



**INDIANA
CHARTER
SCHOOL BOARD**

Board Meeting

May 15, 2018

2:00 p.m. ET

**Indiana Government Center South
Conference Room C
402 West Washington Street
Indianapolis, IN 46204**

Board Members Present:

Joshua Owens (Chair)

Jill Robinson Kramer

Gretchen Gutman

Janet Rummel

Board Members Participating Electronically:

Virginia Calvin

Board Members Absent:

DeLyn Beard

Mark GiaQuinta

Staff:

James Betley

Bridgett Abston

Amy Osborne

Nicole Hornyak

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I. Call to Order/ Board Meeting Minutes Approval

a. Call to Order

- i. Chair Josh Owens called the meeting to order at 2:04 pm ET.
- ii. Board Member Gutman joined the board meeting at 2:09 pm ET.

b. Approval of Board Minutes

- i. Chair Owens called for a motion to approve March meeting minutes.
- ii. Board Member Rummel motioned to approve, and Vice-Chair Kramer seconded. The motion passed unanimously by voice roll call.

II. Charter School Application Consideration

a. HIM By HER Collegiate School of the Arts

- i. Presentation of staff recommendation
 1. Executive Director, James Betley explained the agenda item switch. He then gave an overview of the proposed school application. He elaborated that while the application had strengths including an exceptional founding board and community contacts, it didn't have a concrete curriculum, or detailed cohesive financials.
 2. Mr. Betley informed the board that the staff recommendation is to decline the application for the HIM By HER Collegiate School of the Arts.
- ii. Public Comment
 1. Chair Owens invited speakers of public comments to come forward.
 - a. Secretary of State, Connie Lawson, City Council of Indianapolis President, Vop Osili, both spoke in favor of the HIM By HER application and school proposal.
- iii. Presentation of proposal by board
 1. Chair Owens invited the HIM By HER founding board to present their proposal.
 2. Board members Clete Ladd, Sandra Towne, Wanda Riesz, Marcus Dunlop, Keith White, Michael Chisley, Terrance Bogin, and Harry Dunn introduced themselves to the ICSB board.
 - a. Mr. Ladd described the philosophy and thought behind the creation of the HIM By HER school model. He then detailed the experiences of board members and community partnerships the founding group has been able to develop. Mr. Ladd illustrated the support services the school intends to provide to students, and expressed the concern for the students
 - b. Dr. Wanda Riesz spoke to the board about the new application materials board members received. Dr. Riesz also discussed the way the school plans on helping and retaining students through the proposed wrap around services.
 - c. State Representative John Bartlett explained to the board why the HIM By HER proposal stood out to him, and why in his district the need is so great for this proposed school.

- d. Mr. Dunn spoke to the board about why they should be approved, contrary to the staff recommendation. He detailed the state and local offices that support their proposal, as well as how impactful the services for students will be.
- iv. Question and answer period
- 1. Dr. Calvin commended the founding group of the board and noted that she shared some of their same concerns. She questioned the board about what a typical day would look like, with the focus on explaining the academic side.
 - a. Saundra Towe spoke of the curriculum they would be using, detailing the benchmarks and assessments the students would be given.
 - 2. Board member Janet Rummel questioned the organizer about the percentage of time students would be completing online courses comparative to classroom instruction.
 - a. Ms. Towe explained that students will receive direct instruction then put in computer program. She stated that a student's day won't be a typical day like a traditional school.
 - 3. Member Rummel questioned the founding group, wanting to know if the board should be making their decision off the submitted documents, or documents presented at the beginning of the meeting. She noted there were major budget differences between the two versions.
 - a. Dr. Reisz stated that budget did not come all the way through when originally submitted.
 - 4. Member Rummel inquired about the number of unlicensed teachers they proposed in the updated budget.
 - a. Dr. Reisz answered that not every charter school teacher has to be licensed. The teachers they plan on hiring that are non-licensed will be contracted. She assured there would always be a licensed teacher in the classroom.
 - b. Mr. Dunn spoke to the board about the fundraising and athlete commitment that were not able to be put as lines items in their budget.
 - c. Dr. Reisz added that they are receiving rent and income from business partners in exchange for having students complete training there.
 - 5. Board Member Gretchen Gutman questioned the board about their enrollment numbers, noting the tremendous growth suggested.
 - a. Mr. Dunn spoke to the board, stating that their numbers are aggressive. He explained the recruitment model is unique to their school, including athletes marketing the school. Mr. Dunn also commented that the community has been demanding this school.
 - 6. Member Gutman questioned what community the original students are coming from, since the proposed location is in Broad Ripple.
 - a. Mr. Dunn answered the students would be coming from Marion County. He stated that they will be all inclusive, and there will not be any exclusions in place for students from different areas.
 - 7. Member Rummel noted that the application showed a lack of attention to detail, and they still don't have contingency.
 - a. The founding members stated that they could be approved with conditions, and that they deserve the chance to start the school.

