



INDIANA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Business Meeting Minutes

June 7, 2017

Business Meeting 9:00 AM (ET)

Indiana Government Center South, Conference Room B
302 West Washington Street
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

Board Members Present: Mrs. Cari Whicker (Vice Chair), Dr. Byron Ernest (Secretary), Dr. Bertram, Mr. BJ Watts, Mr. Gordon Hendry, Dr. David Freitas, Dr. Maryanne McMahon, and Dr. Steve Yager.

Board Members Absent: Dr. Jennifer McCormick (Chair)

- I. **Call to Order**
 - a. Mrs. Whicker informed the Board that Dr. McCormick was ill would not be attending the meeting.
 - b. As Vice Chair, Mrs. Whicker led the meeting.
 - c. Board members recited the Pledge of Allegiance.
- II. **Approval of Agenda**
 - a. Discussion Item A was moved to Best Practices – Innovations in Education – Student Success.
 - b. The Agenda was approved by voice vote.
- III. **Approval of Minutes**
 - a. May 10, 2017
 - i. The May Minutes were not approved. Mr. Hendry requested the Minutes be updated and voted upon at the July meeting.
- IV. **Statement from the Chair**
 - a. None
- V. **Board Member Comments and Reports**
 - a. Mr. Hendry reported that the 200 Next Generation Teachers scholarships have been awarded. 200 students going into the teaching profession will be receiving significant scholarships to ensure that some of our brightest students enter the teaching profession. This program will be very helpful for people who might not consider the teaching profession because of rising education costs and inadequate teacher salaries. If you are interested in the program, please contact the Commission for Higher Education.
- VI. **General Public Comment**



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- a. Todd Bess, Executive Director, Indiana Association of School Principals, expressed concerns regarding assessment and accountability.
- b. John O'Neal, Policy and Research Coordinator, Indiana State Teachers Association, requested for the Board to vote against voucher waivers for failing schools.

VII. **Best Practices – Innovations in Education – Student Success**

- a. Polished Pebbles Girls Mentoring Program informed the Board about their program, which provides school-day, after-school, and weekend programs directed at engaging high school girls and guiding them towards post-secondary education and career pathways.

VIII. **Consent Agenda**

- a. The Consent Agenda was approved by voice vote.
- b. The items on the Consent Agenda were:
 - i. Bais Yaakov High School of Indiana Petition for Freeway Accreditation
 - ii. Highland Christian School Request for Petition for Freeway Accreditation
 - iii. Islamic Academy of Indianapolis Petition for Freeway Accreditation
 - iv. Extension of Existing Freeway Contracts
 - v. Special Education Child Count
 - vi. Common School Loan Policy Document
 - vii. Common School Loans

IX. **Adjudications**

- a. State Tuition Support Withholding for Turnaround Academies – IPS & Gary
 - i. Dr. Freitas asked where the withheld money is reallocated. Ron Sandlin, SBOE Senior Director of School Performance & Transformation, stated that the money is allocated to Charter Schools USA, the operator for IPS and Gary.
 - ii. The Board voted 8-0 to adopt the Department's recommendation for IPS.
 - iii. The Board voted 8-0 to adopt the Department's recommendation for the Gary Community School Corporation.
 - iv. [Discussion began at 1:21:11 in Part 1 of 4.](#)

X. **New Business – Action**

- a. Teachers for Tomorrow Teacher Preparation Program
 - i. Scott Bogan, Indiana DOE Educator Preparation Specialist, recommended that the Board approve Teachers for Tomorrow Teacher Preparation Program.
 - ii. Dave Saba, Teachers for Tomorrow Chief Development Officer, described the Program and its benefits to the Board.
 - iii. Dr. Freitas asked how many students the Program plans to have next year. Mr. Saba suggested close to 150 students.



