



**Board Members Present**

Beth Bray (Chair)  
Jill Robinson Kramer (Vice-Chair)  
Gretchen Gutman  
MaryAnn Ruegger  
Violet Hawkins  
Michael Jasaitis  
Anna Shults

**Board Members Not Present**

Janet Rummel

**Staff**

James Betley  
Bridgett Abston  
Ryan Preston  
Sherie Scott  
Beatriz Pacheco

**NOTICE OF MEETING AND AGENDA  
December 13, 2022 at 8:00 a.m. ET**

**Indiana Government Center South – Conference Room C  
302 W Washington Street,  
Indianapolis, IN 46204**

**MEETING RECORDING:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gqQ0itYxhe8&t=600s>

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## Meeting Minutes

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

- a. Approval of Board Minutes (April 28, 2022)
  - i. Board Member Gutman motions to approve the April 28, 2022 Meeting Minutes. Board Member Robinson Kramer seconded the motion.
  - ii. Board Members Bray, Robinson Kramer, Gutman Schlegel Ruegger, Hawkins, Jasaitis, and Shults voice voted aye.
  - iii. Board Member Rummel was absent.

### II. Board Business

- a. **The Excel Center Gary – Charter Renewal**
  - i. Presentation of staff recommendation (5-7 minutes)
    1. Director, James Betley, provided a brief overview of the renewal application for the Excel Center Gary.
    2. The staff recommended the Excel Center Gary for a seven-year renewal.
  - ii. Presentation of request by organizer (8-10 minutes)
    1. Debie Coble, President and CEO of Goodwill Industries of Michiana, and Dr. Chris Alber, Vice President of the Excel Centers of Michiana provided a brief overview of the school.
  - iii. Question and answer period
    1. Board Member Hawkins asked about the demographics of the teachers and staff in the organization. Ms. Theresa Knipe, Director of the Excel Center Gary, responded that their staff is about thirty percent Latino, thirty percent Black, twenty-five percent Biracial, and remaining percent would be considered Caucasian.
    2. Board Member Hawkins asked the organizer has longitudinal data for students post-graduation. Ms. Knipe shared that yes they do have longitudinal data for tracking students.
    3. Board Member Schlegel Ruegger asked for clarification on the relationship with local high schools and Ivy Tech specifically with the medium for college classes and certifications. Dr. Alber responded that they explain to the local high schools that Excel Centers are there to help the students and it helps the high schools as well. Ms. Knipe shared that some certifications are in house and some are hosted at Ivy Tech.
    4. Board Member Schlegel Ruegger asked if the Excel Center pays the outside vendors for those partnerships. Ms. Knipe shared that students under age twenty-two and below complete a program that will pay for their certifications. Certifications for students over twenty-two years old are paid by the Excel Center.
    5. Board Member Gutman asked how the school determines which certifications are most valuable to students. Ms. Knipe said she reviews the certification offerings frequently.