8. Chair Owens questioned the preconceived urgency, and asked why waiting until August would be the wrong move.
 - a. Mr. Dunn stated that it would be a deterrent to the different entities that have been brought together.
 9. Dr. Calvin stated that there are still many questions that she is uncomfortable with, and explained that it would be difficult for her to approve their application.
- v. Board decision
1. Chair Owens gave the board an opportunity to discuss, or it can also be open to a motion.
 2. Dr. Calvin asked Mr. Betley what happens if the board tables this. Because of the new information, she said she is not confident in her vote. She stated that we ask for correct, full document submission and had deadlines the group had to meet. Dr. Calvin explained that we have to treat applicants the same. She went on to say that we have outside evaluators, and we make decision based on what has been submitted. She commended the group, but stated she has to look at the application and rubric created by the board. She told the board in her estimation, they are close, but in good conscience I cannot approve them.
 3. Member Gutman commented that Dr. Calvin has come up with a great idea not to approve or deny, but rather come back in August. She claimed that right now, she didn't know what program she would be approving, but that she has no problems the group coming back in August.
 4. Executive Director Betley stated that the original recommendation was for the group to come back in the fall cycle. Chair Owens confirmed with Mr. Betley that they would be able to reapply in the fall cycle. Mr. Betley affirmed they would, and it would be a new recommendation at that time.
 5. Chair Owens opened the floor for board member discussion. After discussion he stated they were ready to call for a motion – Tabling until next meeting. Provide additional information we choose.
 6. Member Gutman motioned to table the board's decision until the fall application board meeting until November. Board member Jill Kramer seconded.
 - a. The motion passed unanimously by a voice vote.
 7. Chair Owens informed the founding group that while they have community support, the board needs more in areas of governance and finance.
- Chair Owens called for a recess at 3:37 pm. The meeting resumed at 3:46 pm.
- b. **Christel House Authorizer Transfer**
- i. Presentation of staff recommendation
 1. Executive Director, James Betley gave a brief description of the three applications.
 - ii. Chair Owens gave the option of discussing all three applications at once, or one at a time. The board chose to discuss all three applications at one time, and ask any pointed questions to the respective representative.
 1. Mr. Betley informed the board he would talk about Academy South and West then the DORS application. He gave background on the Christel House schools, including they are currently have active charters with OEI, and are in good

- standing with them. Because of this, they are not subject to authorizer shopping statute.
2. Mr. Betley then gave a description of the two Christel House academies, South and West, including grade levels and past performance on their authorizer's frameworks. Mr. Betley explained the history of the DORS program as an Adult High School. He gave performance results from the prior authorizer to the board.
 3. Mr. Betley gave the staff recommendation of granting three charters to Christel House. Each Academy would receive their own charter, and DORS would receive one charter that would cover multiple campus locations.
 4. Chair Owens opened the floor to questions directed at Mr. Betley surrounding the multi-campus charter proposal.
 5. Member Gutman asked what that agreement would allow schools to do, and questioned what would happen if one of the schools is not successful.
 - a. Mr. Betley answered that it would allow the schools to provide multiple locations that would be treated as separate schools, and if one declines it does not affect the other locations.
- iii. Presentation of proposal by board
1. Chair Owens invited the Christel House representative to speak.
 - a. Carey Dahnke, Head of Christel House Schools, spoke about the history of the Christel House Academies. He described the progress they have seen with students who have stayed within their schools. Mr. Dahnke also detailed trips and programs the schools have done with their students.
- iv. Question and answer period
1. Chair Owens opened the floor for board members to ask questions.
 2. Chair Owens and Member Gutman asked questions around attendance trends at the schools, funding and potential campus expansion.
 - a. Mr. Dahnke answered with strategies that they have implemented that have worked, and the challenges of permanent housing for many of their students. He addressed how funding was dispersed through the network, and the future vision of the Christel House schools.
- v. Board decision
1. Chair Owens opened the floor to a motion, but informed board members that they will vote on each item individually.
 - a. Member Rummel motioned to approve the staff recommendation to transfer authorizers for Christel House Academy South. Dr. Calvin seconded, and the motion passed unanimously by voice vote.
 - b. Vice-Chair Kramer motioned to approve the staff recommendation to transfer authorizers for Christel House Academy West. Dr. Calvin seconded, and the motion passed unanimously by voice vote.
 - c. Vice-Chair Kramer motioned to approve the staff recommendation to transfer authorizers for Christel House DORS with a multi-campus agreement under one charter. Dr. Calvin seconded, and the motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

