



Board Members Present

Jill Robinson Kramer (Vice-Chair)

Virginia Calvin

Janet Rummel

Gretchen Gutman

MaryAnn Ruegger

Beth Bray

Board Members Not Present

Ellis G. Dumas III

Michelle Gough

Staff

James Betley

Bridgett Abston

Ryan Preston

Sherie Scott

Beatriz Pacheco

VIRTUAL MEETING

December 16, 2021 at 11:30 a.m. EST

MEETING RECORDING:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCoZYFYlq7wgHI9ODWP9jjWg>

All public meetings of the Indiana Charter School Board are accessible to persons with disabilities. For persons who are hearing impaired or deaf and who require interpreter services for the meeting, notify Beatriz Pacheco in writing by email at BePacheco@icsb.in.gov; or by telephone at (317) 232-7585. Notification must be made at least forty-eight (48) hours in advance of the meeting. For persons who are visually impaired or blind and who require large-print or Braille copies of materials to be distributed at the meeting, please contact the person listed above at least forty-eight (48) hours in advance of the meeting.

Meeting Minutes

I. Call to Order/Board Meeting Minutes Approval

- a. Approval of Board Minutes (October 28, 2021)
- b. The minutes for the October 28, 2021 meeting were approved unanimously by voice vote with Board Members Virginia Calvin, Janet Rummel, Gretchen Gutman, MaryAnn Ruegger, Beth Bray, and Jill Kramer voting aye.
- c. Board Members Ellis Dumas III and Michelle Gough were absent.

II. Board Business

a. Circle City Preparatory Charter School – Charter Renewal

- i. Presentation of staff recommendation (5-7 minutes)
 1. Executive Director, James Betley, provided a brief overview of the renewal application for Circle City Prep.
 2. The staff recommended Circle City Prep for a seven-year renewal.
- ii. Presentation of request by organizer (8-10 minutes)
 1. School Leader and Founder, Megan Murphy, described the submitted application for renewal.
 2. School Board President and founding Board member, Chad Miller, described the Board's experience working with the school leadership.
- iii. Question and answer period
 1. Board Member Gutman shared her concern with the school's ILEARN performance. Ms. Murphy shared that despite the impact of COVID-19, their school is outperforming similar schools in the community and the steps being taken to address academic performance.
 2. Board Member Bray asked the school leader to share the level of autonomy the school's Board and school have with Building Excellent Schools. Ms. Murphy shared that the organization does not have direct impact on decisions made by the school's Board, but that she connects with the organization for resources.
 3. Board Member Rummel asked the student retention rate and whether there are stark differences in student achievement based on their retention. Ms. Murphy shared that typically students that have been a part of the school community longer perform better on assessments.
 4. Board Member Ruegger asked ICSB to list the comparable schools provided in the board packet. Board Member Ruegger also asked what the relationship is to Indianapolis Public Schools (IPS). Executive Director, James Betley, listed the comparable schools. Ms. Murphy shared that the relationship with IPS is to support students from the same community.
- iv. Board decision
 1. Board Member Calvin moves to accept the recommendation for a seven-year renewal. Board Member Rummel seconded the motion.
 2. Board Members Virginia Calvin, Janet Rummel, Gretchen Gutman, Beth Bray, and Jill Kramer voice voted aye.

3. Board Member MaryAnn Ruegger voice voted nay.
4. Board Members Ellis Dumas III and Michelle Gough were absent.
5. Motion passes with five yeses and one no.

b. James and Rosemary Phalen Middle School – Charter Renewal

- i. Presentation of staff recommendation (5-7 minutes)
 1. Director, James Betley, provided a brief overview of the renewal application for James and Rosemary Phalen Middle School.
 2. The staff recommended James and Rosemary Phalen Middle School for a seven-year renewal.
- ii. Presentation of request by organizer (8-10 minutes)
 1. Ms. Nicole Fama, Indianapolis Regional Director, provided a brief overview of the school.
 2. School Founder, Mr. Earl Phalen, shared information about how the emergency relief federal funding was being utilized.
- iii. Question and answer period
 1. Board Member Rummel asked a question regarding student out of school suspension increases. Ms. Fama shared that their team added a counselor and therapist to address the suspension rate and difficulty for students to re-assimilate due to COVID-19.
 2. Board Member Bray shared a comment commending Earl on the sense of urgency among the Phalen schools network.
 3. Board Member Gutman asked how long a school would need to be open to have a longitudinal analysis of academic performance. Executive Director Betley responded that due to COVID-19 and a change in assessments it has been particularly difficult, but that a reasonable time period is subjective. He went on to share that ICBSB staff is being intentional with each school to measure academic performance.
- iv. Board decision
 1. Board Member Bray moved to accept the staff recommendation for a full renewal. Board Member Rummel seconded the motion.
 2. Board Members Virginia Calvin, Janet Rummel, Gretchen Gutman, Beth Bray, and Jill Kramer voice voted aye.
 3. Board Member MaryAnn Ruegger voice voted nay.
 4. Board Members Ellis Dumas III and Michelle Gough were absent.
 5. Motion passes with five yeses and one no.

c. The Excel Center Hammond– Charter Renewal

- i. Presentation of staff recommendation (5-7 minutes)
 1. Director, James Betley, provided a brief overview of the renewal application for the Excel Center Hammond.
 2. The staff recommended the Excel Center Hammond for a five-year renewal.
- ii. Presentation of request by organizer (8-10 minutes)
 1. Debie Coble, President and CEO of Goodwill Industries of Michiana, provided an overview of her role with the Excel Center

Hammond and an overview of the current happenings with the school.

