



**Board Members Present**

Beth Bray (Chair)  
Jill Robinson Kramer (Vice-Chair)  
Gretchen Gutman  
Violet Hawkins  
Michael Jasaitis  
Rev. David W. Greene, Sr.

**Board Members Absent**

Anna Shults  
Rep. Terri Austin

**Staff**

James Betley  
Bridgett Abston  
Ryan Preston  
Sherie Scott  
Beatriz García

**NOTICE OF MEETING**

**September 26, 2023 at 12:00 p.m. ET**  
**Indiana Government Center South – Conference Room C**  
**302 W Washington Street**  
**Indianapolis, IN 46204**

**Meeting Link:**

<https://www.youtube.com/@indianacharterschoolboard6660>

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## Minutes

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

- a. Call to Order
  - i. Board Chair Beth Bray called the meeting to order at 12:02 p.m. ET.
- b. Approval of Board Minutes (June 6, 2023)
  - i. Board Member Gretchen Gutman motioned to accept the June 6, 2023 Board minutes.
  - ii. Board Member Michael Jasaitis seconded the motion. Board Members Robinson Kramer, Gutman, Jasaitis, Greene, and Bray voice voted aye.
  - iii. Board Members Hawkins, Shults, and Austin were absent for this vote.
  - iv. Motion passes with five ayes and zero nays.

### II. Board Business

- a. **Christel House Academy, Inc. – Amendment Request**
  - i. Presentation of staff recommendation (5-7 minutes)
    1. Executive Director, James Betley, provided a brief overview of the amendment request submitted by Christel House Academy, Inc. The organizer is requesting to lengthen the recently approved renewal charters from seven years to fifteen years for all three Indianapolis Christel House Academy, Inc. Schools (Christel House South, Christel House West, and Christel House DORS).
    2. The staff recommendation was to approve the amendment request.
  - ii. Presentation of request by organizer (8-10 minutes)
    1. Emily Masengale, CEO of Christel House Indianapolis, provided a brief overview of the Christel House Academy, Inc. Amendment request.
  - iii. Question and answer period
    1. Board Member Robinson Kramer asked Mr. Betley if ICSB would still conduct the annual review and wanted to clarify if at that point the Board could still ask questions. Mr. Betley confirmed the ICSB staff would continue to conduct their annual review and Board members can continue to ask questions of the school(s).
    2. Board Member Hawkins asked James if all ICSB schools are aware they can return to the Board to change their charter term? James said that all of our schools are aware of the changes. Yet, not all charter schools need a fifteen-year term and ICSB Staff did not plan to solicit charter contract term changes. James recommended the board addresses each school on a case-by-case basis.
    3. Board Member Gutman asked the organizer if they would have requested the extension outside of the financial benefit of purchasing the building. Ms. Masengale said the opportunity to purchase the building expedited Christel House Academy, Inc.'s decision to request a fifteen-year charter.
    4. Board Member Gutman asked a question regarding who the Bond holder would be. Ms. Masengale said Christel House Academy, Inc. will be the holder of the debt.

5. Board Member Gutman asked if a holding company will hold the debt and the organization would make payments to the company. Ms. Summer Stone (Chief Financial Officer) responded that Christel House Academy, Inc. will be the holder of the debt and will make payments directly to the lender.
  6. Board Member Gutman asked the organizer to clarify on how this would be advantageous to investors. Ms. Masengale spoke of a conversation with The Equitable Facilities Fund (EFF - charter lender) said this would be advantageous for lending world investors not necessarily for the schools. Ms. Stone clarified that the Bond Bank and current bank would only lend to the organizer based on the length of the charter.
  7. Board Member Gutman asked the organizer if they anticipated going longer with the loan. Ms. Masengale said that experts have told them that longer loans tend to have lower rates.
  8. Board Member Gutman asked the organizer what they would use the savings for. Ms. Stone said the South campus is in an innovation contract with IPS. The savings would allow the organizer to provide more equitable funding for their students at the West campus.
  9. Board Member Gutman said she would like to see a contingency plan if the organizer is unable to fulfill the obligation of the loan.
  10. Board Chair Bray asked the organizer to provide a reflection on the 2022 – 2023 available academic data. Ms. Masengale responded that there is quite a bit of change at the network including new leadership. A Chief Academic Officer was hired. Ms. Masengale believes Christel House Schools are not currently in their best academic years. The academic team has been restructured. A new curriculum that aligns with the Science of Reading is now in place. There is new grades 4-8 curriculum, new SAT tutoring for high schoolers, and a new reading program for third graders. They switched from STAR 360 to NWEA.
  11. Board Member Robinson Kramer asked if the Board is adding fifteen years from today or is it effective from the day the contract started. Executive Director, James Betley, said the charter contract can be updated from seven years to fifteen years.
  12. Board Member Gutman asked for a standard policy if a school requests a longer charter contract several years into their charter. Board Chair Bray and Executive Director, James Betley, said their understanding of the relevant Indiana Code is a total of fifteen years.
- iv. Board decision
1. Board Member Gutman motioned to accept the staff recommendation to approve the amendment request for Christel House Academy, Inc. Board Member Rev. Greene seconded the motion.
  2. Board Members Robinson Kramer, Gutman, Hawkins, Jasaitis, Greene, and Bray voice voted aye.
  3. Board Member Shults and Board Member Austin were absent.
  4. Motion passes with six ayes and zero nays.

### **III. Staff Updates**

- a. Per Diem Policy – Executive Director, James Betley, provided an overview of the Board member reimbursement memo.
- b. Vanguard Collegiate of Indianapolis – Executive Director, James Betley, provided an overview and update of the Vanguard Collegiate of Indianapolis school closure.

### **IV. Closing Remarks and Adjournment**

- a. Board Member Gutman motioned to adjourn. Board Member Jasaitis seconded the motion.
- b. Board Members Robinson Kramer, Gutman, Hawkins, Jasaitis, Greene, and Bray voice voted aye.
- c. Board Member Shults and Board Member Austin were absent.
- d. Motion passes with six ayes and zero nays.
- e. The meeting was adjourned by unanimous vote at 12:40 p.m. ET.