

# YOUNGSTOWN CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT ACADEMIC DISTRESS COMMISSION

## *Members:*

Dr. John Richard

Nicholas Santucci

Vincent Shivers

Dr. Maria Hoffmaster

Anthony J. Farris, Office of the Attorney General

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## **WORK SESSION & MEETING MINUTES**

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2018, 1:00 P.M.**

**YOUNGSTOWN RAYEN EARLY COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL**

**I. The Youngstown Academic Distress Commission meeting was called to order at 1:11 p.m. by Dr. John Richard, Chair. The meeting was held at Youngstown Rayen Early College High School at 20 W. Wood Street.**

<b>II. Roll Call</b>	<i>Present</i>	<i>Absent</i>
Dr. John Richard	— x —	_____
Nicholas Santucci	— x —	_____
Vincent Shivers	— x —	_____
Dr. Maria Hoffmaster	— x —	_____

**III. Approval of November 27, 2018 Agenda**

*Motion by: M. Hoffmaster*

*Seconded by: N. Santucci*

*Roll Call Vote:*

Dr. John Richard	Yes	— x —	No	_____
Nicholas Santucci	Yes	— x —	No	_____
Vincent Shivers	Yes	— x —	No	_____
Dr. Maria Hoffmaster	Yes	— x —	No	_____

**IV. Approval of September 27, 2018 meeting minutes**

*Motion by: M. Hoffmaster*

*Seconded by: N. Santucci*

*Roll Call Vote:*

Dr. John Richard	Yes	— x —	No	_____
Nicholas Santucci	Yes	— x —	No	_____
Vincent Shivers	Yes	— x —	No	_____
Dr. Maria Hoffmaster	Yes	— x —	No	_____

**V. Approval of October 23, 2018 meeting minutes**

*Motion by: M. Hoffmaster*

*Seconded by: N. Santucci*

*Roll Call Vote:*

Dr. John Richard	Yes	<u>  x  </u>	No	_____
Nicholas Santucci	Yes	<u>  x  </u>	No	_____
Vincent Shivers	Yes	<u>  x  </u>	No	_____
Dr. Maria Hoffmaster	Yes	<u>  x  </u>	No	_____

**VI. Approval of October 29, 2018 meeting minutes**

*Motion by: M. Hoffmaster*

*Seconded by: N. Santucci*

*Roll Call Vote:*

Dr. John Richard	Yes	<u>  x  </u>	No	_____
Nicholas Santucci	Yes	<u>  x  </u>	No	_____
Vincent Shivers	Yes	<u>  x  </u>	No	_____
Dr. Maria Hoffmaster	Yes	<u>  x  </u>	No	_____

**VII.** The meeting began with Dr. Richard stating the purpose of the meeting which was primarily for ADC members to better understand the financials of the district for educational and fiscal purposes. The financials were discussed during the work session portion of the meeting and then regular meeting updates were presented. The meeting format of the work session was held in a conversational format in which ADC members, Krish Mohip; CEO and A.J. Ginnetti; Deputy Chief of Finance participated. Detailed information was shared with the ADC members and follow-up discussion took place on the following topics which included:

- Review of FY-16 through FY18 actuals
- Operating transfers out/in; Advances out
- Personnel services & benefits
- Purchased services
- Supplies & materials
- Capital outlay
- Unreserved fund balance

The meeting discussion continued with Dr. Hoffmaster questioning if it was permissible for the ADC to create a financial sub-committee? Dr. Richard mentioned that it is usually best practice within a school district to have finance advisory committee. Dr. Richard expressed that in wanting to be as transparent as possible and in preparing for the transition to a new CEO, he proposed the idea that the ADC develop the financial advisory committee and work with Mr. Mohip and Mr. Ginnetti. ADC members, Mr. Mohip and Mr. Ginnetti agreed that the formation should be established. Dr. Richard commented that this would allow for greater transparency and suggested that the committee consist of 1-2 ADC members, 1-2 Board members and 3 community members. The ADC members discussed that the committee could work to set-up their meetings accordingly. Dr. Richard asked Atty. Farris if this is legally permissible. Atty. Farris responded that the creation of the finance committee is legally within the authority of the ADC. Atty. Farris also clarified in doing so there has to be a formal motion and that at the next meeting

a motion for this action could take place to formalize the creation of the committee and that there will have to be some type of formal motion to appoint individuals to the financial advisory committee. Dr. Richard said there will be ongoing discussion on the particulars in establishing the committee further and getting the necessary information out to the community, so that individuals that may have interest in being on the committee can do so.

