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# STATE OF INDIANA

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DISTRESSED UNIT APPEAL BOARD



INDIANA GOVERNMENT CENTER NORTH  
100 N. SENATE AVENUE, ROOM 1058  
INDIANAPOLIS IN 46204  
(317) 234-2273

## Distressed Unit Appeal Board Meeting Memorandum

**Tuesday, December 21, 2021**

Call to Order: A meeting of the Distressed Unit Appeals Board (“DUAB” or “Board”) was held December 21, 2021, 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 included Chairman Justin McAdam, Wes Bennett, Tracy Brown, Paul Joyce, and Representative Jeff Thompson. Those attending remotely via WebEx included Senator Liz Brown and Senator Eddie Melton. Peter Miller (Executive Director) and Emily Crisler (Counsel) were 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*. Mr. Bennett made a motion the minutes be approved as presented. Mr. Joyce seconded the motion. The motion passed (4-0).

Chairman McAdam introduced agenda item 4 – *Public Comment*. Ms. Kendra Johnson informed the Board of two workshops she hosted for the community to learn how to engage with their students’ education. She also noted that she tried to join a recent GCSC Title I meeting virtually but was prevented by technical difficulties.

Chairman McAdam introduced agenda item 5 – *Contract/Purchase Authorizations by DUAB Executive Director*. Mr. Miller provided an overview of six contracts.

Chairman McAdam introduced agenda item 6 – *Gary Community School Corporation Manager Update*. Dr. Paige McNulty provided updates on holiday programs, ROTC students, an IT grant, college readiness partnership with the Urban League, IUN transition to teaching program, and collective bargaining. Chairman McAdam asked about GCSC’s response to rising COVID numbers and Dr. McNulty stated that they are following their procedures and will be monitoring the situation. Chairman McAdam asked about previous bussing issues and Dr. McNulty stated that they have opened up an RFP. Mr. Bennett asked for an update on truancy and school lunches. Dr. McNulty noted that truancy numbers have gone down and noted the hiring of a truancy officer. She also stated that the new food menu has been well received and said parents and students have been giving positive feedback. Chairman McAdam asked for an update on fights happening in the school and Dr. McNulty overviewed new de-escalation trainings and procedures. Ms. Brown asked for more information on the IT grant and Mr. Nathan Williamson responded. Chairman McAdam asked if it was a competitive grant and Mr. Williamson overviewed the application process. Chairman McAdam asked how the funds will be used and Mr. Williamson noted that some of it will be used for hot spots, Chromebooks, and iPads.

Chairman McAdam introduced agenda item 7 – *Accountability Dashboard*. Mr. Eric Parish presented an update.

Chairman McAdam introduced agenda item 8 – *Path Forward*. Mr. Eric Parish presented an update.

Chairman McAdam introduced agenda item 9 – *Collective Bargaining Agreement*. Dr. McNulty provided an update and reviewed the final steps to adoption. Chairman McAdam asked clarifying questions about the performance bonus and teacher pay. Dr. McNulty provided responses. Chairman McAdam proposed the Board conditionally approve the contract. Mr. Joyce made a motion the contract be approved conditionally. Ms. Brown seconded the motion. The motion passed (4-0).

Chairman McAdam introduced agenda item 10 – *Consideration of GCSC Contractual Obligations and Purchases*. Mr. Williamson presented the contract with Bosak Ford for the purchase of two security vehicles. Mr. Joyce asked if GCSC currently had security vehicles and Mr. Williamson said they do not. Mr. Joyce asked about the policies and monitoring of the vehicles and Mr. Williamson responded. Ms. Brown asked who will be driving the vehicles and Mr. Williamson stated that the Director of School Safety and Security and a school resource officer will be assigned to the vehicles. Mr. Bennett asked clarifying questions about why this particular model was chosen and Mr. Williamson responded. Mr. Bennett noted that an all-wheel vehicle has higher upkeep costs and asked what will be added after market. Mr. Williamson stated that lettering will be added and lights could be added. Mr. Joyce asked if they will be able to get the vehicles once purchased and Mr. Williamson stated that their vendor is confident. Sen. Melton cautioned against giving a presence of over-policing. Ms. Brown made a motion the contract be approved as presented. Mr. Joyce seconded the motion. The motion passed (4-0).

Chairman McAdam introduced agenda item 11 – *School Improvement Fund Claims Docket*. Ms. Nicole Wolverton presented an update. Mr. Joyce made a motion the claims docket be approved as presented. Ms. Brown seconded the motion. The motion passed (4-0).

Chairman McAdam introduced agenda item 12 – *MGT Contract Benchmarks*. Mr. Parish presented updates. Chairman McAdam asked Mr. Miller for his analysis. Mr. Miller described which benchmarks were met and which were not. Sen. Melton asked for more information on the connectivity pillar and Mr. Parish responded. Sen. Melton asked clarifying questions about how the benchmarks were selected and Chairman McAdam overviewed the process. Mr. Bennett made a motion the contract benchmarks be approved as presented. Mr. Joyce seconded the motion. The motion passed (4-0).

Chairman McAdam asked if there was any new business to be brought before the Board and seeing none adjourned the meeting.