



Board Members Present

Beth Bray (Chair)
Jill Robinson Kramer (Vice-Chair)
Gretchen Gutman
Violet Hawkins
Michael Jasaitis
Anna Shults
Rep. Terri Austin
Rev. David W. Greene, Sr.

Staff

James Betley
Bridgett Abston
Ryan Preston
Sherie Scott
Beatriz Pacheco

NOTICE OF MEETING

June 6, 2023 at 11:00 a.m. ET

**Indiana Government Center South – Conference Room B
302 W Washington Street
Indianapolis, IN 46204**

Meeting Link:

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

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Meeting Minutes

I. Call to Order/Board Meeting Minutes Approval

- a. Board Chair Beth Bray called the meeting to order at 11:03 a.m. ET.
- b. Board Chair Bray welcomed new Board Member Rev. David W. Greene.
- c. Board Member Jasaitis motioned to accept the May 9, 2023 Board Minutes. Board Member Hawkins seconded the motion. The motion passes by voice vote with Board Members Robinson Kramer, Gutman, Hawkins, Jasaitis, Shults, Austin, Greene, and Bray voting aye.

II. Board Business

a. Mays Community Academy – Change in Authorizer Application

- i. Presentation of staff recommendation (5-7 minutes)
 1. Executive Director, James, Betley, provided a brief overview of the change in authorizer request submitted by Northern Rush County Schools, Inc. (Mays Community Academy).
 2. The staff recommendation was to approve the change in authorizer request and provide the school with a five-year charter.
- ii. Presentation of request by organizer (8-10 minutes)
 1. Board President of Northern Rush County Schools Inc., Nansi Custer, provided a brief overview of the Northern Rush County Schools Inc. change in authorizer request.
- iii. Question and answer period
 1. Board Member Gutman said she is concerned with the diversity of experience of the school's governing Board. She asked how the organizer plans to rejuvenate their Board. Ms. Custer responded that finding Board members in a rural community has been difficult, but the organizer has been leveraging community partnerships with area experts.
 2. Board Member Gutman said she is concerned with the school's ability to support special education students because the current budget only provides funding for two special education-related positions. Ms. Custer explained that they have three positions focused on special education and that several special education students will be moving on to another school since Mays Community Academy plans to adjust their grade span from K-8 to K-6 for the 2023 – 2024 school year.
 3. Board Chair Bray asked Principal Yoke to describe the school's special education program including the staffing structure. Ms. Yoke said the program is inclusion-based. Teachers and their aides meet the accommodations. The Teacher of Record (ToR) pulls out students that have individualized needs.
 4. Board Chair Bray asked if the school has a self-contained special education classroom. Ms. Yoke said the school does not have a self-contained classroom.
 5. Board Member Shults asked if the aides are licensed in special education. The question was not answered.

6. The school's attorney, Alex Curlin, suggested to Ms. Yoke that it may be helpful if she explained how the school trains their current teachers with classroom special education accommodations. Ms. Yoke said the special education teacher meets with all the aides on how to meet minutes and how to document minutes.
7. Board Member Gutman asked how many paraprofessionals are in the school's budget. Board Chair Bray responded that there are two paraprofessionals in the budget.
8. Board Member Gutman asked the plan for increasing their student enrollment to 140 students. Ms. Custer mentioned a partnership with the Rush County Community Foundation and the school's preschool program. Their strategy is three-fold: looking at the economic situation in their county (decreasing population). About half of the students come from outside of the county. Other strategies include before and after school care, trying to make themselves available to people driving by the school to go to work, dropping 7th and 8th grade, and doing more family and community engagement post-Covid.
9. Board Member Gutman asked if the family and community engagement programs were new or existing. Ms. Custer responded that the family and community engagement programs are existing.
10. Board Member Austin asked how the school is paying for the family and community engagement coordinator. Ms. Custer said the position is paid with private funding and other monies.
11. Board Member Austin asked how the position is reflected in the budget. Ms. Custer said the position is under Administrative Assistant in the budget.
12. Board Member Austin asked the school principal, Ms. Yoke, to provide information regarding her educational training and teaching experience. Ms. Yoke said she received her undergraduate degree in English and then received her master's degree in Elementary Education. She is currently completing coursework through Ball State University for her Administrative License.
13. Board Member Austin asked how long she has served as the principal. Ms. Yoke said that the 2022 – 2023 school year was her second year as principal at Mays Community Academy.
14. Board Member Austin asked if she had any training in special education. Ms. Yoke responded that she has had special education training through her degrees.
15. Board Member Ausin asked Ms. Yoke to describe the professional development for teachers and paraprofessionals. Ms. Yoke responded that the school meets about a week prior to the beginning of the school year to conduct the IDOE-required trainings, IN*Source special education training, Title IX, and time management among many others. During professional development staff will go over IEPs with the paraprofessionals. Throughout the year, teachers are provided with at-a-glance IEPs.

