

# STATE OF INDIANA

DISTRESSED UNIT APPEAL BOARD



INDIANA GOVERNMENT CENTER NORTH  
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## Distressed Unit Appeal Board Meeting Memorandum

Thursday, January 25, 2024

Call to Order: A meeting of the Distressed Unit Appeals Board (“DUAB” or “Board”) was January 25, 2024, at 1:30 p.m. EST at the Indiana Government Center South Building, Conference Room 18, 302 W. Washington Street, Indianapolis, Indiana 46204. Members of the Board attending the meeting in person include Chairman Cris Johnston, Paul Joyce, Daniel Shackle, and Representative Jeff Thompson and Representative Vernon Smith. David Holt joined remotely. Peter Miller, Executive Director, was also in attendance.

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

Chairman Johnston introduced agenda item **3 – Approval of Minutes.**

Mr. Joyce made a motion the minutes be approved as presented. Mr. Shackle seconded the motion. The motion passed (4-0).

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

- Mrs. Lovetta Tindal expressed concerns around teacher to student ratios, pre K, building retention, and academic performance.
- Dr. Michaela Spangenburg expressed concerns around lack of transparency, possible building closures, and literacy rates.
- Ms. Tracy Coleman requested the common school fund loans be forgiven and that facilities are upgraded.
- Ms. Natalie Ammons expressed concerns around access to information, curriculum, test scores and parental engagement.
- Mr. Robert Coleman requested a second comment period be incorporated in public meetings and that the common school fund loans be forgiven.

Rep. Smith stated that he supports loan forgiveness, recognized that the community is opposed to the proposed merger, and agreed the reports are difficult to read.

Chairman Johnston introduced agenda item **5 – Gary Community School Corporation (“GCSC”) Academic Update.**

Dr. Ester Goodes presented the update. Chairman Johnston and Rep. Smith asked clarifying questions.

Chairman Johnston introduced agenda item **6 – GCSC District Sustainability Update.**

Dr. Mike Raisor presented the update. Rep. Smith stated his appreciation for leaving this issue to be decided by the school board and asked clarification questions surrounding the transition timeline. Mr. Joyce stated the importance for a strong plan to grow enrollment and Rep. Smith agreed. Chairman Johnston asked a clarifying question and stated that there is no one solution for complex problems.

Chairman Johnston introduced agenda item **7 – Review of 1065/School Improvement Fund Claims Docket.**

Mr. Miller provided the update and noted that Mr. Holt had to leave the meeting. Mr. Joyce noted that money is being put back in the School Improvement Fund and made motion that the claims be approved. Mr. Shackle seconded the motion. The motion passed (3-0).

Chairman Johnston introduced agenda item **8 – Consideration of Revisions to GCSC Spending Plans.**

Dr. Raisor presented the revisions to ESSER III and 1065. Rep. Smith asked clarifying questions. Mr. Shackle made a motion the ESSER III revision be approved as presented. Mr. Joyce seconded the motion. The motion passed (3-0). Mr. Joyce made a motion the 1065 revision be approved a presented. Mr. Shackle seconded the motion. Rep. Smith asked clarifying questions. The motion passed (3-0).

Chairman Johnston introduced agenda item **9 – Consideration of GCSC Expenditure.**

Dr. Raisor presented the non-teaching staff stipends expenditure. Rep. Smith asked a clarifying question. Mr. Shackle made a motion the stipends be approved as presented. Mr. Joyce seconded the motion. Mr. Shackle seconded the motion. The motion passed (3-0).

Chairman Johnston asked if there was any new business to come before the Board. Rep. Smith expressed concern about Common School Fund Loan payments continuing after distressed status is removed.

Chairman Johnston adjourned the meeting.