

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

ISBVI Board Meeting Minutes
January 13, 2020
9:30 a.m.

Members Present:

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

Members Not Present:

Ms. Kathy Botkin
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. Tiffany Sanders, 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 9:30am and took roll.

II. Approval of Minutes (Attachment 1)

The minutes from the October 21, 2019 meeting were reviewed.

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

III. Superintendent's Report

A. School Update

Elementary and Outreach Reports – Ms. Sanders

Daneisha Clowney has joined the elementary staff and is serving as a residential mentor in the early childhood program. Ms. Clowney is a recent graduate of ISBVI. While attending the school, she was a student worker in the elementary and was such an asset, that some of ISBVI's current teachers sent in letters of recommendation and requests for Daneisha to be interviewed for a full-time position.

The elementary has grown by six students since the fall.

The second quarter honor roll luncheon will be held January 15 to congratulate and celebrate the hard work and progress of nine elementary students.

Several professionals and families have visited and toured the campus in the last quarter.

The Outreach Department is working to prepare for the 12th annual Braille Challenge and 6th annual Cane Quest Regional Competitions to be held Saturday, February 29 through Sunday, March 1.

Participants from all over the state will be attending to compete in both literacy and orientation and mobility competitions. The 2020 theme is Harry Potter.

Outreach consultants have continued to provide direct blind/low vision services. They are now serving 340 students in 37 districts and all First Steps clusters from around the state. Short course program enrollment is rising and ISBVI is now working with 30 short course students each month.

MS/HS Report – Mr. Wilson

Three new substitute teachers have started since the fall: Amy Swinford, Kapria Collins and Stacia Hopkins. Jenny Thixton-Stoffer just started her role as a social worker right before the holiday break. Jenny has experience with the Indiana School for the Deaf and IPS schools.

Two new students started on January 6.

Middle School students will have NWEA testing within the month of January.

ISBVI is in search of a middle school math teacher.

The Holiday Program was enjoyed by parents, guests and staff. Mrs. Pivec and Mr. Knauff did an excellent job preparing students.

The Tree and Plant Sales, as well as the IBCF Pancake Breakfast, were huge successes.

Mr. Durst presented Dave Schnieders, the teacher responsible for starting the tree farm, the Sagamore of the Wabash Award the day of the tree sale, and Mayor Hogsett declared the day of the sale as Dave Schnieders Day.

Residential Services – Mr. Askren

The Goalball teams attended conference championships November 1 – 2 in St. Louis. Both teams performed well with the boys returning with a 2nd place trophy and the girls with a 3rd place trophy.

A recreation committee has been established to gain input from students and staff about recreational interests.

ISBVI will be hosting a wrestling meet on January 15 with Ohio, Illinois, Kentucky, Missouri, and Wisconsin schools for the blind.

Conference for Wrestling and Cheerleading will be held in Arkansas on January 25 – 26.

The school will host new volunteers from Delta Gamma in February. The new volunteers will be given a tour, will attend the required training, and have background checks performed.

Facilities Use – Mr. Durst

The St. Luke's CYO wrestling club began practicing this past week in the wrestling room and main gym. Practices will last through the middle of April. They will also hold two meets on campus. Regions Bank will be holding a Directors meeting in the Auditorium on January 22.

The Lions for ISBVI will be holding their annual "Million Meal Movement" event on Monday, January 27, in Churchman Hall.

The wheelchair soccer team, the Indy Inferno, continue to practice in the main gym one night per month.

The Jordan YMCA track team plans to be back on campus using the track for their spring season.

Park Tudor will be renovating their gyms next school year and is interested in using the main gym and multi-purpose room for middle school basketball and volleyball practices.

The Aquatic Center is still down, so there are currently not any external swim teams using the pool.

Physical Plant Update – Mr. Malone

Maintenance welcomed new employee, Roger McDonald, in late October. Mr. McDonald comes to ISBVI with 12 years maintenance experience at Grand Casino and 12 years of military experience.

Traps were set in place within the lower 40, due to a report of coyotes being spotted on campus.

The dishwasher in Schumacher Dining Hall is being replaced in January.

The walk-in freezer in Churchman has failed and will be replaced.

One of the vehicles in the school's fleet will have damage repaired this week.

The walkway lights leading into the elementary are scheduled to be replaced.

The school discovered that water usage had doubled more than the normal amount for this time of the year. It was determined that the cause was a hot water leak within one of the washing systems in the Schumacher kitchen.

