
STATE OF INDIANA

DISTRESSED UNIT APPEAL BOARD



INDIANA GOVERNMENT CENTER NORTH
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Distressed Unit Appeal Board Meeting Memorandum

Wednesday, November 17, 2021

Call to Order: A meeting of the Distressed Unit Appeals Board (“DUAB” or “Board”) was held November 17, 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 include Wes Bennett, Tracy Brown, Paul Joyce, Representative Jeff Thompson, and Senator Eddie Melton. Those attending remotely via WebEx included Rebecca Kubacki and Senator Liz Brown. Peter Miller (Executive Director) and Emily Crisler (Counsel) were also in attendance.

Mr. Joyce called the meeting to order and recognized compliance with the Open Door Law.

Mr. Joyce introduced agenda item 3 – *Approval of the Minutes*. Mr. Bennett made a motion the minutes be approved with the inclusion of discussed updates. Ms. Brown seconded the motion. The motion passed (3-0).

Mr. Joyce introduced agenda item 4 – *Public Comment*.

- Mrs. Lovetta Tindal discussed the importance of the Roosevelt High School building and expressed her wishes for it to be preserved. She also raised concerns about GCSC’s food service, bus schedules, building access in the morning, a lack of creative courses and extracurricular activities, the mishandling of student discipline, and the needed removal of MGT.
- Dr. Michaela Spangenburg discussed her concerns with the takeover of GCSC and a lack of due process. She stated that there should be an immediate plan to transition back to local control.
- Ms. Kendra Johnson noted that she had students in GCSC for 25 years. She stated that she has repeatedly requested a written copy of the Title I budget and has not received one.
- Ms. GlenEva Dunham discussed collective bargaining, specifically citing a letter and robocall from Dr. McNulty. She also discussed concerns about GCSC’s climate control systems and solutions throughout their malfunctioning.
- Ms. Pauline Tatum discussed the importance of preserving Roosevelt and its history, specifically referencing a petition.

Mr. Joyce introduced agenda item 5 – *Contract Purchase Authorizations by DUAB Executive Director*. Mr. Miller overviewed the contracts.

Mr. Joyce introduced agenda item 6 – *Gary Community School Corporation Manager Update*. Dr. Paige McNulty provided updates on the Lew Wallace demolition, recent fine arts program showcase, radio program expansion, finalization of the next school year calendar, trunk or treat program, partnerships with the Gary Literacy Coalition and Purdue University, disability awareness programs, new conference division, and upcoming holiday feast.

Mr. Joyce introduced agenda item 7 – *Follow-Up from October 14th Meeting Public Comment*. Dr. McNulty responded to questions from the October 14 meeting.

- **School safety** – Mr. Bennett asked if they are tracking the number of incidents and Dr. McNulty noted that they are and that the trend line is down. Mr. Bennett asked about the model for alternative students and Dr. McNulty overviewed the current night school offerings. She noted that they have hired a third party to conduct a security assessment. Senator Melton asked for more information on the security vestibules. Ms. Kimberly Bradley added context to the security vestibule placement and stated that they cannot be moved further in the school. She added that students waiting to be screened are supervised. Senator Melton asked for them to share the incident data with the Board.
- **Community engagement** – Dr. McNulty overviewed a number of forums for community engagement. Mr. Joyce asked about their communication response policy and Dr. McNulty overviewed the chain of command. Mr. Joyce asked if that policy is written anywhere and Ms. Bradley confirmed that it is. Mr. Nathan Williamson added that there are family and community engagement liaisons as another way to facilitate communication.
- **Food service** – Dr. McNulty noted that they have met with the food service provider a number of times and are working to address the concerns previously brought forward. She noted specific additions and modifications. Mr. Joyce stated the importance of proper food for learning and development. He noted that the expectations for food service need to be higher. Sen. Melton asked if they had food warmers before and Dr. McNulty confirmed that they did, noting that they are expanding their supply with the recent additions. Sen. Melton stated that he hopes this information will be shared with the community. Mr. Bennett asked for an update on the food service director and Dr. McNulty noted that they will be posting the position soon. Ms. Brown asked if it will be a full-time position and Dr. McNulty confirmed that it will be.

