
STATE OF INDIANA

DISTRESSED UNIT APPEAL BOARD



INDIANA GOVERNMENT CENTER NORTH
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INDIANAPOLIS IN 46204
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Distressed Unit Appeal Board Meeting Memorandum

Thursday, August 25, 2022

Call to Order: A meeting of the Distressed Unit Appeals Board (“DUAB” or “Board”) was held August 25, 2022, at 1:30 p.m. EDT at the Indiana Government Center South Building, Conference Rooms 4 and 5, 302 W. Washington Street, Indianapolis, Indiana 46204. Members of the Board attending the meeting in-person include Chairman Justin McAdam, Wes Bennett, Paul Joyce, Rebecca Kubacki, Representative Vernon Smith, Representative Jeff Thompson, and Senator Liz Brown. Peter Miller, 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 **3 – Approval of the Minutes**.

Ms. Kubacki made a motion that the July 28, 2022, minutes be passed as presented. Mr. Bennett seconded the motion. The motion passed (4-0).

Chairman McAdam introduced agenda item **4 – Public Comment**.

Mrs. Lovetta Tindal discussed concerns about students not receiving their yearbooks, investments being made on equipment instead of academics, DUAB meetings not being held in Gary, project timelines and processes, student resources, academics, and bus services.

Rev. Dwight Gardner thanked GCSC for partnering with the Baptist ministers’ conference. He stated that he was pleasantly surprised with the cleanliness of all buildings and the preparedness for all students during a recent visit and believes leadership has done a great job during the summer to get these things in place.

Ms. Tracey Coleman discussed concerns about students not receiving their yearbooks and reminded the Board that they could forgive Gary’s debt. She stated that the children are suffering and that MGT needs to go.

Mr. Chuck Hughes discussed the importance of the community taking responsibility and showing the students that they are supported.

Ms. Nina Burton discussed the importance of parents coming together to support the school and stated she would like to see more emphasis on curriculum.

Mr. Darnell Gaffney stated that he recently was a vendor for GCSC and had a great experience.

Chairman McAdam introduced agenda item **5 – Gary Community School Corporation Manager Update.**

Dr. Paige McNulty provided updates on enrollment, staffing, community partnerships, the new football field, unified mascot, graduation rate, in-service meetings, budget creation and adult program graduation service. Rep. Smith complimented the team on the work done at Westside and asked for more information on the delay of yearbooks. Ms. Nicole Wolverton provided an update on the yearbook timeline. Chairman McAdam asked for an update on bussing and Dr. McNulty provided an overview. Ms. Kubacki clarified that it is an issue of drivers and not busses and Dr. McNulty confirmed. Chairman McAdam added that the union regulations for their drivers specifies that the company cannot dictate which routes they drive. Rep. Smith stated that Chicago came up with a plan where parents can receive a stipend for bringing their own children to school, as well as a larger stipend for parents that bring more than their children to school. Dr. McNulty stated that GCSC does provide a stipend and Ms. Wolverton outlined the process.

Chairman McAdam introduced agenda item **7 – GCSC Academic Update.**

Mr. Rajeev Bajaj, Ms. Kim Bradley, and Andre Wright provided updates. Rep. Smith asked clarifying questions about academic plan, its implementation, and community awareness. Chairman McAdam clarified what can be expected in future reports. Sen. Brown stressed the importance of students attending classes. Mr. Joyce asked how they plan to change the culture surrounding school attendance. Chairman McAdam, Rep. Smith and Mr. Bennett asked questions regarding i-Ready results and goals.

Chairman McAdam introduced agenda item **6 – School Improvement Fund/1065 Claims.**

Ms. Wolverton presented the claims docket. Chairman McAdam requested certain information be included in the packet going forward. Mr. Bennett made a motion the claims docket be approved as presented. Rep. Smith asked follow up questions on the location and contents of the trophy case and hall of fame as well as the vendor selected for a new playground. Ms. Kubacki seconded the motion. The motion passed (4-0).

Chairman McAdam introduced agenda item **8 – Consideration of GCSC Paraprofessional Employees Contract.**

Dr. McNulty presented the contract. Rep. Smith asked if any paraprofessionals are in training to become a teacher and Dr. McNulty confirmed that there are. Ms. Kubacki made a motion the contract be approved as presented. Mr. Bennett seconded the motion. The motion passed (4-0).

Chairman McAdam introduced agenda item **9 – Contract Authorization by the DUAB Executive Director.**

Mr. Miller presented the contracts.

- a) *Edmentum* - Courseware-Study Island Programs
- b) *Tri-Electronics* - Digital Radio System

Rep. Smith clarified what type of radios the Tri-Electronics contract is regarding. Sen. Brown, Mr. Bennett, and Mr. Joyce asked clarifying questions on the radios' functions.

Chairman McAdam introduced agenda item **10 – Consideration of GCSC Contractual Obligation**. Mr. Nathan Williamson presented the contract.

- *GMB Architecture* - Design of Security Vestibules

Mr. Joyce made a motion the contract be approved as presented. Ms. Kubacki seconded the motion. The motion passed (4-0).

Chairman McAdam asked if there was any new business to come before the Board. Rep. Smith stated that he would like to revisit the idea of DUAB meetings in Gary now that COVID restrictions have been lifted.

Chairman McAdam adjourned the meeting.