



Board Members Present

Jill Robinson Kramer (Vice-Chair)

Virginia Calvin

Janet Rummel

Gretchen Gutman

MaryAnn Ruegger

Beth Bray

Ellis G. Dumas III

Board Members Not Present

Michelle Gough

Staff

James Betley

Bridgett Abston

Ryan Preston

Sherie Scott

Beatriz Pacheco

VIRTUAL MEETING

October 28, 2021 at 2:45 p.m. EDT

MEETING RECORDING:

Due to technical difficulty, the video recording from the October 28, 2021 meeting is not available.

All public meetings of the Indiana Charter School Board are accessible to persons with disabilities. For persons who are hearing impaired or deaf and who require interpreter services for the meeting, notify Beatriz Pacheco in writing by email at BePacheco@icsb.in.gov; or by telephone at (317) 232-7585. Notification must be made at least forty-eight (48) hours in advance of the meeting. For persons who are visually impaired or blind and who require large-print or Braille copies of materials to be distributed at the meeting, please contact the person listed above at least forty-eight (48) hours in advance of the meeting.

Agenda

I. Call to Order/Board Meeting Minutes Approval

- a. The meeting was called to order at 2:47 p.m. EST.
- b. Approval of Board Minutes (May 21, 2021 and May 27, 2021)
 - i. The floor was open for comments on the board meeting minutes. Hearing no objections, Board Member Bray motioned to approve the minutes. Board Member Calvin seconded the motion. The motion passed by voice vote with Board Members Virginia Calvin, Janet Rummel, MaryAnn Ruegger, Beth Bray, Gretchen Gutman, and Ellis Dumas III voting aye.
 - ii. Vice-Chair Jill Kramer and Board Member Michelle Gough were not present to vote.

II. Board Business

- a. **PLA @ Genai/PLA @ Elkhart – Charter Application**
 - i. Presentation of staff recommendation (5-7 minutes)
 1. Executive Director, James Betley, described the Phalen Leadership Academies activation application for PLA@Genai.
 2. The staff recommendation is for activation of one charter with potentially two schools.
 - ii. Presentation of request by organizer (8-10 minutes)
 1. Earl Phalen presented information about the Phalen Leadership Academies schools and introduced the Genai Excellence Academy team.
 2. Lady Chantella Newsome and Dr. Geraldine Brown describe Genai Excellence Academy and its history in their community.
 - iii. Question and answer period
 1. Executive Director, James Betley addressed Sarita Steven's question about academic data reliability.
 2. Board Member Dumas asked what makes this school anymore significantly different than what is already in place in Elkhart. Mr. Phalen answered that Genai has been serving the Elkhart community for several years and families have returned from the district to the school because of smaller classroom sizes and community connection.
 3. Board Member Ruegger asked if when Mr. Phalen speaks of students being above the state average does he mean all schools in the state or only the schools on the Far East Side of Indianapolis to which Mr. Phalen answered that he was comparing to the state average. Board Member Ruegger asked ICSB staff to provide the number of students at Phalen Leadership Academy (Corp # 9925) taking the state assessment during the 2016 – 2017 school year. Executive Director James Betley found that ME reporting for the 2016 – 2017 school year was 294 students. Board Member Ruegger determined that about half of the students would have tested that year.

4. Board Member Calvin congratulated Mr. Phalen for the success rate of the K-12 program and the high percentage of graduates. Secondly, Board Member Calvin agreed with Mr. Dumas about being data driven. She was confused with the data received but reminded Members that the Board was formed to provide options to students in the State of Indiana. She went on to say that the Board will have the courage to close schools just as they do to open them.
5. Board Member Rummel asked about any secured enrollment or secured interest for students enrolling in the fall. Mr. Phalen shared that the recruitment process has not started because they do not have a charter yet. Lady Chantella shared that there is currently waitlist.
6. Board Member Bray asked if the financial model is dependent on having multiple schools or if the organizer will be able to open just one. Mr. Phalen clarified that they will be able to open just one school at that it would not be financially dependent of another school.
7. Board Member Bray asked the organizer to speak to the urgency of two campuses in a second year. Mr. Phalen responded that there is not a rush to open a second school. He said that Phalen Leadership Academies is committed to one campus and a second campus would be open contingent upon its need.
8. Vice-Chair Kramer asked if the organizer has found a location or secured a location. Mr. Phalen responded that yes, they have secured the Genai location because the school will be on their current campus. Further, he responded that as for a second campus, the application included possible locations, but they have not committed to a need for the second campus at this time.
9. Vice-Chair Kramer asked Executive Director James Betley if the two campuses would be under one charter. Mr. Betley confirmed that yes, they two campuses would be under one charter activation for Phalen Leadership Academies.
10. Board Member Ruegger asked if the schools would then only be able to receive one expansion grant. ICSB staff member, Beatriz Pacheco, responded that the as of her recent time at IDOE, charter local educational agencies (LEA) could apply for the grant as an LEA or each individual school in their LEA could apply for a grant.
11. Board Member Ruegger asked the organizer to address Elkhart Community School's comment regarding data comparisons and reliability. Mr. Betley shared that the data provided was not in reference letter grades and the data comes from IDOE's data team.
12. Board Member Ruegger asked the organizer the number of members on their board, how many times they meet, and the composition of the committees. Mr. Phalen shared that the board has five, soon to be six members, that meet four times per year. He also shared that the committees are currently not meeting. Mr. Betley said that he has no concern about their board.
13. Board Member Dumas shared that he would confirm with IDOE whether more than one school can be under one charter agreement.