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- iv. Dr. Bertram asked whether school districts could sponsor students to go through the Program. Mr. Saba said that this would be a good way for professionals to enter the teaching profession as a second career. Dr. Bertram also addressed the Program's reciprocity rules and how the State could reach out to students in other states who have completed the program. Additionally, Dr. Bertram asked if the Program has a database where the State can contact students in the Program.
 - v. The Board voted 8-0 to approve the Teachers for Tomorrow Teacher Preparation Program.
 - vi. [Discussion began at 0:41 in Part 2 of 4.](#)
- b. American College of Education Teacher Preparation Program
- i. Scott Bogan informed the Board about (1) Teachers of English Learners Licensure Addition Only Program and (2) Virtual Instruction. Mr. Bogan and the Department recommend the programs be approved by the Board.
 - ii. Dr. Freitas asked Dr. Tiffany Hamlet, Chair of the Department of Teaching and Learning, how the Program maintains a relationship with students in a strictly online course. Dr. Hamlet stated that students converse with instructors via online discussion boards. Dr. Hamlet also said that students have specific, hands-on projects where they receive detailed feedback from instructors.
 - iii. Dr. Freitas asked Dr. Hamlet how the Program meets all of Indiana's standards. Dr. Hamlet stated that all of the coursework is aligned to a specific standard or standards.
 - iv. Dr. Freitas asked if the students are required to take Indiana's licensure test. Dr. Hamlet stated that all students are required to take the State's test.
 - v. Dr. Freitas asked how many students will be enrolled in years one and three. Dr. Hamlet stated that she expects around 60 students in year one and around 150 in year three or four.
 - vi. Dr. Bertram asked Dr. Hamlet what the completion percentage is for the Program. Dr. Hamlet stated that the completion percentage for the Program is around 90%.
 - vii. Dr. Freitas requested for Mr. Bogan to include pass rates in all future information packets presented to the Board.
 - viii. Mr. Bogan stated that the Virtual Instruction Program is an add-on program to an existing teaching degree.
 - ix. The Board voted 8-0 to approve the American College of Education Teacher Preparation Program.
 - x. [Discussion began at 19:50 in Part 2 of 4.](#)



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- c. Central Christian Academy Request for Choice Scholarship Waiver
 - i. John Elcesser, Executive Director, Indiana Nonpublic Education Association, asked the Board to approve the requests for Choice Scholarship Waivers for the four schools seeking waivers from the Board.
 - ii. Dathan Torres, a Central Christian Academy student, asked the Board to approve the waiver.
 - iii. David Sexauer, Head of School, asked the Board to approve the waiver.
 - iv. Dr. Yager asked Brian Murphy, SBOE Chief of Staff, to inform the Board about hold harmless provisions and how they affect Choice Scholarships. Mr. Murphy stated that schools already in the consequence stage – like the schools before the Board at this meeting – were not held harmless due to their status in the consequences stage.
 - v. The Board voted 6-2 to approve Central Christian Academy’s request for a Choice Scholarship Waiver (Dr. Yager and Mr. Hendry voted no).

- d. Turning Point School Request for Choice Scholarship Waiver
 - i. Mr. Hendry stated that he thinks the new Choice Scholarship Waiver law is good, but that the Board should require two years of school grades that are a C or better.
 - ii. Dr. Bertram said that Mr. Hendry makes a good point but that ultimate accountability is when parents choose another school option.
 - iii. Dr. Yager stated that he is concerned that many voucher-receiving schools are not accountable for every taxpayer penny spent like public schools are. Dr. Yager also agreed with Mr. Hendry that Choice Scholarship schools should have to demonstrate two years of academic improvement.
 - iv. Mr. Watts stated that not allowing schools that have achieved academic improvement to receive Choice Scholarship waivers is removing choice from parents, who should have the ultimate say where their children attend school.
 - v. Dr. Bertram stated that the entire purpose of a voucher is to allow a parent to use their taxpayer money for individual school choice, which the Supreme Court agrees with.
 - vi. Dr. Yager asked whether these schools will have to come before the Board to receive another waiver next year. SBOE General Counsel Timothy Schultz stated that if the schools, with the exception of Trinity Lutheran School, receive a C or better this school year, they will be out of the consequence stage and thus will not need a waiver. Trinity Lutheran would have to come before the Board for the next school year to receive a second waiver.



