



**Board Members Present**

Kim Preston (Chair)  
Jill Robinson Kramer (Vice-Chair)  
Virginia Calvin  
Janet Rummel  
Mary Ann Ruegger  
Leslie Dillon  
Michelle Gough

**Board Members Absent**

Gretchen Gutman  
Vanessa Allen-McCloud

**Staff**

James Betley  
Bridgett Abston  
Ryan Preston  
Nicole Hornyak  
Sherie Scott

**NOTICE OF VIRTUAL MEETING AND AGENDA  
December 10, 2020 at 11:00 a.m. EDT**

**Meeting Video: [https://youtu.be/gzgD\\_eCrwDE](https://youtu.be/gzgD_eCrwDE)**

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## **I. Call to Order/ Board Meeting Minutes Approval**

- a. Chair Kim Preston called the meeting to order at 11:04 a.m. EDT.
- b. Approval of Board Minutes (10/16/2020)
  - i. Chair Preston opened the floor for comments on the previous board meeting minutes. Hearing no objections, Chair Preston motioned to approve the minutes. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote with members Virginia Calvin, Leslie Dillon, Michelle Gough, MaryAnn Ruegger, Janet Rummel. Vice-Chair Jill Robinson Kramer and Chair Preston voting aye.

## **II. Charter School Renewal Application Consideration**

### **a. Charter Renewal Procedure**

- i. Executive Director, James Betley spoke to the board about the renewal process and the changes that have occurred in the accountability system. He gave the board an overview on how the system was altered due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

### **b. Ace Prep**

- i. Presentation of staff recommendation
  1. Mr. Betley provided the board with the staff recommendation of full renewal for Ace Prep. He described the history of the school and rationale for staff's recommendation.
- ii. Presentation of proposal by board
  1. Ace Prep school founder, Anna Shults, detailed the historical milestones the school has encountered over the course of the school's charter term. She spoke about the expansion of grade levels and enrollment challenges the school faced.
- iii. Question and answer period
  1. Member Ruegger inquired about financials and closure information for parents. Member Dillon asked about teachers. Ms. Shults addressed the members questions and provided further information.
- iv. Board renewal decision
  1. Chair Preston called for a motion. Member Rummel motioned to approve the full five-year renewal for Ace Prep, Member Dillon seconded. The motion passed with Members Calvin, Dillon, Gough, Rummel, Vice-Chair Kramer and Chair Preston voting aye. Member Ruegger voted nay.

### **c. Excel Center – Shelbyville**

- i. Presentation of staff recommendation
  1. Mr. Betley provided the board with the staff recommendation of full renewal for Excel Center – Shelbyville. He reported on the data throughout the school's charter term and the successes they have had as a campus.
- ii. Presentation of proposal by board
  1. Betsy Delgado, Vice President of Goodwill Mission and Education Initiatives spoke to the board about the network's involvement with the Shelbyville campus and the community engagement that began with the opening of the school and continues with local partnerships. Corey Emery, Regional Director of Excel Centers, expanded on the community partnerships and relationships the campus has created.