6. Board Member Hawkins asked if certifications in technology are offered. Ms. Knipe said that there are technology-related certifications offered and available based on student interest.
  7. Board Member Shults asked the organizer to provide an update on enrollment and retention incentives and their effectiveness. Ms. Knipe shared that the team is assuring they understand student needs and what keeps them enrolled at the school. They also have a student council.
  8. Board Member Shults asked the organizer to share what they feel sets them apart from other similar options in the community. Ms. Knipe responded that the school only accepts students that are eighteen and older. She shares with students that Excel Center Gary is an option compared to the other similar schools based on their need and path.
- iv. Board decision
1. Board Member Gutman moved to accept the staff recommendation of a seven-year renewal. Board Member Jasaitis seconded the motion.
  2. Board Members Bray, Robinson Kramer, Gutman, Schlegel Ruegger, Hawkins, Jasaitis, and Shults voice voted aye.
  3. Board Member Rummel was absent.
  4. Motion passed with seven yeases and zero noes
- b. **Gary Middle College – Charter Renewal**
- i. Presentation of staff recommendation (5-7 minutes)
    1. Director, James Betley, provided a brief overview of the renewal application for Gary Middle College.
    2. The staff recommended the Gary Middle College for a seven-year renewal.
  - ii. Presentation of request by organizer (8-10 minutes)
    1. Kevin Teasley, Founder of GEO Foundation and Co-Founder of Gary Middle College and Pete Morikis, Executive Director of GEO Northwest Indiana provided a brief overview of the school. Mr. Joseph Arredondo, Principal of Gary Middle College also gave an overview of the school.
  - iii. Question and answer
    1. Board Member Shults asked the organizer to speak on their attendance goals. Mr. Arredondo responded that the national average for a school of their type is forty percent. Ms. Wendy Skibinski, Chief Academic Officer of GEO Foundation, shared that students are given multiple opportunities to take exams and staff shares with students the importance of attendance for their ability to graduate.
    2. Board Member Robinson Kramer asked if students have several options for Pathways. Ms. Skibinski responded ‘yes’. The GEO team meets weekly to audit student progress toward their unique Pathway.
    3. Board Member Gutman said that many students are doing recovery on a computer. Ms. Skibinski shared that students with the highest reading needs are receiving individualized, remediation by teachers.
    4. Board Member Schlegel Ruegger asked the organizer to clarify if the school is a high school and an adult high school. Ms. Skibinski said ‘yes’. Gary Middle College accepts student age sixteen and above.

5. Board Member Schlegel Ruegger asked how many students currently enrolled are age nineteen and below and how many age twenty and above. Mr. Arredondo responded the majority of students are age sixteen through nineteen.
  6. Board Member Schlegel Ruegger asked if the school is being paid correspondingly with high school students and adult high schools. Mr. Betley responded that the school submits and ME and an MA IDOE data collection for high school students and adult high school students.
  7. Board Member Schlegel Ruegger asked how many high school students go to Ivy Tech for dual credit classes. Mr. Arredondo responded that so far in the 2022 – 2023 school year, there are sixty students out of one hundred and fifty students participating in Ivy Tech classes.
- iv. Board decision
1. Board Member Robinson Kramer moved to accept the staff recommendation of a seven-year renewal. Board Member Shults seconded the motion.
  2. Board Members Bray, Robinson Kramer, Gutman, Jasaitis, and Shults voice voted aye.
  3. Board Member Schlegel Ruegger and Hawkins voice voted nay.
  4. Board Member Rummel was absent.
  5. Motion passed with five yeases and two no.
- c. **The Excel Center Muncie – Charter Renewal**
- i. Presentation of staff recommendation (5-7 minutes)
    1. Director, James Betley, provided a brief overview of the renewal application for the Excel Center Muncie.
    2. The staff recommended the Excel Center Muncie for a seven-year renewal.
  - ii. Presentation of request by organizer (8-10 minutes)
    1. Ms. Betsy Delgado, Senior Vice President and Chief Mission and Education Officer with Goodwill of Central and Southern Indiana, provided a brief overview of the school.
  - iii. Question and answer period
    1. Board Member Robinson Kramer asked the organizer to speak on the network’s plan for reaching network enrollment goals. Ms. Delgado responded that after the pandemic, all school leaders went into the community and brought back many prospective students through relationship building.
    2. Board Chair Bray asked if the enrollment caps are established by ICSB or the legislature. Mr. Betley replied that they are established by the legislature.
    3. Board Member Schlegel Ruegger asked if the adult high schools are paid ADM by students going in on count day. Ms. Delgado responded ‘yes’; the school is funded by the state through a student count on count days.

