

# **ISBVI Board Meeting**

Monday, March 16, 2026, at 3:30pm

School 83

5050 E 42<sup>nd</sup> Street

Indianapolis, IN 46226

## **MINUTES**

### **I. Call to Order**

Board Chair Mike Bridwell called the meeting to order at 3:30pm. A roll call was conducted and a quorum was present.

**Present:** Matt Butler; Andy Cummings; Nancy Holsapple; John Kissling; Don Koors; Adam Rodenbeck; Julie Thacker.

**Not Present:** Senator Liz Brown

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

The minutes of the February 9, 2026, meeting were reviewed.

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

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

#### **A. School Update & Mission Moment**

Superintendent Michaels opened with a Mission Moment featuring a video demonstrating assistive technology instruction using a Monarch multi-line braille display to explore math/graphs. The Superintendent noted the focus on assistive technology and shared that the video received significant community engagement on social media.

#### **Education Report - Jay Wilson, Principal**

- One new student enrolled since the last meeting in February. In addition, multiple tours have taken place for possible new students, and two inquiries have been received from preschool families.
- IREAD testing is complete. Juniors completed SAT testing on March 10 and testing for ILEARN and IAM will take place in April.
- The middle school skiing program, supported by the Indiana Blind Children's Foundation continued in March and has been renewed for next year.
- Five seniors will be graduating in May.
- Three members of staff are receiving training in Orton Gillingham, a highly structured, multi-sensory, and explicit method of teaching reading.

- Staff professional development highlights included participation in ICASE, a National Council of Teachers of Mathematics conference, and a presentation/article on accessible painting strategies for students with visual impairments.
- The school is once again partnering with the Clovernook Center of the Blind and VIPS to host a Beeping Egg hunt on campus on March 18. Students will participate in hunts throughout the morning and afternoon and the evening hunt will be open to the public.

### **Outreach Report – Cara Burchett, Director**

- Outreach served 312 students year-to-date and marked a milestone of 250,000 “taps” or educational interactions over the past 20 years.
- LEADS course updates included “Life Hack Academy” held February 11–13 with five students and the final session “Camp ECC Survival Skills” being held March 19–20 with eight registrations. Total LEADS participants this year total 17; three have elected to enroll as full-time students with a possible additional transition in the fall.

### **Related Services Update - Jason Askren, Director**

- Food services met with Side Street Catering to review operations and overall service quality.
- The mobile dentist provided student screenings on March 5.
- A low-vision clinic was held February 12 with another scheduled for March 24.
- The Wellness Fair is scheduled for March 27 from 12:00pm – 2:30pm.
- In Athletics, the cheerleading team placed second overall with their virtual submission, and the bowling season concluded with strong team performances with both boys and girls placing fifth in their respective divisions.
- Swimming and forensics are now underway.
- The online spirit store has launched and is open until March 15 with plans to reopen in the future.

### **B. ECC Update – Nick Leon, Assistant Director**

- Progress is being made in strengthening ECC, including the completion of an ECC high school readiness checklist tracking data for all students. Key focus areas include independent daily living skills and assistive technology (AT).
- The AT support team expanded to four staff members; initiatives include increasing laptop access for students and integrating training across grade levels.
- Strategic goal update: target of 75% of students (grades 3+) having a laptop enabled by year-end. Approximately 50 laptops are currently in active use (about 50%).

- Typing instruction is being addressed using accessible typing software. Progress has been noted among middle school and high school students with improvements in technique and skill development.
- Additional AT student support includes:
  - Weekly sessions in the FACS kitchen and time in the AT Classroom for Elementary classes
  - Bi-weekly classes for the middle school in writing/composition and math support
  - Individual instruction and digital literacy classes for high school students
- Other areas of support include Professional Development for instructional staff and presentations within the community such as the spring ICASE Conference and the upcoming AER Conference in July.

Questions addressed included future budgeting for emerging AT conference participation and student data confidentiality. Administration noted that confidentiality is maintained, service-level data is non-identifying, and student-specific data is protected within existing secure systems consistent with IEP confidentiality requirements and release permissions.

### **C. IBCF Update – Laura Alvarado, Executive Director**

- The foundation will be sending five students and three teachers to New York in April through the Toulou Oberlies Creative Arts Fund (TOCAF) grant.
- Artist-in-residence, John Bramblitt, will visit the week of March 23 and will be working with students Monday through Thursday. In addition, he will present at two No Limits art series painting workshops on March 24 in Indianapolis and March 25 in West Lafayette.
- The 13<sup>th</sup> annual Through the Looking Glass Gala will take place October 24, 2026, with keynote speaker Kristen Smedley.
- Graduation sponsors are being recruited to provide graduate baskets tailored to each student's next steps.

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

Assistant Superintendent of Business and Operations, Raouf Estefanos, presented financial statements:

- Attachment 2A: (end of January 2026)
  - 59% of year was completed, Point One expenditures were at 58.46%, Points Two through Nine reflected 77.49% spent, and overall expenditures totaled 63.59%
  - Remaining balance of the allotment: \$5,133,814.68

- Attachment 2B: (end of February 2026)
  - 66% of year was complete, 66.20% was spent from Point One, 78.84% was spent from Points Two through Nine, and overall expenditures totaled 69.61%
  - Remaining balance of the allotment: \$4,285,219.68

Bi-weekly benefit costs increased from \$101,935 (prior year) to \$109,533 starting January 2026, a bi-weekly increase of \$7,598. This represents an estimated annual impact of \$197,548. The estimated impact for FY26 is \$98,774. Management strategies for this increase include limiting hiring to essential positions and reviewing contracts for unutilized funds. The school will continue to strategically determine how to absorb the impact during the second year of the biennium while maintaining quality of programs and safety for students and staff.

#### **E. Staffing (Attachments 3A & 3B)**

- Attachment 3A (end of January):
  - 11 filled intermittent; 18 vacant intermittent; 134 filled regular; 39 vacant regular
- Attachment 3B (end of February):
  - 11 filled intermittent; 18 vacant intermittent; 133 filled full-time regular; 40 vacant full-time positions

Administration noted there are no critical positions that need to be filled immediately. Essential needs in the dorm are being managed, with residential mentor positions utilizing overtime as needed.

### **IV. New Business**

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

- Attachments 4A and 4B: Donations under \$499 from January 1, 2026, to February 28, 2026
  - Restricted donations totaled \$10.00
  - No unrestricted donations for this period
- Attachment 5A and 5B: Donations over \$499 from January 1, 2026, to February 28, 2026
  - Restricted donations totaled \$1,000
  - No unrestricted donations for this period

**Motion:** A motion was made by Mr. Koors and seconded by Dr. Thacker to approve donations over \$499 in Attachment 5A; motion carried.

#### **B. Reapproval of Revision: Policy O-25 Overtime (Attachment 6)**

The Board re-considered Policy O-25 Overtime due to a procedural issue at the prior meeting.

**Motion:** A motion was made by Mr. Koors and seconded by Dr. Butler to approve Policy O-25; motion carried.

### **C. Graduation and Senior Banquet**

The Senior Banquet will be held on May 21, celebrating five graduates. Graduation is scheduled for May 22 at the Education Building. Additional details and location information will be provided at the May board meeting.

### **V. Public Comments**

No public comments were offered.

### **VI. Board Comments**

No board comments were offered.

### **VII. Adjournment**

**Motion:** A motion was made by Mr. Koors and Dr. Thacker to adjourn the meeting at 4:21pm; motion carried.