

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

ISBVI Board Meeting Minutes
January 23, 2023
9:30 a.m.

Members Present:

Mr. James Michaels, Chair
Ms. Kathy Botkin, Vice Chair
Mr. John Kissling
Mr. Don Koors
Mr. Patrick Rhodes

Members Not Present:

Mr. Tom Adams
Senator Liz Brown

Administration Present: Mr. Jim Durst, Superintendent; Mr. Raouf Estefanos, Assistant Superintendent of Business; Mr. Jay Wilson, Principal; Ms. Cara Kennett, Director of Outreach; Mr. Jason Askren, Director of Residential Services; Mr. Dave Brown, Facilities Coordinator; Mr. Todd Malone, Physical Plant Director.

I. Call to Order

Board Chair, Mr. James Michaels, called the meeting to order at 9:32am and took roll.

II. Approval of Minutes (Attachment 1)

The minutes from the October 24, 2022 (Attachment 1) 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. School Update

School Report – Mr. Wilson

Two new Education staff members have joined ISBVI since the last meeting. Jacques Franko is a teaching assistant in a Life Skills classroom. Jacques has experience with youth and within the music industry as well.

Kaitlyn Olsen is a Speech Language Pathologist. Kaitlyn comes to ISBVI from a skilled nursing facility and has clinical experience with youth.

The MS/HS welcomed four new students after winter break. Case conferences have been scheduled for 2 – 3 more students, and several tours have been conducted for Elementary students.

The IBCF was able to secure a grant that would allow Elementary and MS/HS Life Skills students to attend Agape horseback therapy. The first group is attending today.

Students and staff have been meeting with Tactile Engineering to provide feedback on their full-page tactile braille display.

The IBCF rewarded a TOPAC grant to ISBVI to help fund an overnight theater trip for the HS theater group to Chicago at the end of November. Students were able to visit Second City Improv and see the Lion King among other activities.

The Holiday Program was postponed and rescheduled to Friday, January 27 at 10:00am in the main gym.

The ECC room in Wilson is opening this semester with a focus on self-determination.

Residential Report – Mr. Askren

Residential has had four new hires since the last meeting. Elysia Gregory has daycare experience and is serving students in the Elementary dorm on 2nd shift. April Melton has many years of home healthcare experience and is working 3rd shift in the boys HS dorm. Paradise Spencer comes to ISBVI with home healthcare experience as well, and is working 2nd shift in the girl's dorm.

Sara Gutiérrez is starting today. Sara has a customer service background and will be working in the HS dorm.

Goalball teams competed at conference November 4 – 5. Girls placed fifth and boys placed seventh.

Wrestling and Cheerleading traveled to Kentucky for conference January 20 – 21. The wrestling team took 4th place against 11 teams and the cheer team took 5th place among 10 teams. Wrestlers were one match from placing 3rd. Seven wrestlers attended, and all brought home medals. Two came in 1st and were undefeated, two came in 3rd place, and three placed 4th.

There were several cheerleaders that were unable to attend making it necessary to change portions of routines. In spite of the changes, the cheer team performed well.

Bowling has been introduced as a new sport to the NCASB conference. Call outs were held January 18. Approximately half of the schools in the conference will be able to start this school year. It will be a virtual experience for now. The hope is that the rest of the conference will have teams formed and in-person meets can begin next school year.

JV sports, grades 3 – 6, will be starting next week and will meet until early March.

Outreach Report – Ms. Kennett

Outreach consultants continue to provide blind/low vision services to over 300 students from around the state.

In December, ISBVI held its second L.E.A.D.S. (Learners, Excelling, Achieving, Dreaming, Succeeding) Course which pertained to becoming an accomplished AT Administrator. Students were engaged while learning and applying new assistive technology skills to various activities. Guest speakers, sessions with the ISBVI A.T. Coordinator, Erin Roush, and off-campus field trips introduced students to new assistive technology devices and apps. There are two more L.E.A.D.S. courses left this school year, Compensatory and Imagining Independence.

Outreach is preparing for the annual Braille Challenge and Cane Quest Regional Competitions, which will be held in person on Saturday, January 28 and Sunday, January 29. Twenty-three students from around the state will be coming to compete.

Facilities Use – Mr. Brown

The RHI Sports Program continues to hold wheelchair basketball practices in the Main Gym. They are meeting two Saturdays a month through March.

St Luke's will once again be renting the track for practices beginning in March and extending through May. The school anticipates a few more schools will be requesting use of the track during the spring as well.