4. Board Member Schlegel Ruegger said she was concerned that most of the comments were not from students, but from Excel Center staff. Mr. Betley outlined the ICSB public hearing procedures.
  5. Board Chair Bray asked the organizer to share their process for communicating the public hearing with stakeholders. Ms. Delgado shared the information was shared to stakeholders in accordance with ICSB procedures. They informed the community and the school staff/students.
  6. Board Member Hawkins asked the organizer to speak on school staff demographics. Ms. Delgado said their organization understands the importance of shared demographic with students and they are actively work toward hiring a diverse staff.
  7. Board Member Gutman asked if the 4,900 seats as provided in the current legislative budget, are shared with the Goodwill Industries of Michiana schools as well. Ms. Delgado answered 'yes'. Board Member Gutman asked if there are seats not being utilized by Goodwill Industries of Michiana schools can they be used by Goodwill of Central and Southern Indiana. Ms. Delgado responded 'yes'.
- iv. Board decision
1. Board Member Gutman moved to accept the staff recommendation of a seven-year renewal. Board Member Jasaitis seconded the motion.
  2. Board Members Bray, Robinson Kramer, Gutman, Hawkins, Jasaitis, and Shults voice voted aye.
  3. Board Member Schlegel Ruegger voice voted nay.
  4. Board Member Rummel was absent.
  5. Motion passed with six yeses and one no.
- d. **The Excel Center Kokomo – Charter Renewal**
- i. Presentation of staff recommendation (5-7 minutes)
    1. Director, James Betley, provided a brief overview of the renewal application for the Excel Center Kokomo.
    2. The staff recommended the Excel Center Kokomo for a seven-year renewal.
  - ii. Presentation of request by organizer (8-10 minutes)
    1. Ms. Betsy Delgado, Senior Vice President and Chief Mission and Education Officer with Goodwill of Central and Southern Indiana, provided a brief overview of the school.
  - iii. Question and answer period
    1. Board Member Gutman moved to accept the Board recommendation of a seven-year renewal. Board Member Hawkins seconded the motion.
    2. Board Members Bray, Robinson Kramer, Gutman, Schlegel Ruegger, Hawkins, Jasaitis, and Shults voice voted aye.
    3. Board Member Rummel was absent.
    4. Motion passed with seven yeses and zero noes.
  - iv. Board decision
- e. **The Excel Center Lafayette – Charter Renewal**

- i. Presentation of staff recommendation (5-7 minutes)
    - 1. Director, James Betley, provided a brief overview of the renewal application for the Excel Center Lafayette.
    - 2. The staff recommended the Excel Center Lafayette for a seven-year renewal.
  - ii. Presentation of request by organizer (8-10 minutes)
    - 1. Ms. Betsy Delgado, Senior Vice President and Chief Mission and Education Officer with Goodwill of Central and Southern Indiana, provided a brief overview of the school.
  - iii. Question and answer period
  - iv. Board decision
    - 1. Board Member Gutman moved to accept the staff recommendation of a seven-year renewal. Board Member Jasaitis seconded the motion.
    - 2. Board Members Bray, Robinson Kramer, Gutman, Hawkins, Jasaitis, and Shults voice voted aye.
    - 3. Board Member Schlegel Ruegger voice voted nay.
    - 4. Board Member Rummel was absent.
    - 5. Motion passed with six yeses and one no.
- f. The Excel Center Richmond – Charter Renewal**
- i. Presentation of staff recommendation (5-7 minutes)
    - 1. Director, James Betley, provided a brief overview of the renewal application for the Excel Center Richmond.
    - 2. The staff recommended the Excel Center Richmond for a seven-year renewal.
  - ii. Presentation of request by organizer (8-10 minutes)
    - 1. Ms. Betsy Delgado, Senior Vice President and Chief Mission and Education Officer with Goodwill of Central and Southern Indiana, provided a brief overview of the school.
  - iii. Question and answer
  - iv. Board decision
    - 1. Board Member Gutman moved to accept the staff recommendation of a seven-year renewal. Board Member Hawkins seconded the motion.
    - 2. Board Members Bray, Robinson Kramer, Gutman, Schlegel Ruegger, Hawkins, Jasaitis, and Shults voice voted aye.
    - 3. Board Member Rummel was absent.
    - 4. Motion passed with seven yeses and zero noes.

### **III. Closing Remarks and Adjournment**

- a. Board Member Gutman motioned to adjourn. Board Member Jasaitis seconded the motion.
  - 1. Board Members Bray, Robinson Kramer, Gutman, Schlegel Ruegger, Hawkins, Jasaitis, and Shults voice voted aye.
  - 2. Board Member Rummel was absent.
  - 3. Motion passed with seven yeses and zero noes.
- b. The meeting was adjourned by unanimous vote at 10:16 a.m. ET.