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# STATE OF INDIANA

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DISTRESSED UNIT APPEAL BOARD



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## Distressed Unit Appeal Board Meeting Memorandum

March 31, 2021

**Call to Order:** A meeting of the Distressed Unit Appeal Board (“DUAB” or “Board”) was held March 31, 2021, at 11:00 a.m. EDT via WebEx. Members of the Board attending the meeting include Justin McAdam, Chairman, Wes Bennett, Tracy Brown, Paul Joyce, and Rebecca Kubacki. Courtney Schaafsma, Executive Director, was also in attendance.

Ms. Schaafsma informed the Board that Mr. Joyce would be leading the meeting until Chairman McAdam joins. Mr. Joyce called the meeting to order and recognized compliance with the Open Door Law.

Mr. Joyce introduced agenda item three – Approval of Minutes. Mr. Bennett moved the minutes be approved. Ms. Kubacki seconded the motion. The motion passed (4-0).

Mr. Joyce introduced agenda item four – Contract Approval by Executive Director. Ms. Schaafsma presented the contract for E.C. Babilla Roofing. Mr. Joyce asked if there was need for Board approval and she responded that there is not as it falls within her authority. Mr. Joyce asked about the timeline and Mr. Rob Tanner responded that the work would begin soon.

Mr. Joyce introduced agenda item five – Public Comment.

Mr. Clifton Brown informed the Board that he is proud of the progress being made and is proud to support GCSC.

Mr. Michael Ensign expressed his disappointment in the transportation bid process on behalf of First Student.

Ms. GlenEva Dunham expressed her frustration with the current management team. She stated that there is a lack of collaboration and urged the Board to find out what is really going on in Gary schools on a daily basis.

Ms. Lisa Jones stated that she is a resident and former student of GCSC. She informed the board of her excitement surrounding the forthcoming vaccination site and the renovations she saw while at the school for basketball regionals.

Dr. Michaela Spangenburg expressed her concern surrounding MGT’s interference in the function of the advisory board.

Mr. Joyce introduced agenda item six – Gary Community School Corporation Manager Update. Dr. Paige McNulty congratulated the boys’ basketball team on going to semi-state. She updated the Board on teachers receiving their new laptops through grant funds, the installation of safety checks at each school, and their partnership with IUN. She also provided updates on student job shadowing opportunities and the

referendum ambassador program. She noted that the school calendar has been finalized and a new survey has been sent to families about reentry. Mr. Bennett asked about the referendum ambassador committee and Dr. McNulty clarified that the groups will be decided after meeting with the ambassadors.

Ms. Kimberly Bradley presented the academic update and outlines progress on the Path Forward. Ms. Kubacki asked if there were plans for additional summer school programs to help fill learning gaps and Ms. Bradley responded that there are plans for extended programming. Chairman McAdam asked how the assessment data compares to other districts in the area and Ms. Bradley answered that GCSC's numbers are in line with what other schools are experiencing. Chairman McAdam asked if any other area districts are experiencing enrollment increases and Dr. McNulty said she would look into that. Mr. Joyce asked if there would be long term impacts from virtual learning and Ms. Bradley responded that there will be an impact and noted ways to mitigate the severity.

Mr. Tanner presented an update on the School Improvement Fund plan. Chairman McAdam asked how many roofs will be left after these contracts and Mr. Tanner overviewed the remaining projects. Mr. Joyce asked about utilizing federal funds and Mr. Eric Parish clarified how they are pursuing additional funds. Mr. Bennett asked if they are creating a legacy document for the future maintenance of the buildings and Mr. Tanner answered that they are having conversations around future maintenance.

Chairman McAdam introduced agenda item seven – Consideration of GCSC Roofing Contracts. Mr. Joyce made a motion that the Board approve the contracts as presented. Mr. Bennett seconded the motion. The motion passed (5-0).

Chairman McAdam announced that Senator Eddie Melton will be joining DUAB as an advisory member.

Chairman McAdam introduced agenda item eight – GCSC Fiscal Update. Mr. Ricardo Cepin presented the Viable Deficit Reduction Plan update. Chairman McAdam congratulated them on their accomplishments so far. Mr. Eric Parish provided information on how the referendum will impact the deficit. Chairman McAdam asked Mr. Bennett if the debt load is unusual for a school this size and Mr. Bennett answered that any healthy school system is making upgrades and expansions. Mr. Parish added that a year ago GCSC was in the 70th percentile for per student debt load. Ms. Nicole Wolverton presented the 2021 Cash Flow Forecast, Five-Year Fiscal Forecast, and Budget vs. Actual Update. Mr. Joyce asked why they are limiting the 15 percent transfer from the education fund to the operations fund and Ms. Wolverton gave context to that decision. Mr. Bennett asked about revenue calculations and Ms. Wolverton explained how the predictions were determined. Mr. Bennett asked how conservative those numbers are and Ms. Wolverton noted that they tend to be more conservative. Chairman McAdam confirmed that the tuition support estimates are conservative and Ms. Wolverton agreed.

Chairman McAdam introduced agenda item nine – GCSC Outreach Updates. Mr. Cepin presented updates on the dashboard.

Chairman McAdam introduced agenda item ten – Consideration of GCSC Transportation Contract. Dr. McNulty presented the contract. Ms. Kubacki asked how long the standard contract was and Dr. McNulty answered that this is an extension on a three-year contract. Ms. Kubacki asked if there are other companies that provide this service and Dr. McNulty confirmed that there are. Mr. Bennett asked what will happen in a year and Dr. McNulty answered that they will explore their options. Ms. Kubacki made a motion that the contract be approved as presented. Mr. Bennett seconded the motion. Mr. Joyce thanked everyone for the work they did to look through the contract and make sure expectations were being met. The motion passed (5-0).

Chairman McAdam asked if there was any other new business and seeing none adjourned the meeting.