

Section I: December 2025 Board Meeting Minutes

NOTE: Highlighted items indicate where audio clarity was not verifiable or transcribable due to clarity from YouTube video. [YouTube Video](#) is posted on the [ICSB website](#) for public viewing.

I. Call to Order/Board Meeting Minutes Approval

- a. Board Chair Bray called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m. ET
- b. Approval of Board Minutes (May 8, 2025)
 - i. Board Member Greene motioned to accept the May 8, 2025 meeting minutes.
 - ii. Board Member Donlan seconded the motion.
 - iii. Board Members Bray, Robinson Kramer, Shults, Jasaitis, Greene, and Donlan voice voted aye.
 - iv. Motion passes with four ayes and zero nays.

II. Board Business

- a. Excel Center Elkhart – Renewal
 - i. Presentation of staff recommendation (5-7 minutes)
 1. Executive Director, Lindsay Omlor, provided a brief overview of the renewal application from Excel Center Elkhart Adult High School.
 2. The staff recommended a fifteen-year charter renewal for Excel Center Elkhart.
 - ii. Presentation of request by organizer (8-10 minutes)
 1. Vice President of Excel Centers, Dr. Chris Alber and School Director of Elkhart, Katie Lowe provided a brief overview of the charter renewal application.
 - iii. Question and answer period
 1. Board Member Donlan asked...
 2. Board Chair Bray asked...
 - iv. Board decision
 1. Board Member Donlan moved to accept the staff recommendation.
 2. Board Member Greene seconded the motion.
 3. Board Members voice voted aye.
 4. Motion passes with ayes and zero nays.
- b. Excel Center Shelbyville – Renewal
 - i. Presentation of staff recommendation (5-7 minutes)
 1. Executive Director, Lindsay Omlor, provided a brief overview of the renewal charter application from Excel Center Shelbyville Adult High School.
 2. The staff recommended a fifteen-year charter renewal for Excel Center Shelbyville starting July 1, 2026.
 - ii. Presentation of request by organizer (8-10 minutes)
 1. Vice President of Goodwill Education Initiatives, Katie Bustamante, provided a brief overview of the charter renewal application. She was joined by Shonda Russell, the Director of Excel Center Shelbyville.
 - iii. Question and answer period
 1. Board Member Shults asked Ms. Russell and Ms. Bustamante about the ideal enrollment capacity for Excel Center Shelbyville. Ms. Russell answered that the current goal is 160 students. She continued to describe the school's recruiting efforts and processes. Finally, Ms. Bustamante

explained how they are addressing barriers for possible future students to enroll in surrounding communities.

2. Board Member Donlan asked Ms. Russell and Ms. Bustamante about staffing and finding teachers to support Excel's model and the new Indiana diploma requirements. Ms. Bustamante gave an example of their model in which a former student continued to college, got a degree, and came back to teach at an Excel school.

iv. Board decision

1. Board Chair Bray summarized that the staff is recommending a 15 year charter renewal for Excel Center Shelbyville.

2. Board Member Jasaitis moved to accept the staff recommendation. Board Member Shults seconded the motion.

3. Board Members Jasaitis, Greene, Bray, Donlan, Robinson Kramer and Shults voice voted aye.

4. Motion passes with six ayes and zero nays.

c. Higher Institute of Art & Technology – Renewal

i. Presentation of staff review of application (5-7 minutes)

1. Executive Director, Lindsay Omlor, provided a brief overview of the charter renewal application from Higher Institute of Art & Technology. She also provided a summary of the latest accountability ratings and some areas where portions of the school can continue to improve.

ii. Presentation of request by organizer (8-10 minutes)

1. Higher Institute of Art & Technology Principal, Tensia Johnson provided a brief overview of the charter application. She was joined by Regional Director of Phalen Academies, Erin Simpson.

iii. Question and answer period

1. Board Chair Bray asked Ms. Johnson to speak on the relationship between HIAT and Phalen Academies and what HIAT is receiving from Phalen. Ms. Johnson replied that she receives coaching and professional development from Phalen and the school staff is provided instruction support directly from Ms. Simpson. Phalen also provides real time data tracking for academic metrics.

2. Board Member Greene asked if Phalen was also providing financial oversight to HIAT. Ms. Simpson replied yes.

3. Board Member Greene asked about the stated double digit improvements in math and reading scores and if they could discuss a couple of things that contributed to the improvements. Ms. Johnson described the effort to provide certified teachers in each classroom, making sure they analyze academic information, and ensuring identified students attend their summer advantage program. Ms. Simpson added that they are using a pacing guide to ensure students are being taught at their current level before they move to the next level.

4. Board Member Robinson Kramer asked about what Phalen and the HIAT Board was doing to try and meet the financial standards. Ms. Johnson described various checks and balances that are in place for receipts and payments. Ms. Simpson described the oversight provided by the Phalen financial team and right sizing staff that has taken place. HIAT Board Chair, Sharla Johnson joined via phone and described some history of financial problems and the relationship that was constituted with Phalen and their financial team.

5. Board Member Donlan asked about staff makeup and turnover. Ms. Johnso provided the estimate of noncertified teachers and the number of principals in the last 10 years. She also discussed her goals to ensure staff are filled with certified teachers.

6. Board Member Shults asked about the Arts and Technology piece of the school's mission and how it would be seen in the classroom. Ms. Johnson described how the students are using various pieces of technology and applications in the classroom. She also described how art that students have created has been integrated throughout the school building.

