

**Indiana School for the Blind and Visually Impaired**  
**7725 North College Avenue**  
**Indianapolis, IN 46240**

ISBVI Board Meeting Minutes  
March 18, 2019  
9:30 a.m.

**Members Present:**

Mr. Tom Adams, Chair  
Mr. Don Koors  
Ms. Kathy Botkin  
Mr. John Kissling  
Mr. James Michaels, Vice Chair  
Ms. Traci Tetrick

**Members Not Present:**

Ms. Amanda Black  
Mr. Michael Dalrymple  
Senator Liz Brown

**Administration Present:** Mr. Jim Durst, Superintendent; Mr. Raouf Estefanos, Assistant Superintendent of Business; Mr. Jay Wilson, MS/HS Principal; Ms. Toni Hughes, Interim Elementary Principal/Director of Outreach; Mr. Jason Askren, Director of Residential Services; Mr. Todd Malone, Maintenance Supervisor.

**I. Call to Order**

Board Chair, Mr. Tom Adams, called the meeting to order at 9:37am and took roll.

**II. Approval of Minutes** (Attachment 1)

The minutes from the January 14, 2019 meeting were reviewed.

**Motion:** A motion was made by Mr. Koors and seconded by Ms. Botkin to approve the minutes as presented; motion carried.

### **III. Superintendent's Report**

#### A. Presentation of Tower Award

Mr. Durst presented the ISBVI Tower Award to Teresa Lubbers for her continued commitment to the students and staff at ISBVI.

#### B. School Update

##### **Elementary and Outreach Reports – Ms. Hughes**

The elementary hosted the third quarter honor roll luncheon on March 13, honoring 17 outstanding elementary students and their academic accomplishments. Many families were able to attend. Two new students have joined the elementary since the last board meeting.

Outreach Consultants continue to provide direct blind/low vision services to over 340 students from around the state. Short Course enrollment averages 26 monthly attendees. STEP applications have been received for the summer program. Plans for the Expanding Your Horizon Summer Camp are underway. Dates for the camp are being discussed.

##### **MS/HS Report – Mr. Wilson**

Melanie Morris has been with ISBVI since the end of January and is serving in a Life Skills classroom as a Residential Mentor. Ms. Morris has experience with family day care. The Butler botany project, where non-biology majors at Butler University work with ISBVI horticulture students, has started. The group will be learning about invasive species to Indiana. Two new students have enrolled in the MS/HS since January. Case conferences are scheduled for four possible new students. The Middle School completed the winter NWEA assessment and results were positive. Senior, Marie Villaneda, was the 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Kiwanis Club Abe Lincoln Scholarship winner. Teachers and students are currently prepping for the new ILEARN assessment.

##### **Residential Services – Mr. Askren**

Josh White started as a residential mentor for 3<sup>rd</sup> shift on January 28. Two more residential mentors were hired in February. Terrell Johnson joined the 2<sup>nd</sup> shift on February 9 and Emma-Leigh Flynn started February 11 on the 3<sup>rd</sup> shift.

The Wrestling and Cheerleading teams attended conference championships in Illinois on January 25 and 26. Both teams performed well with the wrestling team coming back with a 3<sup>rd</sup> place trophy. The cheerleaders had a squad of younger students who came away with 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the spirit contest. ISBVI hosted the Junior Varsity sports competition on March 14. Teams from Ohio and Kentucky attended.

Delta Gamma members completed training and toured the school. They will be coming onto campus to volunteer throughout the rest of the semester.

ISBVI will host the swimming and forensics conference meet May 4 – 5. The school will welcome 11 schools for the blind from the Midwest.

## **Physical Plant Update – Mr. Ervin**

D Dorm will be finished on March 18. Classrooms will be moved back into the area over Spring Break. Applied Engineering has finished the energy assessment. The school is waiting on results.

The contract for the HVAC has been renewed. The contract for the elevator will be renewed in May. Sexton Mechanical will begin the process the week of March 18 to replace the hot water tank in the Aquatic Center.

The school is currently waiting on the start dates for several capital projects.

## **Facilities Use – Mr. Brown**

The Indiana Math and Science Academy are practicing on the track twice a week through the month of May. They will also be holding a 5K race on campus in April.

The Indy Inferno Electric Wheelchair Soccer League is holding practices on campus in the main gym.

A Boy Scout Camporee will be held on campus the weekend of April 26.

The Washington Township Special Olympics team will begin practicing on the track in April.

St Luke's wrestling had their final week of practice the week of March 11. The juniors won their 4<sup>th</sup> consecutive city title.

The IHSAA swim season has concluded.

