



**CITY OF YPSILANTI AND  
YPSILANTI SCHOOL BOARD JOINT MEETING MINUTES  
SENIOR CITIZENS CENTER  
1015 N. CONGRESS, YPSILANTI, MI 48197  
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2008  
7:30 P.M.**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 7:32 p.m.

**II. ROLL CALL**

Council Member Filipiak	Present	Council Member Robb	Present
Council Member Gawlas	Present	Mayor Pro-Tem Swanson	Absent
Council Member Nickels	Present	Mayor Schreiber	Present
Council Member Richardson	Absent		

**MEMBERS OF THE YPSILANTI BOARD OF EDUCATION:**

President David Bates, Vice-President Linda Snedecar-Horne, Trustee Floyd Brumfield, Trustee Sarah Devaney, Trustee Andy Fanta, Trustee Tom Reiber and Trustee Eric Temple

**III. INVOCATION**

Mayor Schreiber asked all to stand for a moment of silence.

**IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

"I pledge allegiance to the flag, of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

**V. INTRODUCTIONS**

Mayor Schreiber introduced himself and asked members of the Ypsilanti School Board, City Council and city staff to introduce themselves.

Present in the audience were Human Resources Executive Director John Fulton, Director of Auxiliary Programs Bob Wilkinson, Supervisor of Transportation Bob Oliver, and Housing Commission Executive Director Walter Norris.

**AGENDA APPROVAL**

The agenda was approved as presented.

**VI. PRESENTATIONS**

There were no presentations.

**VIII. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

Mayor Schreiber read the rules for audience participation. There were no public comments.

**IX. REMARKS BY THE MAYOR**

Mayor Schreiber stated that he was glad to have the joint meeting because it provides a time for both the City and School Board to discuss mutual interests. He suggested meeting on an annual basis.

**X. REMARKS BY THE SCHOOL BOARD PRESIDENT**

President Bates thanked City Council and staff for their efforts to work with the School District and for their attendance in such inclement weather.

**XI. RESOLUTIONS/MOTIONS/DISCUSSIONS:**

**CITY OF YPSILANTI**

- Mansfield Street Improvements
- Shared parks (i.e. Parkridge, Prospect, Recreation)
- Truancy Ordinance
- Enhancing Local Government Class
- Youth Participation on the Recreation Commission

▪ Mansfield Street Improvements

Mayor Schreiber said the City, Township and Road Commission are all responsible for portions of Mansfield Street and complaints are received by the City for the condition of the street. He asked that the district provide a letter of support to improve street conditions that could be sent to the township and road commission. After discussion, Mayor Schreiber stated the City Council would draft a resolution and send it to the school district and the township.

Topics Included: Residents concerned about speed control after the street is fixed, traffic calming devices, federal funding, sidewalks, curbing and safety issues, collaborative design for improvements, the traffic pattern at West Middle School, and bond improvements. City Manager Koryzno indicated that he will attend a Bond Committee meeting in the near future.

▪ Shared Parks

Mayor Schreiber stated the city and school district share the use of Recreation and Prospect Park and the school district owns a portion of Parkridge Park. He said he would like the council and school board to discuss shared responsibility for these parks. Superintendent Hawkins suggested a subcommittee be formed to meet and dialogue on ways to support one another and the limitations involved. City Manager Koryzno said he will contact Dr. Hawkins to facilitate a meeting.

Topics Included: Using the jail work program and probation program to provide a work force for park maintenance through community service, including the Housing Commission in discussion of Parkridge Park maintenance, increasing Chapelle students use of Recreation Park, and concern about court appointed felons working near school buildings.

▪ Truancy Ordinance

Superintendent Hawkins reported that Ypsilanti Township had adopted a truancy ordinance that fined students who were skipping school. He stated this had reduced the number of secondary students leaving the district schools during the day. He asked if it was possible for the city to adopt a similar ordinance. City Manager Koryzno said the city attorney had prepared a truancy ordinance and Police Chief Harshberger has reviewed it.

Topics included: Who will enforce the ordinance, a provision to allow for home schooled students, and a timeline for possible adoption.

▪ Youth Participation on Recreation Commission

Mayor Schreiber said the newly expanded Recreation Commission had room for three youths to serve the community through public service. He said this was a great opportunity and asked the district to help the city find interested candidates. Superintendent Hawkins said he had talked to the Student Council President and she had suggested the Mayor visit the school and talk to students to generate interest.

