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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

May 13, 2021

**Call to Order:** A meeting of the Distressed Unit Appeal Board (“DUAB” or “Board”) was held May 13, 2021, at 10:00 a.m. EDT via WebEx. Members of the Board attending the meeting include Justin McAdam, Chairman, Wes Bennett, Tracy Brown, Paul Joyce, Rebecca Kubacki, and Representative Jeff Thompson. 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 – Approval of Minutes. Mr. Bennett made a motion that the March 31, 2021, and May 7, 2021, minutes be approved as presented. Ms. Kubacki seconded the motion. The motion passed (5-0).

Chairman McAdam introduced agenda item four – Public Comment.

Ms. Josetta Shropshire expressed her frustration with the handling of Roosevelt High School. She noted that her company had submitted a proposal for its use but was turned down. She stated that she is displeased with MGT and asked the Board to restore Roosevelt.

Dr. Michaela Spangenburg expressed her concerns surrounding the advisory board, specifically noting the need for members need to be treated with respect.

Chairman McAdam introduced agenda item five – Gary Community School Corporation (“GCSC”) Manager Update. Dr. Paige McNulty presented updates on credit recovery, graduation, registration, enrollment, and specific student achievements. Chairman McAdam asked how the end of the year is going. Dr. McNulty answered that they have 58% of students attending in person and are looking toward summer school. Chairman McAdam asked about Covid spread in school and Dr. McNulty answered that they have had fewer issues than surrounding districts. Chairman McAdam asked if there will be a virtual learning option next year and Dr. McNulty confirmed that they will. Mr. Bennett asked when they will have the final number for graduation rate and Dr. McNulty answered that they will have a better sense the week before graduation as well as after summer school. Ms. Kubacki asked for an estimate and Dr. McNulty answered around 60%. Chairman McAdam asked how many will be added with summer school or credit recovery and Dr. McNulty answered that another 10% will graduate. Rep. Thompson commended GCSC on the success of their student athletes and encouraged the extension of those academic assistance programs to other students. Dr. McNulty agreed and noted that they are looking at extending study tables to other student groups.

Chairman McAdam introduced agenda item six – Overview of GCSC’s Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Plan. Mr. Eric Parish gave background information on the ESSER

funds and presented the plan. Chairman McAdam asked that Mr. Parish to how they plan to approach timing and finalizing plans. Mr. Parish explained the need to be flexible and make decisions before every detail is sorted out in order to meet deadlines. Chairman McAdam agreed that they do not want to miss out on opportunities due to deadlines. Chairman McAdam noted the tight IDOE deadline and asked if the plans can be placeholders and Mr. Parish confirmed that they can be amended. Dr. McNulty noted that they will provide the Board with what is submitted to IDOE.

Chairman McAdam introduced agenda item seven – Consideration of GCSC Chromebook Purchase. Mr. Darrell Riddell presented the proposal. Chairman McAdam asked if the insurance will apply to all Chromebooks or just the new ones and Dr. McNulty confirmed that it will only apply to the new devices. Ms. Kubacki asked if there are consequences for damage to the devices. Mr. Riddell noted that if a student has damaged a Chromebook they will not get another one to take home. Chairman McAdam asked if there is training on how to handle the devices and Mr. Riddell answered that there has been a series of trainings. He noted that the devices have cases and that some of the damage has been deliberate. Mr. Bennett asked what the inventory of usable Chromebooks would be after this purchase and Mr. Riddell answered that it will get GCSC back to where they were last year around 4,700. Mr. Bennett noted the contract date has expired and asked if they will honor it. Mr. Riddell confirmed that they will. Mr. Bennett asked if the language needs to be modified. Mr. Riddell assured him that the price will stay the same. Mr. Bennett asked if they will deliver after the payment is made and Dr. McNulty confirmed. Chairman McAdam asked what funding will be used and Dr. McNulty answered that title funds will be used. Mr. Joyce stated that the contract language will need to be updated to reflect the availability of the Chromebooks in order for him to vote for it. Mr. Riddell stated that he can follow up with an updated contract. Chairman McAdam stated that Ms. Schaafsma can follow up and Mr. Joyce expressed his concern and the need for the contract to be updated. Mr. Bennett stated that he would be ok with voting for the contract with a contingency that the language be updated. Mr. Joyce agreed that he would do that and Chairman McAdam requested flexibility be left. Ms. Kubacki asked if the motion would need to be altered and Mr. Joyce confirmed that it would be altered by the addition of a contingency. Mr. Joyce made a motion that the Board authorize GCSC's purchase of 1,000 Chromebooks, associated services and accessories subject to the approval of Ms. Schaafsma or Chairman McAdams that the devices will be supplied in a timely manner. Mr. Bennett seconded the motion. The motion passed (5-0).

