



Board Members Present

Jill Robinson Kramer (Vice-Chair)

Gretchen Gutman

Violet Hawkins

Michael Jasaitis

Anna Shults

Rep. Terri Austin

Board Members Absent

Beth Bray (Chair)

Janet Rummel

Staff

James Betley

Bridgett Abston

Ryan Preston

Sherie Scott

Beatriz Pacheco

NOTICE OF MEETING

May 9, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. EDT

Indiana Government Center South – Conference Room D

302 W Washington Street

Indianapolis, IN 46204

Meeting Recording:

<https://www.youtube.com/@indianacharterschoolboard6660>

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Meeting Minutes

I. Call to Order/Board Meeting Minutes Approval

- a. Approval of Board Minutes (May 9, 2023)
 - i. Vice-Chair Jill Robinson Kramer called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m. ET.
 - ii. Vice-Chair Robinson Kramer motioned to accept the May 9, 2023 Board minutes. Board Member Gutman seconded the motion. The motion passes by voice vote with Board Members Robinson Kramer, Gutman, Hawkins, Jasaitis, Shults, and Austin voting aye.

II. Board Business

- a. **Christel House Academy DORS – Expansion Request**
 - i. Presentation of staff recommendation (3 minutes)
 1. Executive Director, James Betley, provided a brief overview of the expansion request submitted by Christel House Academy DORS.
 2. The staff recommendation was to approve the expansion request. The organizer is requesting to expand the Christel House Academy DORS program to MSD Pike Township.
 - ii. Presentation of request by organizer (5 minutes)
 1. Dr. Sarah Weimer, Executive Director of Christel House Indianapolis, provided a brief overview of the Christel House Academy DORS expansion request.
 - iii. Question and answer period
 1. Board Member Austin asked the organizer to speak on how they plan to advance the Christel House Academy DORS graduation rate of thirty-three percent. Dr. Sarah Weimer indicated that the thirty-three percent is for four and five-year graduation rates. Dr. Weimer went on to say that adult learners are typically out of cohort and students within cohort are often very behind resulting in the thirty-three percent graduation rate.
 2. Board Member Austin asked if the Christel House Academy DORS program generally takes three years. Dr. Weimer responded that it truly depends on the student. Emily Masengale, Assistant Executive Director of Christel House Indianapolis, added that with the Adult High School Accountability metric, the requirement to receive an A is to have at least twenty-five percent of students enrolled graduate. Ms. Masengale shared that Christel House Academy DORS typically graduates twenty-one to twenty-two percent of students.
 3. Board Member Austin mentioned that the school's website does not include contact information for their Board members. Christel House Academy DORS staff indicated that they would update the website to assure Board contact information is included.
 4. Board Member Hawkins asked the organizer to clarify about tracking their students. Dr. Weimer responded that Christel House Academy DORS does track their students, but that it can be hard to calculate a

percentage of students in one given year. Students are tracked up to five years after graduation.

5. Board Member Hawkins asked if students that do not graduate then ‘drop off’ on their calculations. Dr. Weimer responded, yes.
 6. Board Member Hawkins asked how the school connects with students not returning to graduate. Dr. Weimer shared that Christel House Academy DORS staff is in constant contact with those students to re-enroll.
 7. Board Member Gutman asked the degree students obtain upon graduation. Ms. Masengale responded that students graduate with an Indiana Core 40 high school diploma, dual credits, and career certifications.
 8. Board Member Gutman asked if of the thirty-three percent of students graduating are receiving additional credentials besides their degree. Dr. Weimer responded yes.
 9. Board Member Gutman asked the total percentage of the student body graduating. Dr. Weimer responded twenty-two percent.
 10. Board Member Gutman then asked of those twenty-two percent how many students are graduating with an additional credential. Ms. Masengale responded that ninety percent of those students graduate with additional credentials.
 11. Board Member Austin asked of the students graduating, what percent go on to postsecondary training or traditional college. Ms. Masengale said that she does not remember the exact figure, but the information was included in the originally submitted renewal application. Ms. Hawkins looked at the data and shared that ninety-five percent of students are continuing their education after graduating from Christel House Academy DORS.
 12. Board Member Gutman asked the length of the contract for this expansion request. Ms. Masengale shared that this expansion is included in the December 2022 renewal approved for seven years.
 13. Board Member Shults said she recalled a need for this program being due to the number of students interested within MSD Pike Township. She asked the expected enrollment at this campus. Ms. Masengale shared they are expecting 100 – 120 students at Pike campus. Board Member Shults asked the current enrollment for the new campus. Ms. Masengale shared that the new campus has about sixty prospective students.
- iv. Board decision
1. Board Member Gutman motioned to accept the staff recommendation to approve the expansion request for Christel House Academy DORS. Board Member Jasaitis seconded the motion.
 2. Board Members Robinson Kramer, Gutman, Hawkins, Jasaitis, Shults, and Austin voice voted aye.
 3. Board Members Bray and Rummel were absent.
 4. Motion passes with six ayes and zero nays.

