



INDIANA CHARTER SCHOOL BOARD

MINUTES

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May 21, 2012

Department of Education
James Whitcomb Riley Conference Room
151 West Ohio Street
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

The meeting of the Indiana Charter School Board convened at 1:02 PM.

Board members Virginia Calvin, Lawrence DeMoss, Jamie Garwood, Todd Huston, Scott Jenkins, Karega Rausch, and William Shrewsbury were present. Staff members Claire Fiddian-Green and Sarah McClamroch were present.

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

Mr. Huston called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m. Dr. Calvin moved for approval of the meeting minutes from the March Indiana Charter School Board meeting. Mr. Rausch seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Mr. Huston acknowledged the nine (9) organizers that chose to withdraw their applications and asked Ms. Fiddian-Green to list the names of withdrawn applicants. Those applicants were the following: Better Blended Learning of Indiana (Nexus Academy), Center for Educational Pathways (Global Learning Space), Summit Academy of Vigo County (Summit Academy of Vigo County), Heritage Institute of Arts and Technology (Heritage Institute of Arts and Technology), Indiana Urban Education Solutions, Inc. (Passport Academies of Indianapolis and Gary), The Promise Academy (The Promise Academy), Responsive Education Solutions (Premier High Schools of Evansville, Gary and Indianapolis), Sun Academy of Fort Wayne (Sun Academy of Fort Wayne), and Urban League of Madison County (Anderson Learning Academy).

II. Charter School Applicant Q&A

Mr. Huston welcomed applicants to offer a statement to the Board, and provided the Board an opportunity to ask the applicants questions.

- A. Next Step School Corporation (Via Charter School)
 - i. The Board asked the applicant group to discuss the plans for expanding the school through high school and establishing an International Baccalaureate (“IB”) program, and the community opposition to the proposed school expressed during the public hearing in Scottsburg.
- B. The Performing Arts Conservatory, Inc. (The Performing Arts Conservatory)
 - i. The Board asked the applicant group to discuss the grade promotion policy, the IB program application process steps, the staffing structure, conflicts of interest between the board chair and the executive director, and managing students’ differing talent levels in the performing arts.
- C. Indiana Math and Science Academy – South Indianapolis Charter School, Inc. (Indiana Math and Science Academy – South)
 - i. The Board asked the applicant group to discuss origins of the board’s creation, the board’s involvement in school planning and application submission, reasons for applying to the ICSB versus the other two authorizers through which it has two approved schools, the track record of Concept Schools, and the short start-up timeframe for the proposed school.
- D. Indiana Schools Foundation (Delaware Academy and Kosciusko Academy)
 - i. The Board asked the applicant group to discuss the start-plan and the capacity and experience of the board of directors and the two new Education Service Providers to successfully open two schools in three months.
- E. Phalen Leadership Academies – Indiana, Inc. (George and Veronica Phalen Leadership Academies #1-10)
 - i. The Board asked the applicant group to discuss how the proposed schools will borrow from the Summer Advantage program design, the rationale for 10 charters with 900 students at each school, the locations of these schools, school leader identification and other talent sourcing/human capital strategies.
- F. Rocketship Education (Rocketship Indianapolis Public Schools #1-8)
 - i. The Board asked the applicant group to discuss the decision to open the first school in 2015, philanthropy needed for start-up, and parent involvement.

- ii. To avoid a potential conflict of interest, Mr. Rausch left the room during the Board's Q&A with the applicant group due to the community engagement that the applicant had with Mr. Rausch's employer during the application submission process. Mr. Rausch was invited back into the room following the end of the Board's Q&A with the applicant.

G. York Academy of Discovery, Inc. (York Academy of Discovery)

- i. The Board asked the applicant to discuss the proposed location of the proposed school, the expertise of the board members, the training of teachers in Paideia, and evidence of support from the community.

III. Break

The meeting recessed from 2:50 p.m. – 3:02 p.m.

IV. Charter School Application Decisions

A. Rocketship Education

- i. To avoid a potential conflict of interest, Mr. Rausch left the room for the deliberation and voting.
- ii. Ms. Fiddian-Green provided information on a recommendation to approve the Rocketship Education application for eight (8) Rocketship Indianapolis Public Schools. The first school is scheduled to open in 2015. Ms. Fiddian-Green indicated that the same approval process that is in place for Carpe Diem Schools #2-6 would also be utilized for Rocketship Schools #2-8.
- iii. Dr. Calvin moved for approval. Mr. Jenkins seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with six votes.
- iv. Mr. Rausch returned to the room following the vote.

B. Next Step School Corporation

- i. Ms. Fiddian-Green provided information on a recommendation to approve the Next Step School Corporation application for VIA Charter School.
- ii. Dr. Calvin moved for approval. Ms. Garwood seconded the motion. Mr. DeMoss and Mr. Shrewsbury opposed the motion. The motion passed five votes to two.

C. The Performing Arts Conservatory

- i. Ms. Fiddian-Green provided information on a recommendation to approve The Performing Arts Conservatory application for The Performing Arts Conservatory.

- ii. Mr. Shrewsberry moved for approval. Dr. Calvin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

D. Indiana Math and Science Academy – South Indianapolis Charter School, Inc.

- i. Ms. Fiddian-Green provided information on a recommendation to decline the Indiana Math and Science Academy – South Indianapolis Charter School, Inc. application for Indiana Math and Science Academy – South.
- ii. Dr. Calvin moved for approval. Mr. DeMoss seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

E. Indiana Schools Foundation

- i. Ms. Fiddian-Green provided information on a recommendation to decline the Indiana Schools Foundation application for Delaware Academy and Kosciusko Academy.
- ii. Dr. Calvin moved for approval. Ms. Garwood seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

F. Phalen Leadership Academies – Indiana, Inc.

- i. Ms. Fiddian-Green provided information on a recommendation to approve the Phalen Leadership Academies – Indiana, Inc. application for the George and Veronica Phalen Leadership Academies. The first school is scheduled to open in 2013. Ms. Fiddian-Green indicated that the same approval process that is in place for Carpe Diem Schools #2-6 and was approved for Rocketship Schools #2-8 would also be utilized for Phalen Leadership Academies #2-10.
- ii. Dr. Calvin moved for approval. Mr. Rausch seconded the motion. To avoid a potential conflict of interest, Mr. Shrewsberry abstained from the vote due to his position on The Mind Trust Board. The applicant group was in the application process through The Mind Trust's Charter Incubator grant program. The motion passed unanimously with six votes.

G. York Academy of Discovery, Inc.

- i. Ms. Fiddian-Green provided information on a recommendation to decline the York Academy of Discovery, Inc. application for the York Academy of Discovery.
- ii. Dr. Calvin moved for approval. Mr. DeMoss seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

V. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 3:59 p.m.