7. Board Member Shults asked if HIAT had a certified art teacher or a technology coach. Ms. Johnson replied that there was an art teacher in prior years, but not current and they do not have a technology coach in the school.

iv. Presentation of staff recommendation (5-7 minutes)

1. Executive Director, Lindsay Omlor, provided a brief overview of the staff recommendation for the Higher Institute of Art & Technology charter renewal application.

2. Board Member Kramer Robinson asked about the recommended improvement plan and the timeline for when ICSB staff would be evaluating the school. Executive Director Omlor detailed the development of a tier and support plan and the frequency of which ICSB staff reviews academic, financial, and organizational information.

3. Board Member Kramer Robinson asked if staff considered any other option other than seven years for the staff recommendation. Executive Director Omlor stated that they did and ultimately determined the recommendation based on timing from a data standpoint. She also emphasized the recommendation came with a required continuous improvement plan with stopgaps throughout the charter term.

4. Board Chair Bray asked how long HIAT had been receiving support from Phalen. Executive Director Omlor responded six years.

5. Board Member Donlan asked about financial resources and grants ending. Executive Director Omlor responded that the continuous improvement plan that would be going into place would touch all aspects of the performance framework that HIAT is not meeting standards.

6. Board Member Shults asked if there was confidence that the plan ICSB develops will be available July 1. Executive Director Omlor responded absolutely.

v. Board decision

1. Board Chair Bray summarized that the staff is recommending a seven year charter renewal for Higher Institute of Arts & Technology.

2. Board Member Donlan moved to accept the staff recommendation. Board Member Greene seconded the motion.

3. Board Members Jasaitis, Greene, and Donlan voice voted aye and Board Members Bray, Robinson Kramer and Shults voice voted nay.

4. Motion failed with three ayes and three nays.

5. Board Chair Bray opened the floor back up for discussion. She detailed reasons for her vote. Board Member Robinson Kramer detailed reasons for her vote. Board Member Shults detailed her reasons for her vote. Board Member Greene detailed his concerns on the financial piece and oversight, specifically for timelines on when a determination is made to shut a school down. Executive Director Omlor detailed some of the financial safeguards around networks that ICSB has in place.

6. Board Member Jasaitis moved to approve a five year charter renewal with an improvement plan submitted to staff.

7. Board Member Donlan seconded the motion.

8. Board Members Greene, Jasaitis, Shults, Donlan, and Bray voice voted aye. Board Member Robinson Kramer voice voted nay.

9. Motion passes with five ayes and one nay.

d. Steel City Academy – Renewal

i. Presentation of staff recommendation (5-7 minutes)

1. Executive Director, Lindsay Omlor, provided a brief overview of the charter renewal application from Steel City Academy.

2. The staff recommended Steel City Academy for a fifteen-year charter renewal.

ii. Presentation of request by organizer (8-10 minutes)

1. Katie Kirley, Executive Director Steel City Academy, provided a brief overview of the charter application.

iii. Question and answer period

1. Board Member Donlan asked about the school environment in Gary. Ms. Kirley detailed the vision and belief that the ability exists to meet the high expectations they are setting. She continued to describe how the use data to advise and achieve their strategic goals.

2. Board Chair Bray asked how they were going to prioritize math score improvements without losing all the gains the school made in literacy scores. Ms. Kirely detailed how the school is transferring the systems implemented for literacy in a maintenance system as well as adapting them for math proficiency. She also described how they have adapted their teacher development to better meet the requirements of the math curriculum that they have in place.

3. Board Member Shults asked if they were using the ILEARN checkpoint data. Ms. Kirely said they are using the data to inform them of their progress and how to proceed.

4. Board Member Robinson Kramer asked if staff had access to all the dashboards that the school has created to monitor performance. Ms. Kirley confirmed that they have access.

iv. Board decision

1. Board Member Donlan moved to accept the staff recommendation.

2. Board Member Shults seconded the motion.

3. Board Members Robinson Kramer, Greene, Jasaitis, Shults, and Donlan voice voted aye.

4. Board Chair Bray voice voted nay.

5. Motion passes with five ayes and one nay.

III. Staff Updates

a. ICSB was awarded a two year authorizer innovation grant from the Department of Education for \$198,000. We intend to use the grant for things like process development and tiered supports for our schools

b. We have done analysis of the current ICSB administrative fee and we determined we do not need an increase at this time.

c. We are reviewing and updating the performance framework.

d. The ICSB office has been relocated and is now co-located in the IDOE office on the ninth floor of the Indiana Government Center.

e. Update on The Indiana Microschool Collaborative. They have opened successfully and are already in discussions of expanding to new areas.

- f. Update on Cold Springs Academy. ICSB approved an innovation charter application. However, the Indianapolis Public School board voted not to allow them to amend their innovation agreement. They still intend to be an innovation charter school when IPS will approve an amendment to the innovation agreement.
- g. Update on Circle City and Ace Prep merger. Schools implemented the merger very well. It became a model for charter school mergers and has already been subject of a professional development training at a national and state level conference.
- h. Many of our schools have been recognized for academic excellence at various meetings and conferences throughout the state.

IV. Closing Remarks and Adjournment

- a. Board Chair Bray thanked ICSB staff for all the work and effort preparing for the meeting and providing the board with information to make decisions at board meetings.
- b. Board Member Greene motioned to adjourn. Board Member Shults seconded the motion.
- c. Members Robinson Kramer, Jasaitis, Shults, Donlan, Greene and Bray voice voted aye.
- d. Motion passes with six ayes and zero nays.
- e. The meeting was adjourned by unanimous vote at 2:49 p.m. ET.