



# CHARTER SCHOOL BOARD

## **Board Members Present**

Beth Bray (Chair)  
Violet Hawkins  
Michael Jasaitis  
Anna Shults  
Rev. David W. Greene, Sr.  
Dr. Ryan Donlan

## **Board Members Absent**

Dr. Jill Robinson Kramer (Vice-Chair)

## **Staff**

Linday Omlor  
Bridgett Abston  
Ryan Preston  
Sherie Scott  
Beatriz García

## **NOTICE OF MEETING AND AGENDA**

May 8, 2025 at 1:00 p.m. ET  
Indiana Government Center South – Conference Room 4+5  
Wabash Hall  
302 W Washington Street  
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Meeting Link:

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

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## **ICSB Meeting Minutes: May 8, 2025**

### **I. Call to Order/Board Meeting Minutes Approval**

- a. Board Chair Bray called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. ET
- b. Approval of Board Minutes (March 10, 2025)
  - i. Board Member Greene motioned to accept the March 10, 2025 meeting minutes.
  - ii. Board Member Donlan seconded the motion.
  - iii. Board Members Bray, Shults, Greene, and Donlan voice voted aye.
  - iv. Board Members Robinson Kramer, Jasaitis, and Hawkins were absent for this vote.
  - v. Motion passes with four ayes and zero nays.

### **II. Board Business**

#### **a. Career Academy of South Bend, Inc. – Change in Authorizer Network of schools = Six charters requested**

- i. Presentation of staff recommendation (5-7 minutes)
  1. Executive Director, Lindsay Omlor, provided a brief overview of the change in authorizer application from Career Academy Network of Public Schools.
  2. The staff recommended fifteen-year charters for their existing five schools: Success Academy Primary, Success Academy at Boys and Girls Club, Career Academy Middle School, Career Academy High School, and The Portage School of Leaders and a seven-year charter for a new school.
- ii. Presentation of request by organizer (8-10 minutes)
  1. Chief Executive Officer of Career Academy Network of Public Schools, Jeremy Lugbill, provided a brief overview of the charter applications.
- iii. Question and answer period
  1. Board Member Shults asked for clarification on the grade span for the new elementary school and whether it would be a K-5 and traditional model as indicated in the submitted application. Mr. Lugbill said that it was changed to K-8 and to a competency-based model based on the local need and for vertical articulation to the competency-based high school. Board Member Shults asked if they thought they could enroll up to middle school and Mr. Lugbill said yes.
  2. Board Member Greene asked if the seven-year charter for the new charter school begins in 2025. Executive Director Omlor indicated that it would start when school opens.
  3. Board Member Donlan shared that Mr. Lugbill is his doctoral student and endorses him, but will be recusing himself due to a perceived conflict.

4. Board Chair Bray asked if the network has determined the percentage of students interested in or pursuing each new diploma type. Mr. Lugbill responded yes and that they will be early adopters. She went on to ask if there have been any gaps identified in their curriculum. He said the network has been doing enrollment, employment, and enlistment for a long time but recognize there are areas they can always do better in.
5. Board Member Shults asked Executive Director Omlor for clarification on the application and whether it was for an elementary school or middle school. Executive Director Omlor shared that the application was for both and in her experience the network has capacity to lead a successful elementary and middle school as well. Mr. Lugbill added that their biggest waitlist is in middle school.

iv. Board decision

1. Board Member Jasaitis moved to consolidate the staff recommendation to one vote for all six schools and accept the staff recommendation. Board Member Greene seconded the motion.
2. Board Members Shults, Greene, Jasaitis, and Bray voiced voted aye.
3. Board Member Donlan recused himself.
4. Board Member Robinson Kramer was absent for this vote
5. Motion passes with four ayes and zero nays.

**b. Circle City Preparatory Charter School/ACE Preparatory Academy – Charter Acquisition**

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

1. Executive Director, Lindsay Omlor, provided a brief overview of the charter acquisition application from Circle City Preparatory Charter School/ACE Preparatory Academy.
2. The staff recommended is to add ACE Prep Academy into the existing Circle City Preparatory charter beginning in July 1 through June 30, 2029.

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

1. Founder and Executive Director of Circle City Prep Charter School, Megan Murphy, provided a brief overview of the charter application. She was joined by Amanda Liles the Principal of ACE Prep Academy.

iii. Question and answer period

1. Board Member Donlan asked how the network plans to grow enrollment at ACE Prep. Ms. Liles and Ms. Murphy shared that they have now leverage network level support to lead those efforts more.

2. Board Member Donlan asked Ms. Liles how the staff and culture have been during this process. She answered that ACE Prep has been very transparent with staff throughout the process and thus staff has felt comfortable sharing their opinions with school leadership. Vis versa, Circle City Prep leadership has also been receptive to their feedback.
3. Board Member Greene mentioned to Ms. Murphy that he noticed Circle City Prep's IREAD and ILEARN scores decreased from 2023 to 2024 and asked if they plan to learn from ACE Prep. Ms. Murphy said they plan to have the same curriculum over the next three years and will be synergizing academics. She mentioned the decrease in academics was due to being short staffed, but they will address that in the coming school year.
4. Board Member Hawkins asked about staff to student representation. Ms. Murphy said Circle City Prep has close to 50% staff members of color. She said a gap is Spanish-speaking and Haitian-Creole speaking staff. She said ACE Prep has about 60% staff members of color. Yet, both schools are still looking to grow those percents and diversify the staff.
5. Board Member Shults noted that the submitted enrollment plan was only for the next two years, and they were flat with no expected growth. Ms. Murphy said she believes the no enrollment growth plan would be an error because they plan on having consistent enrollment year after year for each grade level.

iv. Board decision

1. Board Chair Bray summarized that the staff is recommending a new charter for Circle City Prep Schools to include ACE Preparatory Academy that would have a term from July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2029 which would align with Circle City Prep's existing's charter agreement.
2. Board Member Donlan moved to accept the staff recommendation. Board Member Hawkins seconded the motion.
3. Board Members Jasaitis, Greene, Bray, Donlan, and Hawkins voice voted aye.
4. Board Member Shults recused herself.
5. Board Member Robinson Kramer was absent for this vote.
6. Motion passes with five ayes and zero nays.