Mr. Joyce asked if the schools are open when the busses arrive and Dr. McNulty confirmed that the doors are open. Mr. Joyce asked if students are standing outside and Dr. McNulty noted that they dismiss one bus at a time. Mr. Williamson noted that additional staff have been hired to supervise students in the morning. Mr. Joyce asked if students are waiting outside for a substantial amount of time and Dr. McNulty confirmed that they are not. Sen. Melton asked questions about the public budget meeting and Ms. Nicole Wolverton provided answers to the Board. Sen. Melton asked where the memorabilia is collected and Dr. McNulty confirmed that there is a location where it is all collected. Mr. Joyce asked if Ms. Johnson has put in a records request. Mr. Williamson answered that she has not but that he would be happy to work with her. Sen. Melton asked what the proper process for requesting those documents would be and Mr. Joyce responded. Ms. Crisler added clarification on the records request process requirements. Sen. Melton asked how options at the career center can be expanded and Dr. McNulty overviewed the steps necessary for expansion. Sen. Melton asked if outside districts come to the center and Dr. McNulty confirmed that they do. Sen. Melton asked follow-up questions about career center placement and Dr. McNulty provided answers. Rep. Thompson noted that a long-term goal should be to have all possible documents posted on the website.

Mr. Joyce thanked the community for all the public comments made and noted how important they are to the Board.

Mr. Joyce introduced agenda item 8 – *Collective Bargaining Agreement*. Mr. Miller overviewed the process and current status. Dr. McNulty clarified that they have not given the best and final offer and that they are continuing to negotiate in good faith.

Mr. Joyce introduced agenda item 9 – *Consideration of GCSC Contractual Obligations and Purchases*. Mr. Williamson overviewed the Irwin Seating contract. Mr. Bennett asked about the current condition of the auditorium and Mr. Williamson stated that it is beautiful and that he would like the Board to visit while a student performance is scheduled. He added that the chairs need replaced. Mr. Bennett asked if additional money would be needed in the future and Dr. McNulty stated there will not be more repairs. Mr. Bennett asked clarifying questions on the service provider and Dr. McNulty responded. Sen. Melton asked if the chairs are being replaced or refurbished and Dr. McNulty confirmed that they are being refurbished.

Mr. Williamson overviewed the Korellis Roofing contract. Mr. Joyce asked if there was community involvement in the contract and Mr. Williamson confirmed that the vendor is local to Gary. Mr. Bennett asked about supply chain and timeline. Mr. Williamson and Ms. Wolverton noted that this vendor had the most expedient timeline. Mr. Bennett asked about inspections and Dr. McNulty confirmed that there will be close inspection. Mr. Bennett asked about pricing guarantees and Ms. Wolverton discussed change orders. Mr. Williamson noted that the materials price will be locked in. Mr. Bennett asked for clarification on storage and safety and Ms. Wolverton provided a response. Sen. Melton stated he would like to see how much funding has been given for each school from the School Improvement Fund. Sen. Melton asked about costs associated with Roosevelt and Dr. McNulty responded.

Mr. Williamson overviewed the Mechanical Concepts contract. Mr. Bennett asked if there will be issues while removing the old units and Mr. Williamson stated that he will have to get back to the Board. Mr. Joyce stated that the Board will take each contract individually.

- **Irwin Seating** – Mr. Bennett made a motion the contract be approved as presented. Ms. Brown seconded the motion. The motion passed (4-0).
- **Korellis** – Ms. Brown made a motion the contract be approved. Mr. Bennett seconded the motion. Sen. Melton asked for more information on the number of Gary community members being employed. The motion passed (4-0).
- **Mechanical Concepts** – Mr. Bennett made a motion the contract be approved. Ms. Brown seconded the motion. Sen. Melton asked for more information on the employee makeup of the companies hired. The motion passed (4-0).

Mr. Joyce stated that agenda item 10 – *School Improvement Fund Update and Claims Docket* will be moved to the next meeting.

Mr. Joyce asked if there is any new business to be brought before the Board. Sen. Melton stated now is the time for the Board to show the community that their concerns have been heard and to work toward a plan to reinstate local control.

Mr. Joyce adjourned the meeting.