A steam problem was discovered with delivery from the main quad, A – D, to the main gym. Holes in the return line are scheduled to be repaired.

Recent preventative maintenance was performed on boilers and air handlers. Leaking circulation pumps in the aquatic center were replaced. Boiler repairs are scheduled for the aquatic center, as well.

A key code entry system was added to back gate.

Nine veranda glass panels have cracked due to continual freezing and thawing and will be replaced soon.

Capital Projects:

All lintels have been replaced in E, F and G buildings. Parapet walls are up.

The Apple Tunnel is currently dismantled and awaiting the installation of new flooring/ceiling.

F roof funding has been approved. The school is trying to tie this project into the current tuck pointing project so the roof and parapet walls are replaced at the same time.

Library repairs are starting this week.

Auditorium repairs will be completed by July.

The fuel tank replacement project is on hold.

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

Attachment 2A is the Monthly Financial Statement for October 31, 2019. The year was 33.7% over and 31.76% had been spent from Point One. Points Two through Nine reflect 54.27% spent. Overall expenditures totaled 34.84%.

Attachment 2B is the statement for November 27, 2019. Total spent from Point One was 39.86%, total spent from Points Two through Nine was 60.96% and total expenditures ended at 42.75%.

The year was 41.1% over.

The Monthly Financial Statement for December 31, 2019, Attachment 2C, reflects the year being 50.27% over with 46.27% being spent from Point One and 67.36% being spent from Points Two through Nine. Total expenditures were at 49.16%.

C. Staff Metrics (Attachments 3A, 3B & 3C)

Attachment 3A, the report as of November 15, 2019, notes ISBVI had 219 total positions, 160 filled regular positions, 22 vacant positions, 9 filled intermittent and 28 vacant intermittent.

The report as of December 10, 2019, Attachment 3B, reflects 219 total positions, 163 filled regular positions, 19 vacant positions, 10 filled intermittent and 27 vacant intermittent.

Attachment 3C, the report as of January 9, 2020, reflects 219 total positions, 164 filled regular positions, 18 vacant positions, 10 filled intermittent and 27 vacant intermittent.

IV. New Business

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

Attachments 4A, 4B and 4C reflect Donations and Contributions under \$499 from October 1, 2019 to December 31, 2019 totaling \$495.00. All five donations were restricted.

Attachments 5A, 5B and 5C reflect \$93,910.40 in Donations and Contributions over \$499 from October 1, 2019 to December 31, 2019. Five donations were restricted, and one was unrestricted.

Motion: A motion was made by Mr. Koors and seconded by Ms. Black to approve donations over \$500 from Attachments 5B and 5C; motion carried.

B. HB – 1443

The task force moved forward in continuing to explore the possibilities of co-locating ISD and ISBVI.

The parameters being:

- two schools on the same campus
- separate governances
- located somewhere within 10 miles, inside or outside, of I-465.

The next step will be to meet with the two school administrations to get an idea of the type of buildings that would benefit both schools. The task force would like to be able to make a sound recommendation by the end of the year regarding whether or not to move forward and identify a site.

C. Library

Renovations are beginning in the Library. The plan is to have everything back in place by the end of February. Braille books are currently in Michigan with the restoration company and will be transported back once the area is fully restored.

D. Tuck Pointing

Tuck pointing is progressing in F Building. Crews are busy starting the process of bricking over the parapet walls. Terracotta caps will be replaced once the bricking portion is complete.

V. Public Comments:

There were no public comments.

VI. Board Comments:

The Board inquired about the 3rd shift nursing position that the school is having difficulty filling. Mr. Durst informed members that a candidate had been hired for this position. The Health Center is currently short a Director position. The nurse that was previously Director is being contracted by the school to serve as a physician's assistant and will continue to oversee the department until the Director position can be filled.

Board members commended Laura Alvarado and her work as the Executive Director of the Indiana Blind Children's Foundation. Mr. Durst noted that the funds raised by the foundation have impacted summer programming, the Braille Challenge and student technology. He also remarked that the Lions, as well, have contributed a significant amount of resources to help keep ISBVI moving forward.

VII. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Indiana School for the Blind and Visually Impaired School Board will be Monday, March 16, 2020 at 9:30am in the AIDur/Lambert Multipurpose Room.

VIII. Adjournment

Motion: A motion was made by Mr. Koors and seconded by Mr. Michaels to adjourn the meeting at 10:00am; motion carried.