b. GEO Next Generation High School – Expansion Request

- i. Presentation of staff recommendation (3 minutes)
 - 1. Executive Director, James Betley, provided a brief overview of the expansion request submitted by GEO Next Generation High School. The organizer requested to expand their current ninth to twelfth grade school to include seventh and eighth grade.
 - 2. The staff recommendation was to approve the expansion request.
- ii. Presentation of request by organizer (5 minutes)
 - 1. Kevin Teasley, President and Founder of GEO Foundation, provided a brief overview of the GEO Next Generation High School expansion request.
- iii. Question and answer period
 - 1. Board Member Hawkins asked how the students in the junior high school will be separate from the students in high school. Mr. Teasley responded that the building has three sections: The Genius School K-6, the high school is in the other two sections, and the seventh and eighth grade classes will be self-contained.
 - 2. Board Member Gutman asked where the middle school students will be coming from. Mr. Teasley responded that students will be coming mostly from the northeast side of Indianapolis. GEO Next Generation High School also has multiple school partners including Paramount School of Excellence, Andrew J. Brown Academy, Avondale Meadows Academy, and Rooted School of Indianapolis.
 - 3. Board Member Gutman asked where the school faculty will be coming from. Mr. Teasley responded that the faculty will be coming from their Marion University fellowship, IUPUI, among others. He also added that ninety percent of the staff returned in the last academic school year.
 - 4. Board Member Gutman asked the student attrition rate at the other GEO Foundation middle schools. Mr. Teasley shared that about one percent of students do not return from year to year.
 - 5. Board Member Gutman asked about the academic program offering for the middle school. Mr. Teasley said their program is entirely focused on preparing students to go to college as early as possible.
 - 6. Board Member Shults asked how the school's staffing will support middle school. Ms. Tiffany Evans, the current school principal, shared that she has led a seventh through twelfth grade school. The assistant principal also has relevant experience.
 - 7. Board Member Shults asked the organizer to provide more information about the self-contained middle school model. Ms. Wendy Skibinski, Chief Academic Officer, shared that students will be self-contained for English and Math. The school will also leverage the current ancillary educators at the high school to support the middle school students.
- iv. Board decision
 - 1. Board Member Hawkins motioned to accept the staff recommendation to approve the expansion request for GEO Next Generation High School. Board Member Jasaitis seconded the motion.

2. Board Members Robinson Kramer, Hawkins, Jasaitis, Shults, and Austin voice voted aye.
 3. Board Member Gutman voice voted nay.
 4. Board Members Bray and Rummel were absent.
 5. Motion passes with five ayes and one nay.
- c. **Sullivan County School of Choice – Charter Application**
- i. Presentation of staff recommendation (5-7 minutes)
 1. Executive Director, James Betley, provided a brief overview of the change in authorizer application submitted by Sullivan County School of Choice. Rural Community Academy is requesting to change their authorizer from Ball State University to the Indiana Charter School Board. If approved, the school would rebrand as Sullivan County School of Choice.
 2. The staff recommendation was to decline the change in authorizer request.
 - ii. Presentation of request by organizer (8-10 minutes)
 1. Ms. Ashley Trotter, Board Secretary of Sullivan School of Choice, provided a brief overview of the Sullivan School of Choice change in authorizer application.
 - iii. Question and answer period
 1. Board Member Gutman asked if the dissolution of the relationship with Ball State University was due to the ADM (average daily membership)? Ms. Trotter said that she was not a part of the conversation at the time and she was unsure.
 2. Board Member Gutman asked if the dissolution then was instigated by the school's Board and not by Ball State University. Ms. Trotter responded yes.
 3. Ms. Gutman asked if the school's Board will be reconstituted. Ms. Trotter said yes. There is a Board meeting on May 16, 2023 to reignite the school and their Board.
 4. Board Member Gutman asked how restarting the Board will help with finding the needed expertise. Ms. Trotter responded that there are interested individuals waiting to see if the school's charter gets approved.
 5. Board Member Gutman asked for clarification regarding the school's grade levels. Ms. Trotter shared that at one point, the school included pre-K. The organizer is hoping that offering pre-K again will increase the school's enrollment and will provide a potential student pipeline.
 6. Board Member Gutman asked how the school will pay for increasing their transportation offerings. Ms. Trotter responded that transportation will not cost more because there will be more stops incorporated in their current routes.
 7. Board Member Gutman asked if a transportation study has informed their interest to expand the transportation program. Ms. Trotter said the interest for more transportation has been mentioned by the community.