Physical Plant – Mr. Malone

In addition to Mr. Malone's return to ISBVI, the maintenance department has a new steam plant operator. Jason Schwedler started just shortly after the new year.

Steam leaks in three different buildings were a problem in December. All have been corrected and heat has been restored.

The completed roofing project in Churchman eliminated many ongoing problem areas.

A new boiler was installed in the aquatic center.

A new chiller will be installed in E, F and G after the heating season.

New LED lighting will be installed in Churchman to replace the T12 bulbs that have been discontinued.

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

Attachment 2A is the monthly financial statement for October 31, 2022. At that point, the year was 34% over, Point One expenditures were at 33.28%, Points Two through Nine reflected 60.20% spent, and overall expenditures totaled 37.71%.

Attachment 2B, the monthly financial statement for November 30, 2022, reflects 41.35% spent from Point One, 64.58% spent from Points Two through Nine and overall expenditures totaling 45.18%. At that point the year was 42% over.

The statement for December 30, 2022, Attachment 2C, reflects the year being 50% over with 51.26% being spent from Point One, 63.45% from Points Two through Nine and overall expenditures at 53.44%.

During the month of December, the school moved \$167,410.46 from Point One to Points Two through Nine to cover expenditures for three contracts: one shift for a steam plant operator for 3 months, a dietician, and a nurse practitioner.

Mr. Koors asked if the state will be supplementing the school's appropriations for personnel. Mr. Durst replied that the state will see how much the school can contribute and will supplement the difference. Mr. Estefanos estimates that the school will need to request \$500,000.

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

Attachment 3A reflects the status of positions as of October 31, 2022, with 140 filled regular positions, 44 vacant regular positions, 12 filled intermittent positions and 25 vacant intermittent positions. Attachment 3B reports that as of November 30, 2022, the school had 139 filled regular positions, 45 vacant regular positions, 12 filled intermittent positions and 25 vacant intermittent positions. The report for December 31, 2022, reflects 138 filled regular positions, 45 vacant regular positions, 13 filled intermittent positions and 24 vacant intermittent positions.

Mr. Koors inquired about the difference in total positions between November at 221 to December at 220. Mr. Durst replied that a position was dropped due to its long-time vacant status.

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, 2022, to December 30, 2022, totaling \$1,989.40. Eleven donations were restricted, and twenty were unrestricted.

Attachments 5A, 5B and 5C reflect Donations and Contributions over \$499 from October 1, 2022, to December 30, 2022, totaling \$107,924.19. Both donations were restricted.

Motion: A motion was made by Mr. Koors and seconded by Mr. Michaels to approve donations over \$500; motion carried.

B. Promethean Boards/Laptops

All promethean boards have been installed. Formal training will be forthcoming. Teaching staff have already been able to do three times more with the promethean boards than with the outgoing smart boards.

The laptops were ordered and have arrived. They are currently being imaged and will require some training to get staff up to speed on the newer version of Windows. Monitors will also be distributed along with laptops once complete.

The theme for the MOU using federal funds was to be able to provide virtual services when needed. The laptops will be deployed to staff, and some will be designated for labs.

C. Co-location of Schools

The design team is processing the information provided to them by Administration. The team had requested ISBVI to look at square footage and determine what is needed. Once they have processed this information, the designer and administrative team will meet again.

It is a very distinct possibility that the school will move off campus during construction to allow contractors to complete construction in a timely manner which, in turn, will save money. Safety is of

utmost importance as well. Being located off campus would be a safer option for students and staff due to the multi-year time period it will take to complete. A final decision will be made in the next few months. Groundbreaking is tentatively set for the summer of 2024.

D. Strategic Plan

ISBVI is still heavily involved in the development of a new strategic plan. The school's goal has been to develop a plan that includes input from all constituents: faculty, staff, students, parents, board members, local school corporations, students served through outreach and alumni members.

ISBVI is also working closely with the IBCF to co-develop and align their strategic plan to support the school per their mission. The school is looking forward to having a plan to present in the next few months.

V. Public Comments:

No public comments.

VI. Board Comments:

Mr. Koors inquired about the next town hall meeting and when it may be held. Mr. Durst anticipates that it may be a few months. The design team will want to be able to present information with more substance, possibly some rough drafts, that they can share with faculty, staff and the community at large.

VII. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Indiana School for the Blind and Visually Impaired School Board will be Monday, March 20, 2023, at 9:30am.

VIII. Adjournment

Motion: A motion was made by Mr. Koors and seconded by Ms. Botkin to adjourn the meeting at 10:12am; motion carried.