**c. Cold Spring School– New Charter Application**

- i. Presentation of staff recommendation (5-7 minutes)
  1. Executive Director, Lindsay Omlor, provided a brief overview of the charter application from Cold Spring School.
- ii. Presentation of request by organizer (8-10 minutes)
  1. Chief Executive Officer of Cold Spring School, Cody Stipes,

provided a brief overview of the charter application.

iii. Question and answer period

1. Board Member Greene asked Mr. Stipes to speak on the special education students at Cold Spring School. Mr. Stipes responded that they are currently around 15% and consistently around that percentage.
2. Board Member Donlan asked if the school has accounted for the catastrophic hit that is associated with special education costs. Mr. Stipes said they have healthy financial reserves accumulated and that the staff they have are very well trained. They are also working with a financial consultant that shares confidence in their ability to absorb those costs as well.
3. Board Member Shults asked Mr. Stipes to speak on the school's board and potentially new responsibilities. He said they bring quite a bit of school compliance, but any new school compliance pieces have been discussed and coordinated with professional development.
4. Board Member Hawkins asked for more explanation on Black student growth. Mr. Stipes said their students are being compared to IPS student growth.
5. Board Member Hawkins asked if the staff is representative of the students they serve. Mr. Stipes said there is a conscious effort to assure staff is representative of the students served.
6. Board Chair Bray asked the IPS implications of lease costs or practical implications. Mr. Stipes said not much would be changing. The largest changes would include special education and MLL services and financials. Right now, the school is funded through SBA allocation models. As their own LEA, the school would be eligible for their own grants.
7. Board Member Greene asked if ICSB staff considered a seven-year charter instead of a fifteen-year charter. Executive Director Omlor said that since Cold Spring School was not a new charter school, staff felt that a fifteen-year charter was appropriate.

iv. Board decision

1. Board Member Jasaitis moved to accept the staff recommendation.
2. Board Member Shults seconded the motion.
3. Board Members Hawkins, Jasaitis, Shults, Donlan, and Bray voice voted aye. Board Member Greene voice voted nay.
4. Board Member Robinson Kramer was absent for this vote.
5. Motion passes with five ayes and one nay.

**d. Indiana Microschool Collaborative – New School Application**

- i. Presentation of staff recommendation (5-7 minutes)
  1. Executive Director, Lindsay Omlor, provided a brief overview of the charter application from The Indiana Microschool Collaborative.
  2. The staff recommended The Indiana Microschool Collaborative for a seven-year charter.
- ii. Presentation of request by organizer (8-10 minutes)
  1. Dr. George Philhower, founder of The Indiana Microschool Collaborative, provided a brief overview of the charter application.
- iii. Question and answer period
  1. Board Member Donlan asked whether the district expects to lose students to the Indiana Microschool Collaborative. Dr. Philhower said that it is likely and that several students drive/are driven from surround districts already. He said he is a believer in school choice.
  2. Board Member Donlan asked what points he would make to the most skeptical superintendents. Dr. Philhower said that he does not think data alone would convince people that are skeptical, but student stories may.
  3. Board Member Shults asked for more information on how the organizer plans to reach their large enrollment projections. Dr. Philhower said that based on his research, he has learned that there are many more students and families in home school and looking for alternatives than they had initially expected. They just need to help establish the locations to support the students.
  4. Board Chair Bray asked how the school plans to approach autonomy and liability at the different microschools. Dr. Philhower said in the beginning and being intentional on how the program starts will be important.
- iv. Board decision
  1. Board Member Donlan moved to accept the staff recommendation.
  2. Board Member Shults seconded the motion.
  3. Board Members Hawkins, Jasaitis, Shults, Donlan, and Bray voice voted aye.
  4. Board Member Greene abstained.
  5. Board Member Robinson Kramer was absent for this vote.
  6. Motion passes with five ayes.

### **III. Staff Updates**

- a. ICSB Administrative Fee – The new State budget has been released. The new budget does not include an ICSB appropriation and thus could impact ICSB's Administrative Fee.
- b. ICSB Rebranding – ICSB is working on a new logo design.
- c. 2025 ICSB Annual Charter School Conference – Will be June 11, 2025 at GEO Next Generation Academy for ICSB School and Board members are invited.

### **IV. Closing Remarks and Adjournment**

- a. Board Chair Bray requests ICSB Staff begin planning a Board Retreat.
- b. Board Member Greene motioned to adjourn. Board Member Jasaitis seconded the motion.
- c. Members Hawkins, Jasaitis, Shults, Donlan, Greene and Bray voice voted aye.
- d. Board Member Robinson Kramer was absent for this vote.
- e. Motion passes with six ayes and zero nays.
- f. The meeting was adjourned by unanimous vote at 2:43 p.m. ET.