Meeting Break 2:56 p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 3:08 p.m.

- VIII.** The meeting continued with regular meeting updates. Mr. Mohip briefly shared the changes and updates of the goals of the Youngstown Strategic Plan. He then had several district team members present updates on district school improvement plan updates and updates on content standards alignment and classroom instruction.

Andrea Laundermilt, Chaney High School Dean, presented PBIS updates (Positive behavioral interventions and supports). She reported that the district is on the right track, we are focusing on the positives not just the negatives. She shared the process of collaboration between teacher, student, and dean in revamping the total school culture and how the district is diminishing negative behaviors with positive culture. She said it also important to look at data to see how we can adjust the culture of our buildings and classrooms.

She referred to House Bill 318 in relation to how we have to stay committed to the process. She stated that each school has a monthly PBIS meeting. The full PBIS rollout is expected in January and she explained the different levels of participation and getting everyone to buy in to the rollout. Dr. Hoffmaster also shared highlights that she heard about regarding student outcomes at Williamson that there was a 73% reduction of DRFs (Discipline Referral forms) over a 4 year period. Christine Sawicki, Chief of Academic Officer stated that the goal is to have our buildings qualify in order to apply for PBIS award status. Mr. Mohip commented that we are improving and we still have significant disciplinary issues, but there is a shift in how adults are responding.

The next update was from Joe Meranto, District Superintendent who presented highlights on wrap around services and the various partnerships that were being done in the district. He spoke on the behalf of Pat Lowry, Director of Strategic Initiatives on the several ongoing district projects such as vision screenings for all students, 8 weeks of swimming lessons for all 2<sup>nd</sup> grade students at no cost, asthma screenings, dental screenings and flu vaccines to both students and employees. He explained various partnerships and expanded services with Choffin Career and Technical Center, City of Youngstown, Mercy Health and Americorp Vista workers. The vision is to have all of these services in 1 or 2 district buildings with these services and more from various providers to serve our community. Mr. Meranto is also speaking with smaller school districts on expanded shared services through food service, transportation, career tech. He mentioned the increase in attendance and opportunities the past few years of students going to Camp Fitch for student enrichment. Dr. Richard applauded Mr. Meranto for his efforts of seeking direct benefits and programs to the students at no cost. Meranto mentioned that there are people that want to help the district and he also thanked Mr. Mohip for his work.

Lori Kopp – Director of Student Services, announced that the district was cleared from the OCE corrective plan. She explained that the effort was done by the entire district, this was a team effort on every level. Dr. Richard applauded her and congratulated the team that is actually in the classroom. He said this is extremely good news. She said moving forward there are so many good things now in place that will stay in place now and in the future. Mr. Mohip applauded Lori Kopp and Linda Yosay and the teams directly support the classroom. He also expressed that the district will continue what is in place now. Special Education incorporates all areas and is at the forefront of decision making. This is truly a relief.

The next meeting update was on content standards alignment and classroom instruction. Maria Pappas, Chief of Core Curriculum shared updates on district professional development and the alignment to the Strategic Plan. She explained that goal of professional development and that this would be delivered with waiver days. Instructional framework specialists Stephanie Blöse; YREC and Jodi Kosek; Volney and Wilson presented on the sequences of professional development and what is presented during a typical professional development session. Ms. Kosek spoke on the Professional Development Sequence Round One which introduces the Standards Based Planning, ODE Blueprint, Deconstruction Process and Curriculum. She continued to explain the Professional Development Sequence- Round Two which involves Depth of Knowledge (DOK) Deep Dive, Review of Standards Based Planning and Deconstruction Process and Curriculum Mapping. Ms. Blöse present professional development Sequence - Round Three involves DOK Connections, Air Blue prints & Testing Specification, Review of Deconstruction Process and Curriculum Mapping. (Refer to meeting artifact, power point presentation). Dr. Hoffmaster expressed that she was excited that the district is on the right path. Hoffmaster asked if we will go deeper on the balance assessment. Ms. Pappas responded that with assessments now being done we will look into doing this in January.

