
STATE OF INDIANA

DISTRESSED UNIT APPEAL BOARD



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Distressed Unit Appeal Board Meeting Memorandum

May 7, 2021

Call to Order: A meeting of the Distressed Unit Appeal Board (“DUAB” or “Board”) was held on May 7, 2021, at 9:00 a.m. EDT via WebEx. Members of the Board attending the meeting include Justin McAdam, Chairman, Wes Bennett, Tracy Brown, Paul Joyce, Rebecca Kubacki, Representative Jeff Thompson, Senator Liz Brown, and Senator Eddie Melton. Courtney Schaafsma, Executive Director, was also in attendance.

Chairman McAdam called the meeting to order and recognized compliance with the Open Door Law.

Chairman McAdam introduced agenda item three – Public Comment.

Mr. Robert Buggs expressed his concern about the size and source of the stipend. He suggested the Board offer raises instead of stipends.

Dr. Michaela Spangenburg recognized Mr. Buggs concerns but ultimately stated she supports the stipends. She noted that she wishes teachers were receiving more but is glad to see paraprofessionals being included.

Chairman McAdam introduced agenda item four – Consideration of Gary Community School Corporation’s Memorandum of Understanding on Teacher and Paraprofessional Stipends. Dr. Paige McNulty presented the MOU on the stipends and noted that the teachers had already received a raise through the referendum funds as previously promised. Mr. Nathan Williamson gave further explanation of the federal funds that would serve as the funding source for the stipends. Chairman McAdam asked if this has been a collaborative effort with the teachers and Dr. McNulty confirmed. Sen. Melton asked about the timeline and Dr. McNulty stated that the checks could be picked up as early as today. Sen. Melton expressed his thanks for expediting this process. Chairman McAdam stated that it is great to have Sen. Melton back on the Board. Ms. Tracy Brown made a motion that the MOU be approved as presented. Mr. Joyce seconded the motion. The motion passed (5-0).

Chairman McAdam asked if there was any other new business. Mr. Bennett requested information about a particular student’s achievements be shared at the next meeting. Sen. Melton requested more information on federal funding be shared at the next meeting.

Chairman McAdam adjourned the meeting.