
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

October 21, 2021

Call to Order: A meeting of the Distressed Unit Appeals Board (“DUAB” or “Board”) was held October 21, 2021, 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 Justin McAdam (Chairman), Wes Bennett, Tracy Brown, and Paul Joyce. Those attending remotely via WebEx included Rebecca Kubacki, Representative Jeff Thompson, Senator Eddie Melton, and Senator Liz Brown. 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 4–*Public Comment*. No community members signed up to provide comment.

Chairman McAdam introduced agenda item 5–*Contract Authorization by the DUAB Executive Director*. Mr. Miller presented background information on the GAPS Workforce Training contract.

Chairman McAdam introduced agenda item 6–*Gary Community School Corporation (“GCSC”) Manager Update*. Dr. Paige McNulty joined remotely and provided updates on alumni achievement, upcoming community events, Lew Wallace demolition and bricks, homecoming game and dance, professional development, bullying prevention month, and community partnerships. Chairman McAdam asked for an update on school security and going virtual. Dr. McNulty clarified that only West Side High School students have been virtual and that they have been actively working with the staff and are ready for students. Chairman McAdam asked for more detail. Dr. McNulty noted new procedures and student activities. Ms. Kubacki asked if the school has a mechanism where students can notify faculty and staff of a potential incident and Dr. McNulty confirmed that there is a phone number and email. Sen. Melton asked about grant applications and Dr. McNulty provided an update. Sen. Melton asked what the funds would be used for if awarded and Dr. McNulty provided examples. Sen. Melton asked how these changes will be communicated to the community and Dr. McNulty overviewed their plan.

Chairman McAdam introduced agenda item 7–*Consideration of 2022 GCSC Budget*. Ms. Nicole Wolverton presented the budget. Mr. Bennett asked clarifying questions and Ms. Wolverton responded. Mr. Joyce asked about expenses while students were virtual and Ms. Wolverton gave examples of operational expenses that were ongoing. Mr. Joyce asked clarifying questions and Ms. Wolverton responded. Sen. Melton asked a clarifying question and Ms. Wolverton responded. Ms. Wolverton addressed questions that were asked at the previous meeting. Mr. Bennett asked if the tax flow will be sufficient going forward and Ms. Wolverton confirmed that it will be sufficient. Mr. Bennett asked for clarification on non-reimbursed books and Ms. Wolverton provided background information on the term. Sen. Melton and Mr. Bennett asked clarifying questions on common school fund loans and Ms.

Wolverton responded. Chairman McAdam provided additional explanation. Chairman McAdam asked when the budget will be submitted to DLGF and Ms. Wolverton provided a timeline. Sen. Melton confirmed the date and time of the public hearing. Mr. Bennett made a motion the budget be approved as presented. Ms. Brown seconded the motion. The motion passed (5-0).

Chairman McAdam introduced agenda item 8–*Review of ESSER Plan*. Mr. Eric Parish and Mr. Nathan Williamson presented the plan. Chairman McAdam asked when the Board can expect to see a final version of the plan for approval. Mr. Williamson noted that it will likely be the January meeting and gave background information. Sen. Melton asked for clarification on total ESSER funding and how much will be spent. Mr. Williamson responded. Chairman McAdam added further background information on ESSER funds. Ms. Kubacki asked what percentage of surveys were returned. Mr. Williamson noted that a couple hundred people did respond to the survey and provided background information on its distribution. Chairman McAdam agreed with Sen. Melton and stressed the importance of communicating with the community. Sen. Melton asked follow-up questions about the planned community meeting and Ms. Wolverton responded. Chairman McAdam asked for quick summaries for what they hope to accomplish with these funds. Mr. Parish and Mr. Williamson provided responses. Mr. Joyce asked if they have to use some of the funds for learning loss and Mr. William confirmed that they do. Chairman McAdam asked what components are being used to tackle learning loss. Mr. Williamson overviewed relevant programs. Chairman McAdam asked how much is sustainable after the ESSER funds are gone and Mr. Williamson responded that they will continue on with the extended school day and preschool. Chairman McAdam asked if summer school will be sustained and Mr. Williamson confirmed that it will continue. Mr. Joyce asked for updated information on truancy rates and Mr. Williamson responded. Sen. Melton asked about things that might be taken to the state to be pursued legislatively and Mr. Williamson responded. Rep. Thompson request he and Sen. Melton be included in conversations around flexibility from the state.

Chairman McAdam introduced agenda item 9–*Consideration of GCSC Purchase*. Mr. Williamson presented the background information of the WiFi Access Points proposal from Insight. Mr. Bennett asked how the need was determined and Mr. Williamson responded. Mr. Bennett asked what kind of testing was done and Mr. Williamson overviewed the process. Ms. Wolverton added further explanation on the project. Mr. Bennett asked if this was a fiber project and Mr. Williamson responded that the project last month did include fiber and they work together. Ms. Brown made a motion the contract be approved as presented. Mr. Joyce seconded the motion. The motion passed (5-0).

Chairman McAdam introduced agenda item 10–*New Business*. Rep. Smith provided comments to the Board. He thanked the Board for coming to Gary. He noted his disappointment in the use of the school website to communicate with the community. He recommended the Board look at the ways information is being communicated. He stated that some community members are concerned about how the extended school day is being utilized. He noted that he had difficulty hearing the presenters. He stated that the community would still like a plan for the referendum dollars. Chairman McAdam responded to his comments.

Chairman McAdam adjourned the meeting.