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- vii. Tanya Harris, Administrator, shared Turning Point School's story and journey to an A and asked the Board to approve their waiver request.
- viii. LaQuila Dunn, Administrator, asked the Board to approve their waiver request.
- ix. Derrell O'Kelley, concerned parent, asked the Board to approve their waiver request.
- x. The Board voted 6-2 to approve Turning Point School's request for a Choice Scholarship Waiver (Dr. Yager and Mr. Hendry voted no).
- e. Lutheran South Unity School Request for Choice Scholarship Waiver
 - i. Krista Nagy, Principal, shared Lutheran South Unity School's story and asked the Board to approve their waiver request.
 - ii. Shyra Seals, concerned parent and school aid, asked the Board to approve their waiver request.
 - iii. The Board voted 6-2 to approve Lutheran South Unity School's request for a Choice Scholarship Waiver (Dr. Yager and Mr. Hendry voted no).
- f. Trinity Lutheran School Request for Choice Scholarship Waiver
 - i. Matt Riley, Principal, asked the Board to approve their waiver request.
 - ii. James Erdmann, Chairman of School Board and concerned parent, asked the Board to approve their waiver request.
 - iii. Matthew Richardson, concerned parent, asked the Board to approve their waiver request.
 - iv. Mr. Hendry stated that Trinity Lutheran School is in a separate category of consequences because they received three consecutive D's or F's and this is their first year of academic improvement. Thus, they would need an additional waiver again next year to receive additional choice scholarship students and would need three consecutive years of C's or better to get out of consequences.
 - v. Dr. Freitas asked Counsel Schultz if Staff recommend approval. Counsel Schultz stated that Staff recommend approval.
 - vi. Dr. McMahon asked if the voucher requests must be renewed annually. Counsel Schultz stated that a school must come before the Board each school year to receive a new Choice Scholarship Waiver if they are in the consequences stage.
 - vii. Dr. Bertram asked if Trinity Lutheran School was inadvertently affected by hold harmless provisions. Brian Murphy, Chief of Staff, stated that this school – and the other schools before the Board – were not wrongly affected by hold harmless provisions.
 - viii. Dr. Bertram stated that the entire purpose of the new Choice Scholarship Waiver legislation is accountability. Thus, granting a Choice Scholarship



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Waiver is warranted here because Trinity Lutheran is holding itself accountable.

- ix. The Board voted 6-2 to approve Trinity Lutheran School's request for a Choice Scholarship Waiver (Dr. Yager and Mr. Hendry voted no).
- g. Turnaround Academy Funds Distribution
 - i. Ron Sandlin, SBOE Director of School Performance & Transformation, presented a proposal for Turnaround Academy Funds Distribution.
 - ii. Dr. Freitas asked why Edison Learning and Charter School USA were receiving less funds as the turnaround progressed. Mr. Sandlin stated that the decrease aligns with ESSA provisions to help ease the process and that the two operators are currently receiving a disproportionate amount of money compared to other schools. Dr. Freitas stated that we should not decrease funding for Edison Learning and Charter School USA because they are doing a great job and taking a cut while their expenses are increasing.
 - iii. Mr. Watts and Dr. Ernest asked where the additional \$500,000 would come from if we did not slash funding for Edison Learning and Charter School USA. Dr. Lee Ann Kwiatkowski stated that the money that would be directed to these operators would decrease money directed to other, more struggling schools throughout the state.
 - iv. Mr. Hendry asked if the operators have been notified of the cuts. Mr. Sandlin stated that the companies know that the Board intended to cut funding and are understanding of the situation.
 - v. Mr. Hendry asked if the Department agrees with the Board. Dr. Lee Ann Kwiatkowski stated that the Department agrees with the Board staff's recommendations.
 - vi. Mr. Hendry asked Mr. Murphy if Edison Learning or Charter School USA are entitled to specific dollar amounts. Mr. Murphy said that the contracts with the operators do not specify dollar amounts.
 - vii. Dr. Freitas requested that Mr. Sandlin reach out to the operators and ask if they wish to come before the Board regarding funding cuts. Dr. Freitas also asked if there are specific data points that would help make this funding discussion easier.
 - viii. Dr. Yager asked whether other schools would be negatively affected by allocating more money to the operators. Mr. Sandlin stated that other schools would be negatively affected. Dr. Yager asked why we are holding the operators' hands when they missed a timeline. Dr. Freitas stated we should work with the operators and give them a voice. Dr. Yager disagreed, stating that the operators should be here defending their case and that the Board should not argue their case for them.



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- ix. Dr. Whicker asked Board staff to reach out to the operators to make their case for more funding before the Board if they so wish.
- x. The Board voted 8-0 to approve the Turnaround Academy Funds Distribution staff recommendation.
- xi. [Discussion began at 1:00:35 in Part 3 of 4.](#)
- h. Graduation Pathways
 - i. Cynthia Roach, SBOE Senior Director of Accountability & Assessment, presented information regarding Graduation Pathways under the new law, as well as a timeline for ESSA goals.
 - ii. Dr. McMahon stated that the feedback time is critical and developing the right team is also extremely crucial.
 - iii. Mrs. Whicker stated that she would rather have all stakeholders in agreement regarding the ESSA plan later than rush everything together now.
 - iv. Dr. Ernest and Dr. Freitas said the Board should approve the members of the committee to study Graduation Pathways.
 - v. Dr. Bertram asked how approving advisory members would affect Mrs. Roach's timeline. Mrs. Roach stated that approving advisory members would throw-off the timeline greatly.
 - vi. Dr. Freitas asked if other entities should be consulted when forming the advisory committee, such as the Commission for Higher Education, the business community, etc. Dr. Freitas asked for staff to create a list of entities that should be involved in the process.
 - vii. Dr. McMahon and Dr. Bertram requested that the Board begin working on the advisory draft before next meeting and then add more individuals from specific stakeholders.
 - viii. The Board voted 8-0 to establish a committee, which will also consist of Board members, to draft proposals for Graduation Pathways.
 - ix. [Discussion began at 1:37:35 in Part 3 of 4.](#)

