



MINUTES

INDIANA CHARTER SCHOOL BOARD

February 23, 2016

Indiana Government Center South
Conference Room #4
302 West Washington Street
Indianapolis, IN 46204

1 p.m. EDT
Board Meeting

The meeting of the Indiana Charter School Board (“ICSB”) convened at 1:03 p.m.

ICSB Members Karega Rausch (Chair), Kreg Battles, DeLyn Beard, Virginia Calvin, Joshua Owens, and Kristin Reed were present. ICSB member Daniel Lopez was absent. Staff members James Betley, Michelle McKeown, Bridgett Abston and Amy Osborne were present.

I. Call to Order/Board Meeting minutes approval

Dr. Rausch called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m.

Dr. Calvin motioned to approve the proposed minutes. Dr. Calvin seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Dr. Rausch, Mr. Battles, Dr. Calvin, Mr. Owens, and Ms. Reed voting yes.

II. Updates

Executive Director James Betley provided staff updates by introducing Bridgett Abston, Director of Accountability and Applications, and Amy Osborne, Assistant Director of Applications and External Affairs.

Dr. McKeown provided the Board with an overview of changes made to the ICSB Start-Up Manual and Site Visit Guidance. The Start-Up Manual changes reflected legislative changes.

The Site Visit Guidance and procedure was changed after reviewing other high-quality authorizers throughout the country. Dr. McKeown discussed that the processes that were created to remove redundancy in data submission by creating a schedule for data submission that aligns with current IDOE submissions. Dr. Rausch commented this was a smart approach to use the quality authorizers' processes as benchmarks and to include more frequent touch points for the ICSB's approach to site visits.

III. School Portfolio Update

Dr. McKeown also provided an update on the ICSB portfolio. She gave an overview of enrollment, accountability and ISTEP data for each ICSB school along with a comparison of our ICSB compare to other authorizers' schools in the state.

Dr. McKeown then focused on the three ICSB schools that are coming up for renewal: Carpe Diem Meridian, Thurgood Marshall Leadership Academy, and the Excel Center Anderson.

IV. Charter Schools USA

Mr. Betley presented the staff recommendation to approve the opening extension request from Charter School USA. Ms. Reed asked if there were any additional taxpayers dollars associated with the delay. Mr. Betley indicated there were none because they did not receive any federal or state startup funds.

Both Mr. Battles and Ms. Reed motioned to approve the staff recommendation. Ms. Beard seconded. The motion passed with Dr. Rausch, Mr. Battles, Ms. Beard, Dr. Calvin, Ms. Reed, and Mr. Owens voting yes. The vote was 6-0.

V. Charter School Activation Request

Mr. Betley presented the staff recommendation to approve the activation of the Excel Center Shelbyville. Ms. Reed indicated she would abstain from voting as her husband's company has a contract with Goodwill Industries.

Dr. Calvin motioned to accept the staff recommendation. Mr. Owens seconded. Dr. Rausch commended the staff on its due diligence in preparing the recommendation. The motion passed with Dr. Rausch, Mr. Battles, Ms. Beard, Dr. Calvin and Mr. Owens voting yes with Ms. Reed abstaining. The vote was 5-0.

After the vote, Scott Bess thanked the board and spoke about the work of AHS and the impact of Goodwill Initiative expansion.

VI. Spring Application Cycle Update

Mr. Betley went over the list of letters of intent received by the ICSB staff. Mr. Betley gave an update to the potential application from Thea Bowman Leadership Academy to switch authorizers. He asked the board to consider expediting the application review process as state law requires final approval by the State Board of Education. Dr. Rausch indicated this would be possible, but it would not mean that the ICSB would cut any corners of the review process. The board agreed to expedite the process if necessary.

VII. Closing Remarks

Ms. Reed thanked the staff for the annual report and suggested the addition of past board members since there is previous years' data included. Ms. Reed inquired why ICSB is producing the annual report to include 2014-2015 data since other authorizer's in the state of Indiana are only including 2013-2014 data. Dr. McKeown explained that past practice among all authorizes has been to include data a year in arrears because that was the only complete data available. However, this year the ICSB chose to provide both the complete data from one year in arrears as well as the current year data that were available. Dr. McKeown commented that the additional transparency and more up-to-date data is reflective of best practices.

Dr. Calvin asked how many staff are now part of the ICSB. Mr. Betley indicated there are 4 staff members. She thanked staff for the work.

VIII. Adjourn

Dr. Calvin motioned to adjourn at 2:34 p.m. Dr. Rausch seconded. The motion passed unanimously.