



MINUTES

INDIANA CHARTER SCHOOL BOARD

October 15, 2012

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

The meeting of the Indiana Charter School Board (“ICSB”) convened at 1:05 PM.

ICSB Members Virginia Calvin, Lawrence DeMoss, Jamie Garwood, Scott Jenkins, Karega Rausch, William Shrewsbury, and Maureen Weber were present. Staff members Claire Fiddian-Green and Sarah Sullivan were present. Mr. Rausch left the meeting at 3:00 p.m., and Dr. Calvin left the meeting at 4:01 p.m.

I. Call to Order/Board Meeting Minutes Approval

Ms. Weber called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m., and acknowledged Mr. Todd Huston for his prior service as ICSB Chair. Mr. Rausch moved for approval of the meeting minutes from the May ICSB meeting. Dr. Calvin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Dr. Calvin moved for approval of the meeting minutes from the June ICSB meeting. Mr. Rausch seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

II. Charter School Applicant Q&A

Ms. Weber welcomed applicant groups to offer a statement to ICSB Members, and provided ICSB Members an opportunity to ask each applicant group questions.

A. Better Blended Learning for Indiana, Inc. (Nexus Academy of Indianapolis)

- i. ICSB Members asked the applicant group to discuss the following topics: why Better Blended Learning for Indiana (“BBLI”) selected Connections Education

("Connections") as the Education Service Provider for the proposed school; BBLI's involvement in the application process; Connections' experience with blended learning; the process by which BBLI would hold Connections accountable for outcomes; a typical Nexus school day from a student and teacher perspective; the experience and diversity of BBLI Board members; and the financial viability of the proposed plan if ICSB Members approved only one school/one campus.

B. Responsive Education Solutions, Inc. (Premier High School)

- i. ICSB Members asked the applicant group to discuss the following topics: how the Responsive Education Solutions ("ResponsiveEd") Board will engage with parents and the community; ResponsiveEd's plans to establish a Community Advisory Committee in Indiana; ResponsiveEd's operating experience outside of Texas; the geographic diversity of the ResponsiveEd Board, and whether an Indiana voting member would join the ResponsiveEd Board; the targeted student population; the opposition to the proposed schools expressed in some of the targeted Indiana communities; and whether ResponsiveEd has prioritized certain Indiana locations over others.

C. Goodwill Education Initiatives, Inc. (The Excel Center-Kokomo, The Excel Center-Lafayette, and four additional Central Indiana locations)

- i. ICSB Member asked the applicant group to discuss the following topics: the average age of Excel Center students; academic outcomes to date from the current Excel Centers and lessons learned thus far; plans for sourcing sufficient qualified staff; and Goodwill Education Initiatives' internal talent pipeline for school leaders as the Excel Center model replicates around the state.

III. **Charter School Application Decisions**

Ms. Fiddian-Green began by acknowledging the three (3) organizers that chose to withdraw their applications. Those applicants were the following: Discovery School, Inc. (The Excel Center - Richmond), Heritage Institute of Arts and Technology, Inc. (Heritage Institute of Arts and Technology), and Lawrence McFarrin School of the Arts, Inc. (Lawrence McFarrin School of the Arts).

A. Better Blended Learning for Indiana, Inc. (Nexus Academy of Indianapolis)

- i. Ms. Fiddian-Green provided information on a recommendation to approve the Better Blended Learning for Indiana application for one (1) Nexus Academy of Indianapolis campus.

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

B. Responsive Education Solutions, Inc. (Premier High School)

- i. Ms. Fiddian-Green provided information on a recommendation to approve the Responsive Education Solutions application for one (1) Premier High School.
- ii. Dr. Calvin moved for approval of one school, located in Indianapolis. Mr. DeMoss seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

C. Goodwill Education Initiatives, Inc. (The Excel Centers)

- i. Ms. Fiddian-Green provided information on a recommendation to approve the Goodwill Education Initiatives application for six (6) schools in Central Indiana opening over a five-year period.
- ii. Dr. Calvin moved for approval. Mr. Shrewsberry seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. Break

The meeting recessed from 2:19 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

V. Update on ICSB Charter Schools

Ms. Fiddian-Green provided an update to ICSB Members on each of the ICSB-authorized schools.

VI. Alternative Accountability Plan Pre-Work – with Public Impact

Bryan Hassel, Joe Ableidinger, and Lyria Boast from Public Impact presented a PowerPoint on the draft Alternative Accountability Plan for high schools serving a dropout student population. ICSB Members discussed the potential metrics and indicators included in the plan.

VII. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 4:40 p.m.