III. Other Board Business

- a. Excel Center – Gary Activation Request
 - i. Mr. Betley presented the Goodwill LEADS, Inc. request to activate a previously granted charter for a school in Gary.
 - ii. Chair Owens invited the Excel Center representatives to make comments.
 - 1. Excel Center representatives spoke about the community involvement and the community need of the school. They told the board that opening in this area will create jobs in the community, and their plan for their students to attend and finish the program.
 - iii. Chair Owens opened the floor for questions, or a motion.
 - 1. Member Rummel motioned to approve the staff recommendation to activate Goodwill LEADS charter for a location in Gary. Member Gutman seconded. The motion passed with Chair Owens and members Calvin, Gutman and Rummel voting yes. Vice-Chair Kramer recused herself from the vote.
- b. Approval of Revised Policies and Procedures
 - i. Mr. Betley reviewed the policies that board members were approving.
 - ii. Chair Owens opened the floor for a motion from the board.
 - 1. Member Gutman motioned to approve the revised Charter Amendment Policy as presented. Dr. Calvin seconded, and the motion passed unanimously by voice vote.
 - 2. Vice-Chair Kramer motioned to approve the revised Appeal and Dispute Resolution Policy, Closure Protocol, Escrow Policy, Insurance Requirements Policy, and Criminal History and Child Protection Index Checks Policy. Dr. Calvin seconded, and the motion passed unanimously by voice vote.
- c. Approval of Revised Board Meeting Procedures
 - i. Mr. Betley informed the board of the public meeting policy changes and additions, citing the references used in creation of the policy.
 - ii. Chair Owens opened the floor for questions, or a motion from the board.
 - 1. Member Rummel motioned to approve the Revised Board Meeting Procedures and Electronic Participation Policy as presented. Dr. Calvin seconded, and the motion passed unanimously by voice vote.
- d. Charter Term
 - i. Mr. Betley informed the board this item was taken off the agenda due to continuing research into best practices.

IV. Staff Updates

- a. School Closures
 - i. ICSB staff member, Bridgett Abston spoke to the board about the closures of Carpe Diem Northwest and Nexus Academy. Ms. Abston explained that ICSB was in the process of closing those schools, as described in the closure protocol.
 - ii. Chair Owens inquired when families were made aware of the closures. Ms. Abston answered that Carpe Diem families knew prior to their spring break, while Nexus Academy families were made aware at the beginning of May.
 - iii. Member Gutman asked for clarification on the history of the schools. Ms. Abston informed her that Carpe Diem’s board voted to close the school citing financial deficiencies. Ms. Abston indicated Nexus Academy submitted a renewal application that was withdrawn. Nexus Academy was afforded the opportunity to submit a new

school application since it was operating with a new service provider, but Nexus Academy declined to do so. Therefore, Nexus Academy's charter was not renewed and the charter agreement would terminate at the end of its term, initiating ICSB closure protocol.

- iv. Member Gutman expressed the fact May was too late to notify families for a school closure. Mr. Betley assented, and informed the board that ICSB plans to be more proactive in the future in the event of another school closure including working with Enroll Indy in Indianapolis. Ms. Gutman suggested putting a date in place, possibly March, where a school would need to inform ICSB of the possibility of their school closing.

V. Closing Remarks

- a. Dr. Calvin requested a unanimous term for board member to use when completing electronic participation voting form.
 - i. Mr. Betley informed her that Robert's rules applied, so yay and nay would be the standing terms to use.
- b. Chair Owens thanked the board and the staff for their work and preparation for the meetings, and appreciates the level of detail and effort put into decisions.

VI. Adjourn

- a. Chair Owens adjourned the meeting at 5:17 pm.