meeting and shared the meeting purpose and focus, which was to learn about the district’s plan for returning back to school and how spring testing will work into the plan. CEO Justin Jennings shared the district’s plan to return back to school (Hybrid, Full In-Person) with a presentation entitled “Youngstown City Schools COVID Reopening Plan” (Refer to meeting artifact.) CEO Jennings referenced the CDC’s recommendation for reopening schools and shared the three phases of the plan which included:
- Phase I (A & B): Details of in-person return of scholars/hybrid plan for all scholars. It was noted that families will be given the choice to return to in person school or remain remote. YADC members and CEO Jennings discussed matters in relation to teachers and staff receiving the 2nd dose of COVID19 vaccine to make sure return dates aligned with immunity.
- Phase II – Recovery & extended learning plan/summer enrichment plans, middle school transition, VPA enrichment camps and summer seniors. YADC members continued to discuss topics including: summer programs availability to all scholars. COVID19 safety guidelines and procedures within the building for both staff and scholars, teacher involvement in planning the return back and related services. It was encouraged for the district to reach out to other school districts in the state for guidance in reopening. It was also suggested to involve the participation of administrators and teachers in utilizing data from attendance and assessment/testing to prepare the summer learning plan to address the gap in learning due to the pandemic and in developing the appropriate plan for professional development.
- Phase III – 2021-2022 school district realignment (PreK – 5, 6-8 middle schools and 9-12 high schools), alternative school transition and virtual school option. YADC members and CEO Jennings discussed various aspects and protocols of the virtual school, reconfiguration, incorporation of new graduation requirements and basic technology/keyboarding skills for scholars, transportation/bussing, staffing and communication of procedures for safe COVID19 practices in supporting all district scholars and their families.

- Spring Assessment Plan – CEO Jennings provided an overview of testing dates for Spring 2021 (refer to meeting artifact).

V. **Financial Advisory Committee Update** - Dr. McGee thanked Tina Cvetkovich, school board member and current school board vice president for her past service to the committee and welcomed Jerome Williams, school board member as the board representative to the financial advisory committee. Dr. McGee provided the purpose of the committee which is of advisory nature. He shared meeting topics of discussion from their last meeting which was May 29, 2020. The topics covered were, school district funding cut because of the pandemic, CARES Act funding, utility savings, internet service for scholars, purchased services, reduction in personnel cost, testing/assessment protocols and interventions, 5 year forecast update, levy renewal passage, technology budget, grants council, student enrollment and attendance and the district audit. The next committee meeting will be scheduled sometime in April 2021 and the committee will focus on district funding being linked to the strategic plan and implementation.

VI. **District Financial Update** – Arthur Ginnetti III, District Chief Financial Officer/Treasurer provided an update regarding district finances. He clarified and reported that the initial budget cut of approximately 862K was restored by an executive order in which some of the funds were restored. This occurred after the last financial advisory committee meeting. The actual cut was reduced for fiscal year 2021. Revenue and expenditure amounts were reported for November 2020 and December 2020 with focus on bureau workers compensation repayment, insurance premium holidays and three pay month. YADC members, Mr. Ginnetti and CEO Jennings discussed the current use and future plans for ESSER funds, making sure funding funds were sustained and used throughout the funding time period. A plan/budget was requested to see how the funding will be utilized for reopening schools and especially within the areas of Phases II and III with alignment to the strategic plan. CEO Jennings briefly shared the breakdown of wellness monies received by the district and the future openings of two additional community clinics within school buildings.

VII. **Future Meeting Dates** – Dr. Richard suggested that the financial advisory committee set their meeting date first sometime in mid April so that the regular YADC meeting could be scheduled following that meeting.

VIII. **Acknowledgement of public participation comments** – no comments were received.

IX. Meeting adjourned at 6:25 p.m.
Motion by: B. McGee, Seconded by: M. Hoffmaster
Ayes: J. Richard, S. Cotton, M. Hoffmaster, B. McGee
Nays: None
Motion carried