16. Board Member Austin asked that given the high number of special education students, how is the school assuring they are meeting the three-year reevaluation requirements. Board Member Austin also asked who does their reevaluations. Ms. Yoke said that the school psychologist conducts all the testing.
17. Board Member Shults asked the student enrollment on the last day of school. Ms. Custer responded the student enrollment was 114.
18. Board Member Shults asked the enrollment number the budget is based on. Ms. Custer said 115 students. Board Member Shults asked the number given for the July ADM (Average Daily Membership). Ms. Custer responded 115.
19. Board Member Shults requested more information regarding the ILEARN and IREAD-3 results. She went on to ask if the ILEARN data includes no cause exemptions. Ms. Yoke said yes and as far as she knows the school has only done one no cause exemption in the last two years.
20. Board Chair Bray asked the contingency plan if the charter application is not approved. Ms. Custer said the organizer does not have a contingency plan upon their current charter agreement expiration with Ball State University.
21. Board Chair Bray asked why the organizer decided to start looking for a new authorizer in May when the charter ends June 30, 2023. Ms. Custer responded that it was based on their authorizer's divergence from authorizing smaller schools.
22. Board Chair Bray asked Ms. Yoke to speak about the school's approach to behavior and discipline. She noted the rarity of a full-time school resource officer in a small school. Ms. Yoke said that the school has a new structured code of conduct also shared with teachers. The school resource officer steps in as a mentor.
23. Board Chair Bray asked the frequency of seclusion or restraint as a disciplinary strategy. Ms. Yoke said the school had less than ten restraints last year. Board Chair Bray noted that in the 2019-2020 school year, the school had twenty-six restraints and thirteen seclusions with a school population of 150 students.
24. Board Chair Bray asked for specific, financial contingencies the school would take if enrollment dropped below 115 students. Ms. Custer said the school will 'right size' staff, cut field experiences, and remove unnecessary bus stops.
25. Board Member Hawkins asked if the school conducted exit interviews with the outgoing students/families. Ms. Custer said the majority of students leave towards middle school because of the extracurricular offerings at traditional public middle schools.
26. Board Member Austin asked the transportation cost last year (2022-2023). Ms. Custer said it was \$150,000. Board Member Austin asked what the transportation cost would be in the 2023 – 2024 school year. Ms. Custer said that if enrollment remains the same, the transportation costs will likely be the same.

iv. Board decision

1. Motion 1: Board Member Kramer motioned to accept the staff recommendation as written: to approve a five-year charter for May's Community Academy and accept their change in authorizer application. Board Chair Bray seconded the motion.
 - a. Board Members Robinson Kramer and Jasaitis voice voted aye.
 - b. Board Members Bray, Gutman, Hawkins, Shults, Austin, and Greene voice voted nay.
 - c. The motion fails with two ayes and four nays.
2. Motion 2: Board Member Hawkins motions to authorize the school for one year instead of five years. Board Member Jasaitis seconded the motion.
 - a. Board Members Jasaitis and Hawkins voice voted aye.
 - b. Board Members Bray, Robinson Kramer, Gutman, Shults, Austin, and Greene voice voted nay.
 - c. C. The motion fails with two ayes and four nays.

III. Closing Remarks and Adjournment

- a. Board Member Gutman motioned to adjourn. Board Member Austin seconded the motion.
- b. Board Members Bray, Robinson Kramer, Gutman, Hawkins, Jasaitis, Shults, Austin, and Greene voice vote aye.
- c. Motion passes with eight ayes.
- d. The meeting was adjourned at 12:27 p.m. ET.