The next presentation was from a teacher's perspective on professional development. Marc Ellis, 3<sup>rd</sup> grade McGuffey teacher shared his perspective on deconstruction and gaining a clear picture of a learning standard. He explained that it was great to hear and gain other teachers perspective. He mentioned that he doesn't like to be out of the classroom, and really appreciates the waiver days for professional development. He said with the waiver day a teacher is mentally present in the professional development and not worrying about their classroom and its good having principals apart of the process. He mentioned he liked the grade level band leaders.

Dr. Richard commented that he knows this work can be difficult, but wanted to know the impact and what Mr. Ellis' perspective of this professional development, is this making a difference with our students, teachers, etc.? Ellis responded that it is becoming purposeful and meaningful, it forces him to think to look down the road. It gives a clear vision of what is needed for district alignment. It is hard but it is good to have other teachers around especially on the waiver day. Everyone is there to support, the IFS followed up with him. Christine Sawicki, Chief Academic Officer mentioned how the professional development is trickling down to the student level. She provided an example during an observation on learning tour where kids wanted to tell them about their data and goals.

Next presentation was a principal's' perspective on the professional development in which Debbie DiFrancesco, Principal of REC commented on the recent waiver day. She explained that how enriching it is to hear the academic talk and participation amongst the teachers. The teachers have embraced it, she is really proud of the teachers. She shared details about the role of the principal in the process in making everything connect. She stated that in the past there wasn't always follow through, she said this is not happening now Mr. Mohip is about checking back and following up or providing resources for help and getting you answers if you need support so that everyone can do their best. This last professional development has been impactful and very passionate.

Dr. Richard explained to the audience that this is a critical piece within the district in regards to standards alignment and classroom instruction and that he loves the support and applauded the team for their work. Dr. Richard thanked Mr. Mohip on his responsiveness to the ADC members' questions regarding standards alignment and that he wanted to continue to hear from the teachers and building level leadership. Mohip stated that he is proud of the teachers and commented on the good work of Marc Ellis. Mohip commented on the balanced assessment in that the tools are in place, we are working collaborative with data, assessments and creation of interim assessments. Ms. Kosek, IFS who has been in the district for sixteen years wanted to share that the deconstruction process has been so much different. She agreed it is purposeful and meaningful. There is more cohesion with the teachers.

**IX.** Public Comment Period: *(Comments must pertain to the district school improvement plan or meeting agenda item; 5 minutes per person, 30 minutes maximum in total)*

Angelou Peruzzi, Jr.: He was advised by Ohio Department of Education per email on Nov. 7, 2018 by Dr. Franklin to submit his concerns to the ADC members. He wanted to know why the ADC members have not directed the CEO to request for state funding for innovation education program grant both current and retro-active. He felt that if the CEO would have applied for the funding the following actions could have been avoided 1.) Reduction of general fund encumbered balance from 6/30/17 – 6/30/18 2.) Recent staff reductions in which positions deal directly with school culture and climate/restorative justice.

He also mentioned that he would like the ADC members to require the next CEO to have knowledge of 1.) Ohio School Law 2.) Ask the next CEO candidate, how they can make Youngstown City School Students care about their education 3.) Include grandparents as community stakeholders.

Dr. Richard thanked Mr. Peruzzi for his questions and comments and mentioned that he will follow-up with a response. Mr. Shivers asked Mr. Peruzzi, what was his background? Peruzzi responded that he was a former state auditor's office and board member for Gateway for better living.

