INDIANA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

TO: State Board of Education
FROM: John Snethen, SBOE Executive Director
DATE: July 12, 2017
RE: Fiscal Management Board

Recommendation: Appoint Dr. Thomas L. Keon, Chancellor, Purdue University Northwest, to the fiscal management board attached to the Gary Community School Corporation

SB 567 was enacted in the last legislative session to address the financial crisis the GCSC faces. SB 567 creates: 1) an emergency manager who reports to the distressed unit appeals board, 2) a financial officer and an academic officer who both report to the emergency manager, and 3) a fiscal management board to advise the emergency manager. The law states that the SBOE shall appoint one member to the fiscal management board. This board will also consist of 3 other members; one appointed by the GCSC board, one by the Mayor of Gary, and one by the State Superintendent.

Chancellor Thomas Keon has indicated that he is willing to serve on the fiscal management board.

Additional Information

Dr. Thomas L. Keon has served the Purdue University system since July 1, 2011, first as Chancellor of Purdue University Calumet and now as Chancellor of Purdue University Northwest (PNW), a unification of Purdue University Calumet and Purdue University North Central.

While leading Purdue Calumet, Dr. Keon focused on advancing four critical strategic areas: academic excellence, learning by engagement and discovery, inclusivity, and business and community partnerships. The results were impressive, as Purdue Calumet experienced improvements in the academic credentials of its entering students, higher retention rates, expansion of its business and community partnerships, and other notable improvements.

Dr. Keon holds a baccalaureate degree in accounting (Bentley University), master's in education (Suffolk University), MBA (Babson College) and doctorate in management (Michigan State University). Prior to Purdue Calumet, Dr. Keon spent 14 years as dean of the College of Business Administration at the University of Central Florida (1997-2011).