**YPSILANTI SCHOOL BOARD**

- Quarterly Report – State of the Schools – Superintendent James Hawkins
- Real Estate Update – Superintendent Hawkins
  - Fletcher Property
  - Bus Garage
- Board President’s Report – David Bates

Quarterly Report – State of the Schools

Superintendent James Hawkins provided a status report on the Ypsilanti Public Schools. His report covered the following topics: the district budget deficit of \$14.3 million dollars over the past three years and how programs have been maintained in the face of reduced state funding, partnerships with the University of Michigan, Eastern Michigan University, and Washtenaw Community College, the bond issue work that recently began in the district, the hiring of Gretchen Reist, Technology Director, the work of Emma Jackson, Public Relations Director, a positive relationship has been established with district unions, increased student achievement, Corene Harris, a YHS student who served as a page for Congressman John Dingell, the new Montessori Program at Perry CDC, the Air Force Jr. ROTC Program that will begin at Ypsilanti High School in Fall 2008, the successful School of Choice Program, the creation of a new mascot, and the construction of a new bus garage.

Real Estate Update

Dr. Hawkins reported the Regional Career Technical Center home will be completed and ready for sale at the end of this school year. He said the city will generate tax revenue from this house and three more houses are planned on the property near Fletcher School.

Dr. Hawkins also thanked City Manager Koryzno for the help the district received from the city to erect the Boys Track Championship signs throughout the city.

## Board President's Report

President David Bates said the Board of Education has a goal of a vibrant school district in a vibrant city. He said the district is doing an outstanding job educating students while continuing to face financial challenges. President Bates stated he would appreciate meeting on a regular basis with City Council to find ways to work together. He thanked council members for working with the Board of Education and said he looked forward to continuing the partnership.

### **XII. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CITY MANAGER**

Mr. Koryzno said he appreciates the opportunity to meet quarterly with Superintendent Hawkins, Board President Bates and Mayor Schrieber and looks forward to a continued cooperative relationship.

### **XIII. COUNCIL PROPOSED BUSINESS**

City Council and members of the Board of Education had an opportunity to speak about future propositions. Topics included: a city truancy ordinance, a recycling program in the school district, appreciation for the opportunity to meet together, a future subcommittee to study operational opportunities, signs to honor students in the arts and academic areas, joint purchasing, safety issues on Mansfield street, shared parks, encouragement for more consolidation and cooperation between the city and township, Rutherford Pool, the Ypsilanti Wireless project, the Ypsilanti Public School Foundation, youth participation on the Recreation Commission.

### **XIV. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR**

Mayor Schreiber reported the city is participating in the Eastern Leaders group and the first project will be a small business incubator in downtown Ypsilanti. He also said the group had solicited a joint solid waste bid but found it cheaper to have separate operations at this time. The Mayor also mentioned the two Downtown Development Authorities that exist in the city to attract new business. Mayor Schreiber explained the city is a member of the regional police authority study group and also pool resources in a regional fire district. In conclusion, the Mayor reported the city is working hard to try and turn around the Parkview apartment complex with the help of John Dingell.

### **XV. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

Topics included: the possibility of a joint bus garage and Department of Public Works facility, and buying fuel for district and city vehicles at a reduced rate.

### **XVI. REMARKS FROM THE MAYOR**

Mayor Schreiber asked City Manager Koryzno to address the bus garage/DPW facility. Mr. Koryzno stated money was the primary hurdle but was interested in discussion regarding joint purchase of gasoline. Mayor Schreiber said the quarterly meetings with the Superintendent, Board President and City Manager would continue and suggested the City Council and Board of Education meet on an annual basis.

### **XVII. REMARKS FROM THE SCHOOL BOARD PRESIDENT**

President Bates thanked City Council for meeting and said he looked forward to continuing to work together and ask questions of one another.

**XVIII. ADJOURNMENT**

- A. Resolution No. 2008-024, adjourning the Joint Meeting.

**RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI and  
THE YPSILANTI SCHOOL BOARD:**

That, the Joint Meeting be adjourned, on call, by the Mayor or two (2) members of the Council or School Board.

OFFERED BY: Council Member Nickels

SUPPORTED BY: Council Member Gawlas

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:32 p.m.