- iii. Question and answer period
  - 1. Member Ruegger asked for clarification on the graduation rate calculation. Mr. Emery responded and explained how the rate is factored each year.
- iv. Board renewal decision
  - 1. Chair Preston opened the floor for a motion. Member Rummel motioned to approve the full five-year renewal for Excel Center-Shelbyville, Member Gough seconded. The motion passed with Members Calvin, Dillon, Gough, Ruegger, Rummel and Chair Preston voting aye. Vice-Chair Kramer recused herself from the vote.
- d. [Higher Institute of Arts and Technology \(HIAT\)](#)
  - i. Presentation of staff recommendation
    - 1. Mr. Betley provided the board with the staff recommendation of full renewal for Higher Institute of Arts and Technology. He described the school's history and the educational partnership that has occurred, increasing the school's performance.
  - ii. Presentation of proposal by board
    - 1. Higher Institute of Arts and Technology Board Chair, Sharla Johnson, addressed the board and provided a detailed history on the school and how the board has addressed issues. School leader, Jillian Kemp, presented the board with student data and performance results that have happened at the school.
  - iii. Question and answer period
    - 1. Member Rummel asked about the student data provided and the comparison of local school performance. Ms. Kemp clarified the data points provided. Member Ruegger inquired about public hearing notification. Ms. Kemp detailed the platforms used to reach parents and inform them. Mr. Betley clarified the public hearing notification used by staff. Bridgett Abston, Director of Applications and Accountability described the comparative data analysis done for the provided information on the local school.
  - iv. Board renewal decision
    - 1. Chair Preston called for a motion. Member Gough motioned to approve the full five-year renewal for Higher Institute of Arts and Technology, Member Dillon seconded. The motion passed with Members Calvin, Gough, Rummel, Vice-Chair Kramer and Chair Preston voting aye. Members Dillon and Ruegger voted nay.
- e. [Steel City Academy](#)
  - i. Presentation of staff recommendation
    - 1. Mr. Betley provided the board with the staff recommendation of full renewal for Steel City Academy. He spoke of the drastic changes the school has undergone, from losing most of the founding members to the unique grade span issues, and how the current school leader and board has addressed and corrected the problems.
  - ii. Presentation of proposal by board
    - 1. Steel City Academy School Leader, Katie Kirley, addressed the board and described the changes that have happened as a result of

intervention. She spoke of the clarification leadership of roles and the student performance data.

- iii. Question and answer period
  1. Member Dillon asked about the impact of leadership changes on students. Ms. Kirley explained that with the changes, there has been a positive outcome on student achievement. Member Dillon inquired about the partnerships in the community and the understanding of surrounding competition. Ms. Kirley described the former relationships that have been created and the plans for continuing community engagement in the future. Member Dillon commended Ms. Kirley for her investment in the community. Member Ruegger questioned the payroll protection loan. Ms. Kirley explained the due diligence the school is doing to ensure forgiveness. Mr. Betley described the actions the staff was doing to monitor the loans. Member Rummel questioned graduation rates. Ms. Kirley explained the implemented pathways the school has, and the data errors that are working to be resolved.
- iv. Board renewal decision
  1. Chair Preston called for a motion. Member Rummel motioned to approve the full five-year renewal for Steel City academy, Member Dillon seconded. The motion passed with Members Calvin, Gough, Rummel, Vice-Chair Kramer and Chair Preston voting aye. Members Dillon and Ruegger voted nay.

### **III. Other Board Business**

#### **a. Flexibility for Certain Charter Requests**

- i. Mr. Betley detailed that the flexibility request before the board is to give the Executive Director the authority and discretion to grant approval to a school requesting to “split” existing grade levels currently under a single approved Charter Agreement into one or more Charter Agreements under specific conditions.
- ii. Chair Preston opened the floor for a motion. Member Calvin motioned to approve the staff recommendation and give the Executive Director authority. Vice-Chair Kramer seconded, and the motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

### **IV. Staff Updates**

#### **a. Maximum Charter Term**

- i. Mr. Betley described the current landscape of charter term lengths throughout the country and from other Indiana authorizers. He stated the staff recommendation is to change the maximum allowable term in ICSB’s Charter Agreement from five years to the seven-year maximum term permitted by statute for renewal schools in good standing as determined by the board.
- ii. Chair Preston called for a motion. Member Calvin motioned to approve the staff recommendation to allow for the possibility of a seven-year renewal,

Member Rummel seconded. The motion passed with Members Calvin, Dillon, Gough, Rummel, Vice-Chair Kramer and Chair Preston voting aye. Member Ruegger voted nay.

**V. Closing Remarks and Adjournment**

- a. Chair Preston thanked the board members and staff for their work. She opened the floor for a motion to adjourn. Member Ruegger motioned to adjourn the meeting, and Member Dillon seconded. The meeting ended at 2:12 p.m. EDT.