- iv. Board decision
 - 1. Board Member Calvin motioned to approve the staff recommendation to grant the activation request for a Phalen Leadership Academies charter school in Elkhart with possibly two campuses. Board Member Rummel seconded the motion.
 - 2. The motion passed with a four to three voice vote with members Virginia Calvin, Janet Rummel, Gretchen Gutman, Jill Kramer voting aye. Members MaryAnn Ruegger, Ellis Dumas III, and Beth Bray voted nay.
 - 3. Member Michelle Gough was not present to vote.
- b. **Edison School of the Arts II – Charter Replication Request**
 - i. Presentation of staff recommendation (5-7 minutes)
 - 1. Executive Director, James Betley, described the Edison School of the Arts application. He indicated that the organizer withdrew their charter conversion application originally on the agenda and will maintain the submitted replication application.
 - ii. Presentation of request by organizer (8-10 minutes)
 - 1. Tanya Stuart Overdorf, Edison Board Chair, presented information regarding Edison’s mission, vision, and achievements.
 - 2. Nathan Tuttle presented information about the Edison School of the Arts II replication application.
 - 3. James Hill, future leader of the school, shared his background and his hopes for Edison School of the Arts II.
 - iii. Question and answer
 - 1. Board Member Ruegger asked the organizer to explain why it would be more financially sustainable to be a stand-alone charter separate from the Indianapolis Public Schools district (IPS). Mr. Tuttle shared that as a standalone charter they have more autonomy with funding.
 - 2. Board Member Ruegger asked the organizer to speak to IPS’s letter opposing their replication at this time. Mr. Tuttle shared that replication discussions with IPS have been happening for a long time, but their team wants to help students sooner rather than later.
 - 3. Vice-Chair Kramer asked about their market research on the Far East Side citing that several schools in the area have trouble meeting enrollment targets. Mr. Tuttle shared that the school is already a part of the Indianapolis community and staff has a long history within the IPS district. Ms. Penny Guthrie (Director of Advancement and Engagement) shared that their team seeks community input including from the Far East Side. Mr. Hill shared that their plan includes relationship building, community partnerships, and bringing a program with existing success to the East Side.
 - iv. Board decision
 - 1. Board Member Bray moved to vote on the staff recommendation to approve the replication request for the Edison School of the Arts II charter. Board Member Calvin seconded the motion.
 - 2. The motion passed with a four to two voice vote with members Virginia Calvin, Janet Rummel, Gretchen Gutman, and Beth Bray voting aye. Members MaryAnn Ruegger and Jill Kramer voted nay.

3. Members Ellis Dumas III and Michelle Gough were not present to vote.

III. Staff Updates

- a. Introduction of new staff
 - i. Beatriz Pacheco introduced herself as the new staff member with the role of Director of Operations and Portfolio Management
- b. Renewal Application update
 - i. Five charter schools are up for renewal. All five submitted a letter of intent and their renewal applications. The application materials have been shared with the external evaluators.
 - ii. ICSB is planning for an ICSB Board Meeting the week of December 13th. Board Member Gutman shared interest in determining these meeting dates a year in advance.

IV. Closing Remarks and Adjournment

- a. Board Member Bray motioned to adjourn. Board Member Ruegger seconded the motion.
- b. The motion passed with five voice votes from Board Members Virginia Calvin, Janet Rummel, MaryAnn Ruegger, Beth Bray, and Jill Kramer voting aye.
- c. Members Gretchen Gutman, Ellis Dumas III, and Michelle Gough were not present to vote.
- d. Meeting adjourned at 4:53 p.m. ET