8. Board Member Gutman asked the organizer to speak on an outside fundraising plan. Ms. Trotter said the organizer plans to increase fundraising activities.
9. Board Member Austin asked the number of students committed to returning the following year. Ms. Trotter responded that currently the school expects to keep sixty-six students of eighty-five students.. Ms. Jodie Akinbo, Chief Academic Officer, added that there are several students that have not submitted an intention to return because of the current state of the charter. The school expects to have ten additional, prospective students enroll.
10. Board Member Austin asked if the school has an additional year before their charter ends. Ms. Trotter responded no. The school's charter is set to expire by the end of May 2023.
11. Board Member Austin asked if the organizer approached Ball State University regarding an extension to their current contract. Ms. Trotter said that Ball State University indicated the school would need to reapply for a new charter with their authorizing agency. Ms. Bailey Potts, Board Vice-Chair, added that through the Ball State University authorizing process, there would be a gap year. Board Member Austin asked if the school would have to close for a year and then reopen. Ms. Potts responded yes.
12. Board Member Shults said that she recognizes the school may not have some definitive answers, but the current ideas of the school appear to be very theoretical. She goes on to say that she is concerned that ninety days will not be enough time for the school to accomplish the tasks many new charter schools do in a Year 0. Ms. Akinbo responded that several processes they are planning to implement going forward have been implemented in the past.
13. Board Member Shults asked if the current school leader will continue. Ms. Akinbo shared that the current school leader will not be with the school at the end of the school year.
14. Board member Shults asked if the prospective school leader would be external or if Ms. Akinbo would be the school leader. Ms. Akinbo said that the plan is for her to be the next school leader.
15. Board Member Austin noted that the school has received two one year extensions. A Rural Community Academy staff member, indicated that the renewal procedures could not be followed by Ball State for a thorough renewal. Therefore, the authorizer gave the school the first one-year extension due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Subsequently, the school received its second one-year renewal.
16. Board Member Austin asked the steps the school has taken to help prepare students and families in the event the school has to close. Ms. Akinbo shared that they have worked with the families to determine their school options and are actively preparing student records. The school will be helping staff find employment as well.
17. Board Member Hawkins asked if the school is not approved, will most of the students attend the same elementary school. Ms. Akinbo

said that based on where they live, the students will be spread out across several schools within the county and outside of the county.

- iv. Board decision
 1. Motion 1: Board Member Gutman motions to accept the staff's recommendation to decline the change in authorizer application. Board Member Austin seconded the motion.
 - a. Board Members Robinson Kramer, Gutman, Hawkins, Jasaitis, Shults, and Austin voice voted aye.
 - b. Board Members Bray and Rummel were absent.
 - c. The motion passes with six ayes and zero nays.
 2. Motion 2: Board Member Jasaitis motions to authorize the school for one year instead of five years. Board Member Hawkins seconded the motion.
 - a. Board Members Jasaitis and Hawkins voice voted aye.
 - b. Board Members Robinson Kramer, Gutman, Shults, and Austin voice voted nay.
 - c. The motion fails with two ayes and four nays.

III. Staff Updates

- a. 2023 ICSB Annual Conference
 - i. ICSB Staff will be leading a statewide conference for ICSB school and network leaders.
 - ii. ICSB Board members are also invited to attend.
 - iii. The conference will be held at Christel House Academy South on Tuesday, June 13, 2023.
- b. June 2023 Board Meeting and Retreat
 - i. James Betley, Executive Director, shared that the Board may be receiving a change in authorizer application from Mays Community Academy.
 - ii. Board Chair Bray has called a special meeting with a Board retreat, if time permits.
 - iii. More logistical information will be forthcoming.
- c. 2023-2024 School Year Renewals
 - i. The 2023 – 2024 school year renewals include the two following schools:
 1. The Excel Center Bloomington
 2. PLA@93

IV. Closing Remarks and Adjournment

- a. Board Member Gutman motioned to adjourn. Board Member Jasaitis seconded the motion.
- b. Board Members Robinson Kramer, Gutman, Hawkins, Jasaitis, Shults, and Austin voice voted aye.
- c. Board Members Bray and Rummel were absent.
- d. Motion passes with six ayes and zero nays.
- e. The meeting was adjourned at by unanimous vote at 12:08 p.m. ET.