## **Indiana Blind Children's Foundation (IBCF) – Ms. Laura Alvarado**

Over the last year, the IBCF competed against 230 organizations in the city for a Strengthening Indianapolis through Arts and Culture grant from Lily Endowment. The IBCF was 1 of 17 chosen to make an impact on the community. The bulk of the project is a three-year program called No Limits. Approximately \$600,000 will be spent on renovating the ISBVI Auditorium so that every show will be accessible to individuals with disabilities. The foundation has met with five vendors and have selected All Pro Sweetwater out of Ft Wayne. Renovations will begin in April and May. Each year the school will host a performance on July 26, the anniversary date of the signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act into law.

The idea behind No Limits is that the school will open the campus up more to the community to help educate individuals about ISBVI and the programs that are offered.

ISBVI students will also play a large part in the No Limits program. Ten students consisting of juniors and seniors have formed a leadership club that meets on Mondays from 3:00pm to 4:30pm. Students are learning how to strengthen their voice and will be working with six arts partners in the community throughout the next three years. The student team will educate and advocate for access within these organizations. Their first accessibility project will be the Eiteljorg Museum. Students will be working with the museum's leadership and artistic staff to assist in making the museum more accessible.

The arts partners will also bring artists each year to ISBVI so that students can benefit from working with their Artists in Residence program. Michael Naranjo, a blind sculptor from Albuquerque, is lined up for next year.

Mathew Whitaker will be the first performer to perform in the renovated Auditorium on July 26, 2019. Mathew was born blind and is a pianist, composer and jazz musician. He will perform along with his quartet.

The school will also host films from the Heartland Film Festival in October as well as work alongside the Phoenix Theater, Dance Kaleidoscope, Capital City Chorus and ArtMix.

### C. Monthly Financial Statements (Attachments 2A & 2B)

Attachment 2A is the Monthly Financial Statement for January 31, 2019. The year was 58.9% over and 58.28% had been spent from Point One. Points Two through Nine reflect 79.45% spent. Overall expenditures totaled 61.4%.

Attachment 2B is the statement for February 28, 2019. Total spent from Point One was 65.56%, total spent from Points Two through Nine was 85.08% and total expenditures ended at 68.44%. The year was 66.58% over. A portion of the reversion, \$145,000, will be released to Point One to cover the increased cost of Residential Services salaries.

### D. Staff Metrics (Attachments 3A & 3B)

Attachment 3A, the report as of February 19, 2019, ISBVI had 219 total positions, 162 filled regular positions, 18 vacant positions, 12 filled intermittent and 24 vacant intermittent.

The report as of March 13, 2019, Attachment 3B, reflects 219 total positions, 163 filled regular positions, 17 vacant positions, 11 filled intermittent and 25 vacant intermittent.

## IV. New Business

### A. Donations and Contributions (Attachments 4A, 4B, & 5A, 5B)

Attachments 4A and 4B reflect Donations and Contributions under \$499 from January 1, 2019 to February 28, 2019 totaling \$815.00. Three donations were restricted and four were unrestricted. Attachments 5A and 5B reflect \$6,000.00 in Donations and Contributions over \$499 from January 1, 2019 to February 28, 2019. One donation was restricted and two were unrestricted.

**Motion:** A motion was made by Ms. Botkin and seconded by Mr. Michaels to approve donations over \$500.00 from Attachments 5A and 5B; motion carried.

### B. 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Policy O-67 Bed Bug Prevention and Action Plan Policy (Attachment 6)

The second reading of Policy O-67 regarding bed bugs was presented. In summary, the school has made the decision to not exclude students that come to school with bed bugs. The policy identifies what staff should do if bed bugs are found, how to treat students with respect and dignity during the process, how bed bugs will be eradicated on students and their possessions, the procedure for checking the area where they are found and when it is necessary to bring in outside help for eradication. The policy also addresses information that needs to be forwarded to families to educate on how to treat at home. No changes were made from the first reading in January.

**Motion:** A motion was made by Mr. Koors and seconded by Mr. Michaels to approve the second reading of Policy O-67; motion carried.

### C. Policy O-38 Revision Tobacco Use on Campus (Attachment 7)

Changes in Policy O-38 were made to the Tobacco Use on campus policy to include prohibiting the use of vape pens and vaping materials on campus.

**Motion:** A motion was made by Mr. Koors and seconded by Ms. Botkin to approve the revision of Policy O-38; motion carried.

D. State Budget Agency School Audit (Attachment 8)

The State Board of Accounts (SBA) conducted an audit that covered January 1, 2016 through June 30, 2018. Per the SBA, there were no concerns that needed to be addressed by ISBVI.

