
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, July 28, 2022

Call to Order: A meeting of the Distressed Unit Appeals Board (“DUAB” or “Board”) was held July 28, 2022, at 1:30 p.m. EDT at the Indiana Government Center South Building, Conference Rooms 1 and 2, 302 W. Washington Street, Indianapolis, Indiana 46204. Members of the Board attending the meeting in-person include Chairman Justin McAdam, Wes Bennett, Tracy Brown, Paul Joyce, Rebecca Kubacki, and Representative Vernon Smith. 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 May 26, 2022, June 16, 2022, July 5, 2022, and July 8, 2022, minutes be passed as presented. Mr. Joyce seconded the motion. The motion passed (5-0).

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

There was no public comment made at this time. When given the opportunity to speak later in the meeting Mrs. Lovetta Tindal stated that she is from Gary and that her children graduated from West Side High School. She thanked the Board for providing the number of graduates and asked how many students received certificates of attendance and scholarships. She followed up on a request for the referendum ambassadors’ contact information. She stated that she hopes all students will have computers at the start of the school year and that there are adequate buses. She stated that she has not heard the Board’s plan to address students’ concerns about school bathrooms and asked when the Board will promote parental involvement.

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

Dr. McNulty joined remotely and provided updates on registration, community partnerships, the opening football game, basketball camp, professional development, and student IT interns. Chairman McAdam asked for more information on enrollment efforts and Dr. McNulty provided examples. Ms. Kubacki asked if they had a sense of enrollment numbers and Dr. McNulty stated that they anticipate increased enrollment. Chairman McAdam asked for an update on the schools’ air conditioning and Dr. McNulty stated that all buildings’ units are running well.

Chairman McAdam introduced agenda item **6 – GCSC CFO Presentation.**

Ms. Nicole Wolverton provided updates to the Board. Mr. Bennett asked if transfers from the referendum fund are going to be common and Ms. Wolverton confirmed that they will be. Chairman McAdam asked if she predicts flat growth in the education and operations fund and Ms. Wolverton confirmed that she does. Chairman McAdam asked for information on how GCSC is handling inflation and Ms. Wolverton responded. Chairman McAdam asked if they keep a reserve and Ms. Wolverton stated that they do not. Chairman McAdam and Mr. Bennett asked clarifying questions.

Chairman McAdam introduced agenda item **7 – School Improvement Fund/1065 Claims**.

Ms. Wolverton presented the claims docket. Mr. Bennett made a motion the claims docket be approved as presented. Ms. Brown seconded the motion. The motion passed (5-0).

Chairman McAdam introduced agenda item **8 – Review of iLEARN and i-Ready Results**.

Dr. McNulty, Mr. Andre Wright, Ms. Bradley and Mr. Mr. Rajeev Bajaj presented updates to the Board. Rep. Smith asked for information on methods used to increase the high school graduation rate and how they identified the impact of COVID, and Dr. McNulty responded. Ms. Kubacki asked if they had set specific goals for improvement and Dr. McNulty responded. Mr. Joyce asked how they will determine success and Ms. Bradley responded. Rep. Smith stated that there are two continuums, where Gary is and where Gary is in comparison to the rest of the state. He stated that both areas need to be evaluated and Mr. Bajaj agreed. Rep. Smith asked clarifying questions on classroom strategy. Chairman McAdam asked what the primary impediments are of getting to where they want to be, and Ms. Bradley stated that training is the main barrier. Rep. Smith asked if they have also incorporated monitoring and Ms. Bradley stated that they have implemented a walk-through program. Ms. Kubacki asked about considerations when hiring teachers and Rep. Smith asked follow-up questions. Dr. McNulty responded. Mr. Bennett asked if students at different proficiency levels will be in the same classroom and Rep. Smith suggested small groups. Ms. Bradley stated that is being incorporated into the curriculum. Ms. Kubacki asked if teachers doing well share what they are doing with other teachers and Ms. Bradley confirmed that they do. Rep. Smith asked about community input on the mission and vision and Ms. Bradley responded. Mr. Joyce stated the importance of learning to read and having a strong foundation.

Mr. Joyce introduced agenda item **9 – Contract Authorization by the DUAB Executive Director**.

Mr. Miller presented the contracts:

- a) JEL Audio - Football stadium audio system
- b) B&H Photo - A/V equipment
- c) Sweetwater - Music instruments
- d) Parent Camp - Family engagement training
- e) Kidstuff - Bethune playground equipment
- f) Anthony Roofing - Change orders
- g) Really-Virtual Corp - Fork lift simulator
- h) Global Vending Group - Book vending
- i) Close Education - Literacy/Math licenses
- j) Kidstuff - Glen Park playground equipment
- k) Interkal - Middle school bleachers

Mr. Joyce introduced agenda item **10 – Consideration of GCSC Contractual Obligation**.

Ms. Wolverton presented the Knickerbocker Roofing contract. Mr. Bennett made a motion the contract be approved as presented. Mr. Brown seconded the motion. The motion passed (4-0).

Mr. Joyce asked if there was any new business to come before the Board. Mr. Miller provided follow-up to the discussion of school property disposal from the previous meeting.

Mr. Joyce adjourned the meeting.