2. School Leader, Dave Pleasac, provided an overview student enrollment.
3. Karam Eash, the Chief Financial Officer, commented on the budget and their cost savings initiatives.

iii. Question and answer period

1. Board Member Gutman asked why staff recommended a five-year renewal instead of a seven-year renewal and asked the ICSB staff regarding availability of academic performance of the Excel Center Hammond compared to that of James and Rosemary Phalen Middle School. Executive Director, James Betley, shared that he recommended a five-year renewal versus a seven-year renewal due to financial concerns, but was not opposed to a seven-year renewal. ICSB Staff member, Bridgett Abston, shared the state-level accountability differences between adult high schools and traditional K-12 schools.

iv. Board decision

1. Board Member Gutman moved to a seven-year renewal of the Excel Center Hammond's charter agreement. Board Member Calvin seconded the motion.
2. Board Members Virginia Calvin, Janet Rummel, Gretchen Gutman, and Beth Bray voice voted aye.
3. Board Member Jill Kramer recused herself.
4. Board Members MaryAnn Ruegger, Ellis Dumas III, and Michelle Gough were absent.
5. Motion passes with four yeases and one recusal to amend the staff recommendation from a five-year renewal to a seven-year renewal and to renew their charter.

d. The Excel Center Clarksville – Charter Renewal

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

1. Executive Director, James Betley, provided a brief overview of the renewal application for the Excel Center Clarksville.
2. The staff recommended the Excel Center Clarksville for a seven-year renewal.

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

1. Betsy Delgado, Senior Vice President and Chief Mission and Education Officer at Goodwill of Central and Southern Indiana, provided an overview of the network and school leadership.
2. Corey Emery, Regional Director, gave an overview of the Excel Center model.
3. Corenn Lorenzini, School Leader, provided a summary specific to the school's impact on students and the community.

iii. Question and answer period

1. Board Member MaryAnn Ruegger asked about the network's recruitment strategies. Ms. Delgado gave an overview of the network's recruitment strategies.

- iv. Board decision
 - 1. Board Member Bray moved to accept the staff recommendation for a full seven-year renewal. Board Member Calvin seconded the motion.
 - 2. Board Members Virginia Calvin, Janet Rummel, Gretchen Gutman, and Beth Bray voice voted aye.
 - 3. Board Member MaryAnn Ruegger voice voted nay.
 - 4. Board Member Jill Kramer recused herself.
 - 5. Board Members Ellis Dumas III and Michelle Gough were absent.
 - 6. Motion passes with four yeses and one recusal to accept the staff recommendation and renew the charter for seven years.

e. **The Excel Center Anderson – Charter Renewal**

- i. Presentation of staff recommendation (5-7 minutes)
 - 1. Executive Director, James Betley, provided a brief overview of the renewal application for the Excel Center Anderson. Mr. Betley shared that the Excel Center Anderson is the first ICSB school to receive its second renewal.
 - 2. The staff recommended the Excel Center Anderson for a seven-year renewal.
- ii. Presentation of request by organizer (8-10 minutes)
 - 1. Betsy Delgado, Senior Vice President and Chief Mission and Education Officer at Goodwill of Central and Southern Indiana, provided an overview of the network and school leadership. She introduced Mr. Jay Oliver, the Board Chair of GEI and the Goodwill Excel Centers.
 - 2. Corey Emery, Regional Director, gave an overview of the Excel Center model. He went on to highlight that the Excel Center Anderson was their first Excel Center outside of Marion County.
 - 3. Miriam Henry, School Director, provided information regarding the school's academic success and community partnerships.
- iii. Question and answer
 - 1. Board Member Rummel commented on the decline in student enrollment and asked the school to comment on the financial implications and what is being done to increase the enrollment. Mr. Emery shared their community engagement and partnership approach has been increasing post-COVID. Ms. Delgado shared that typically enrollment increases back in the spring.
- iv. Board decision
 - 1. Board Member Calvin moved to accept the staff recommendation for a full seven-year renewal. Board Member Gutman seconded the motion.
 - 2. Board Members Virginia Calvin, Janet Rummel, Gretchen Gutman, and Beth Bray voice voted aye.
 - 3. Board Member MaryAnn Ruegger voice voted nay.
 - 4. Board Member Jill Kramer recused herself.
 - 5. Board Members Ellis Dumas III and Michelle Gough were absent.
 - 6. Motion passes with four yeses and one recusal to accept the staff recommendation and renew the charter for seven years.

III. Staff Updates

- a. Executive Director Betley shared that the next renewal cycle will include twelve schools.

IV. Closing Remarks and Adjournment

- a. Board Member Calvin motioned to adjourn. Board Member Ruegger seconded the motion.
- b. The meeting was adjourned by unanimous vote.