Chairman McAdam introduced agenda item eight – Consideration of GCSC Football Turf Contract. Dr. McNulty presented the contract. Ms. Kubacki asked if there would be insurance to cover those who used the field and Dr. McNulty confirmed that they would need to submit insurance. Mr. Bennett asked for an explanation for cost savings and Nicole Wolverton explained that the turf provides safety as well as reduced maintenance. Dr. McNulty noted that their current field costs \$40,000 in annual upkeep where a turf would only cost \$8,000 annually. Ms. Wolverton added that the lifespan of a turf field is 15 to 20 years. Mr. Bennett stated that the numbers are not adding up from a cost savings standpoint. Dr. McNulty added that it is an enrollment attractor and Mr. Bennett agreed. Mr. Bennett asked for more information about the contract options. Ms. Wolverton and Dr. McNulty answered. Mr. Rob Tanner added information about specific turf options. Mr. Bennett noted that he is not keen on the payment terms and asked if they have talked with the city, specifically noting drainage concerns. Dr. McNulty confirmed that they have done a walkthrough with the city and noted that the vendor had done neighboring districts' fields. Mr. Bennett asked if the payment terms were similar and Dr. McNulty confirmed that they were. Mr. Bennett asked if they are comfortable with the contingencies not included and Dr. McNulty answered that they are especially since they have already upgraded the track. Mr. Bennett asked how long it will take and Dr. McNulty answered four to six weeks. Chairman McAdam asked where the funds are coming from and Dr. McNulty answered that the funds are coming from 1065. Chairman McAdam asked if that is already in the plan and Dr. McNulty answered that it is not but that they are working to update the plan. Chairman McAdam asked if the ESSER funds will free up previously allocated 1065 funds and Dr. McNulty confirmed that they do. Chairman McAdam asked that they bring a comprehensive plan so the

Board can look at the whole picture. Mr. Joyce asked where the community is at on this and Dr. McNulty answered that they are super excited and it has already attracted students to enroll. Mr. Tanner spoke on the benefits of a turf field. Mr. Bennett asked if they can work on the payment terms and Dr. McNulty answered that she will. Ms. Kubacki asked if these are the standard payment terms and Dr. McNulty confirmed that they are. Mr. Joyce noted that local governments are not supposed to pay for things in advance. Mr. Bennett stated that he is not opposed to a 5 to 10% good faith down payment and Mr. Joyce stated that he is not opposed but that you are not supposed to do it. Chairman McAdam thanked the group for the robust discussion and stated that they will work on addressing these concerns. Ms. Kubacki stated that the motion should have a contingency on the payment terms of the contract. Chairman McAdam stated that they would like to work on those but not hold up the project. Mr. Bennet made a motion that Board authorize GCSC to contract with Field Turf contingent upon the negotiation to modify the payment terms. Mr. Joyce seconded the motion. The motion passed (5-0).

Chairman McAdam introduced agenda item nine – Consideration of GCSC English Language Arts (ELA) Curriculum. Ms. Kimberley Bradley presented the curriculum. Mr. Joyce asked how the cost compares to what other schools pay. Ms. Bradley stated that it is the same and Dr. McNulty noted that it is a set price. Chairman McAdam asked if this is an off the shelf product and Dr. McNulty confirmed that it is. Chairman McAdam asked how the committees were involved in the process and Ms. Bradley answered that they were involved in conversations around student needs. Dr. McNulty added that for the first time GCSC will have a curriculum update cycle. Chairman McAdam asked how long a contract is and Ms. Bradley answered that they last six years. Chairman McAdam asked if this is the price for all six years and she confirmed that it is. Chairman McAdam asked where the funds are coming from and Ms. Bradley answered that they are title funds. Mr. Bennett asked about the update cycle and Dr. McNulty provided more information. Ms. Kubacki made a motion the Board authorize GCSC to contract with McGraw Hill as presented. Ms. Brown seconded the motion. The motion passed (5-0).

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