



Board Members Present

Joshua Owens (Chair)
Jill Robinson Kramer (Vice-Chair)
Janet Rummel
Mary Ann Ruegger
Virginia Calvin

Board Members Absent

Gretchen Gutman
DeLyn Beard

Staff

James Betley
Bridgett Abston
Nicky Hornyak
Ryan Preston
Jamie Brady

May 14, 2019
Indiana Government Center South – Conference Room A
Indianapolis, IN 46204

1:00 p.m. ET
Spring 2019 Application Board Meeting

I. Call to Order/ Board Meeting Minutes Approval

- a. Chair Josh Owens called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m. ET.
- b. Approval of Board Minutes (3/19/2019)
 - i. Board Member Janet Rummel moved to approve the minutes from the March 19 meeting. Board Member Virginia Calvin seconded, the motion passed by a voice vote unanimously.

II. Board Business

- a. GEO's Next Generation Academy – Indianapolis Application
 - i. Executive Director, James Betley, gave the board an overview of GEO's application, including partnerships and financial structure of the network.
 - ii. Mr. Betley then turned the microphone to the applicant group. Tanya Bell, Indiana Black Expo's President, expanded on the proposed partnership with GEO. Kevin Teasley and other members of GEO answered questions from board members.
 - iii. Dr. Calvin questioned how the logistics of student participation on Ivy Tech's campus would look. Mr. Teasley explained the similarity to the currently operating campus in Gary. He continued, detailing how students earn credits on Ivy Tech's campus and how the school is structured to provide supports that students wouldn't receive otherwise.
 - iv. Member Ruegger questioned the applicant on the legal structure for the school. She inquired about the financials of their Gary campus as well as pay structure of teachers stationed at Ivy Tech.
 - v. Member Kramer asked about enrollment projections, recruitment activities and contingencies if they are unable to meet their enrollment goals.
 - vi. Mr. Betley explained that while the board has not approved an Indianapolis-based application in the last few years, the partnerships and experience of the applicant, the school has a demand. He acknowledged the board has final say, but emphasized this application and applicant were the strongest seen before the board.
 - vii. Member Calvin asked clarifying questions around application history, and Member Ruegger inquired about testimony from the local school district.
 - viii. Chair Owens opened the floor to any public comment, but none were offered. He allowed the board last questions or comments. Hearing none he opened up for a motion on the staff's recommendation to approve GEO Academies one charter for GEO's Next Generation Academy of Indianapolis. Member Kramer motioned to accept the staff's recommendation. Chair Owens seconded, but no action was taken with Members Kramer, Calvin and Chair Owens voting yea, Member Ruegger voting nay, and Member Rummel recusing due to her role with Ivy Tech.
 - ix. Chair Owens told staff to work with the applicant, and to try and arrange a meeting once the new board members are appointed. Member Calvin inquired about the state of charters within the state. Mr. Betley affirmed that staff will organize another meeting once the new members are on the board.
- b. HIM By HER Collegiate School For the Arts Application
 - i. James Betley gave the board background on the HIM By HER's application. He cited highlights including the organizer's ties to the community,

willingness to address problems within previous applications and strong desire to improve the lives of students in their community. He stated that there were major deficiencies within the application, both academic and financial, that staff could not recommend approval.

- ii. Chair Owens clarified that this applicant had come before the board previously, and had been declined on a 9-12th grade proposal. Mr. Betley affirmed.
- iii. Shonda Gladden, board member and pastor, explained that the HIM By HER board had made changes to their application and vision since their previous submission. She acknowledged that the application had changed focus, but stated the board remained committed to carrying out a high quality school for students.
- iv. Chair Owens allowed the board to ask questions. Member Ruegger inquired about teacher recruitment. Harry Dunn, board member, explained that they will be very selective and will have a diverse staff. Member Calvin asked about location, and Member Rummel questioned the purpose of the grade level change.
- v. Mr. Dunn addressed the board's process since the last submission. Member Rummel inquired why the organization was seeking to open a school, instead of offering their resources to students who attend other schools. Representative John Bartlett explained that this opportunity was needed to be able to provide effective wrap around support services for students. He stated that the HIM By HER program helps stop crime, and it has to start early for these students.
- vi. Chair Owens allowed further questions or comments. Hearing none, he opened the floor for a motion. Member Rummel motioned to accept the staff recommendation to decline the charter of declination of the application submitted by HIM By HER Foundation. Member Calvin seconded, and the motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

c. Indy STEAM Academy Application

- i. Mr. Betley gave the board an overview of the applicant's history. The applicant had come before the board prior and been declined. He explained that the proposed educational program is difficult to implement, and requires funding and expert staffing. Since the school is proposed to open in Indianapolis, the staff could not recommend approval, based on uncertain student enrollment, staffing model and funding. He reminded the board that they have now declined two applications based in Indianapolis.
- ii. Yvonne Bullock thanked the board and gave a brief introduction of application members present. She continued, addressing the purpose of the application before the board. Ms. Bullock explained that STEM is a growing field, however many jobs are unfilled due to lack of skilled workers. She detailed the research done for the location of the school. She stated there was parental interest and demand for the school, citing letters of intent. Ms. Bullock stressed that they were ready and won't let parents down.
- iii. Chair Owens opened the floor for questions. Member Ruegger questioned the charter grant funding in the application. Mr. Betley explained that the funds are not guaranteed, they are conditional based on each cycle. Chair

Owens questioned enrollment, stating the budget was thin, and explained the board has had to face tough situations with schools already.

- iv. Chair Owens then opened the floor for further comments or questions from the board. With none, he moved to public comments.
- v. Both Lindon Hill, Assistant Dean of Marion University, and Torian, Eli Lilly gave comments in support of Indy STEAM's proposal.
- vi. Chair Owens then opened up to a motion from the board. Member Rummel motioned to accept the staff recommendation to decline Indy STEAM a charter. Member Ruegger seconded, and the motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

III. Staff Updates

- a. New Members
 - i. Mr. Betley informed the board that once the new members have been appointed, the staff will schedule a meeting. He explained the changes with the board structure, citing lack of member attendance and recusals causing non-actions as the main thinking.
- b. Revised Accountability System
 - i. Mr. Betley explained that the revised system is in their packet, but acknowledged that it will not be approved at this meeting. Member Rummel questioned if the option of revising the Adult Accountability System. Mr. Betley affirmed that it is something staff is willing to do, however the State Board is currently revising it.

IV. Closing Remarks

- a. Chair Owens noted there were no further agenda items or public comments. He thanked the staff for their work over the course of his term, and the board for their discussions as well as the time they put into their service.

V. Adjourn

- a. The meeting adjourned at 3:29 p.m. ET.