XI. **Discussion and Reports**

- a. IPS Turnaround Academy Update
 - i. Wanda Legrand, Deputy Superintendent of Academics, IPS, updated the Board regarding John Marshall High School, which will become a middle school next year; George Washington High School; Arlington High School; and Kindezi Academy.
 - 1. Mr. Hendry and Dr. Bertram asked what percentage of students graduate at some point and what they are doing once they graduate.



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Dr. Bertram also asked how poverty factors into urban education and graduation rates. Mrs. Legrand stated that poverty negatively affects urban education.

- ii. Aleesia Johnson, IPS Innovation Office, provided historical context on Joyce Kilmer School 69 and Kindezi Academy.
 - iii. Kevin Kubacki, Executive Director, Neighborhood Charter Network in Indianapolis, discussed Kindezi Academy and how the innovation charter school is providing an innovative, cutting-edge education for its students.
 - iv. [Discussion began at 47:53 in Part 1 of 4.](#)
- b. INTASS Report
- i. Sarah Pies, Sandi Cole, and Hardy Murphy, Indiana Teacher Appraisal and Support System, presented a follow-up report titled Educators Perceptions of Indiana's Teacher Evaluation Law.
 - ii. Mr. Watts asked if there is a link between student success, students on free/reduced lunch, and teacher evaluation. Mr. Hardy Murphy stated there is a negative correlation between the three subjects.
 - iii. Dr. Freitas recommended bringing in a group of outside experts to evaluate teachers in order to free up time for time-crunched principals. Mr. Murphy agreed, but stated that the evaluator must be part of the school culture to understand teachers fully.
 - iv. Dr. Bertram expressed concern about teacher evaluation, student progress, and stringent timelines. Dr. Bertram also expressed concern about evaluating students and teachers from schools with different difficulties and demographics and subjecting them to the same time constraints.
 - v. Dr. McMahon stated that we need to express support for teachers and that teachers should not be penalized for being creative and innovative in the classroom. Dr. McMahon also said that principals should be trusted confidants, not evaluators. Dr. Freitas agreed with this analysis, saying that formative and summative teacher analysis should be separated.
 - vi. [Discussion began at 0:00 in Part 4 of 4.](#)
- c. Assessment Update
- i. The reporting timelines for ISTEP are on track.
 - ii. ISTEP aggregated data will be provided the week of June 26th.
 - iii. ISTAR standards setting begins the middle of June for English Language Arts and Science. ISTAR standards setting begins the end of June for Math and Social Studies.
 - iv. RFP approval track is on time. The Department will work with IDOA and hopefully have a formalized contract by late November or early December.



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- v. The Department will review the Superintendent/Building Administrator nomination process and will select a nominee by August 7th.
- vi. [Discussion began at 43:24 in Part 4 of 4.](#)
- d. Accountability Update
 - i. None
- e. SBOE Technical Advisory Committee Update
 - i. Cynthia Roach stated that a conference call with the TAC will occur on June 8 over the post-equating of ISTEP.
 - ii. [Discussion began at 1:13:22 in Part 4 of 4.](#)
- f. ESSA Update
 - i. Patrick McAlister, DOE Director of Policy, updated the Board regarding community meetings, technical working groups, and timelines.
 - ii. Dr. Freitas asked why there is not room in the Department's agenda for the Board to approve the policies in the ESSA plan. Dr. Kwiatkowski stated that some ESSA provisions are action plans by the Department that do not need Board approval. Dr. Kwiatkowski also said that anything that must be Board approved will be directed to the Board for approval. Dr. Freitas suggested having the Board approve all measures that need Board approval before the Department submits the ESSA plan to the U.S. DOE for review.
 - iii. Dr. Yager requested that the Department bring to the Board what ESSA requires at a minimum, not plans that go beyond the requirements.
 - iv. Dr. Freitas stressed that the Board must review and approve the entire ESSA plan.
 - v. ESSA review/working group session is July 12 after the July Board meeting.
 - vi. [Discussion began at 46:08 in Part 4 of 4.](#)

XII. Adjournment

- a. The meeting was adjourned by a voice vote.