E. 2018 – 2019 Calendar – Instructional Day Change (Attachment 9)

Due to inclement weather in January, a professional development day was canceled and moved to the end of the school year in May. The calendar reflects the change.

**Motion:** A motion was made by Mr. Michaels and seconded by Mr. Koors to accept the 2018 – 2019 calendar change; motion carried.

F. HB 1443 (Attachment 10)

HB 1443, authored by House Representative Tim Brown, establishes a task force to look at the consolidation of the Indiana School for the Deaf and the Indiana School for the Blind and Visually Impaired. Members of the House and Senate have informed ISBVI that the intent is not to impact or disrupt programming. The intent is to research any possibilities of cost efficiencies in consolidating the two schools. Consolidation could mean anything from potentially moving one campus to the other or consolidating existing resources like the schools have done in the past by consolidating laundry, security, the school's dietician position and physical plant director position, in order to generate savings. The bill outlines who will serve on the task force: The Superintendent from each school, a parent from each school and various members of the legislature.

G. Graduation (Attachment 11)

Graduation will take place Friday, May 24, 2019 at 10:00am in the Auditorium. The senior banquet will be held the evening prior on Thursday, May 23 at 6:00pm in Churchman Hall.

H. MAMP Project – Dave Schleppenbach

Dave Schleppenbach, a leader in the accessibility field, presented an idea for a project that has the potential to increase accessibility for blind and low vision students in Indiana and beyond.

The idea will address two problems:

1) Access to information and a diversity of providers.

There are currently very few providers. If these materials are not provided to students, they will not pursue careers in fields that are technical, scientific, mathematical in nature or that require a large amount of reading. Less than 10% of people, worldwide, are literate in braille. The only way to correct the problem of illiteracy is to increase the supply of material. The members of prison programs have the desire and the technical ability to produce these materials, but they lack the technical infrastructure. Programs need to be put in place that increase their ability to produce media, particularly, technical media in the math and science area.

2) What can be done for incarcerated individuals to ensure employment opportunities upon release?

These individuals are released with a set of skills but have trouble finding employment because the skills

they have developed are hyper specialized. They may know how to translate braille, but that alone is not enough to merit full time employment. The publishing community has been moving away from the idea of creating print braille because they think electronic books and audio are the future solution when, in reality, not all children have access to these forms of information. The idea is to train these individuals in technical and coding skills, apply those coding skills to converting materials into accessible format and create coding that meets accessibility standards. Due to the high demand for these skills, they would be immediately employable.

The proposed three stage process is:

Stage 1: Pilot Program – Three states that currently run prison braille programs are interested in starting a pilot program: Indiana, Georgia and Idaho. All three states have a prison program and are interested and willing to accommodate a pilot program of this nature. The goal would be to teach coding skills, help them improve their ability to create accessible media that feeds their state and then measure the outcomes.

Stage 2: Secure Larger State Grant – Perform training for inmates in this area very similar to programs that have been done in Indiana through the governor’s office and with the support of senators and congress.

Stage 3: Communicate the Pilot Program Nationally – If proof can be given that these programs are successful then the next step is to secure a federal opportunity to roll it out nationwide to help train inmates nationally with skills that would provide immediate employment upon exiting the facility.

If the pilot program is approved, it would begin in Indiana. Coactive, a local software vendor, recently hired a formerly incarcerated individual as a consultant to observe how well the training would be received and learned. The Board at Coactive is committed to hiring these individuals if evidence of a successful pilot program is shown.

**Motion:** A motion was made by Mr. Koors and seconded by Mr. Kissling to provide \$32,000 of non-state dollars from MAMP proceeds to fund the pilot program; motion carried.

#### I. Braille Challenge/Cane Quest

The Braille Challenge and Cane Quest events were held on campus on March 2 and 3. Participants came from ten cities around Indiana. There were 18 participants for Braille Challenge and 16 for Cane Quest. New this year was the first ever Book Fair during the day of Braille Challenge, thanks to the Indiana Blind Children’s Foundation and Ossip. Participants were able to order books ahead of time and were also able to choose books the day of the Fair. An evening celebration reception held at the Drury Inn concluded the day’s events for the Braille Challenge. Participants and families enjoyed dinner and a chocolate fountain. Cane Quest concluded with a celebration luncheon in Churchman.

#### **V. Public Comments:**

There were no public comments.

#### **VI. Board Comments:**

There were no Board comments.

## **VII. Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Indiana School for the Blind and Visually Impaired School Board will be Monday, May 13, 2019 at 9:30am in the AIDur/Lambert Multipurpose Room.

## **VIII. Adjournment**

**Motion:** A motion was made by Ms. Botkin and seconded by Mr. Michaels to adjourn the meeting at 10:28am; motion carried.