
STATE OF INDIANA

DISTRESSED UNIT APPEAL BOARD



INDIANA GOVERNMENT CENTER NORTH
100 N. SENATE AVENUE, ROOM 1058
INDIANAPOLIS IN 46204
(317) 234-2273

Distressed Unit Appeal Board Meeting Memorandum

Monday, June 17, 2024

Call to Order: A meeting of the Distressed Unit Appeals Board (“DUAB” or “Board”) was held June 17, 2024 at 5:00 p.m. CDT at the Gary Area Career Center, 1800 E 35th Ave, Gary, IN 46409. Members of the Board in attendance include Chairman Cris Johnston, Tracy Brown, Paul Joyce, Dan Shackle, David Holt, Rep. Vernon Smith, Rep. Jeff Thompson, and Sen. Rodney Pol. Peter Miller, Executive Director, was also in attendance.

Chairman Johnston called the meeting to order and recognized compliance with the Open Door Law.

Chairman Johnston introduced agenda item **3 – Public Comment**. Comments were offered by the following:

- Ms. Linda Collins
- Dr. Michalea Spangenberg
- Mr. Robert Buggs
- Ms. Nikki Byrd
- Ms. Jackie Lee
- Ms. Lovetta Tindal
- Ms. Natalie Ammons
- Atty. Tracy Coleman

Chairman Johnston introduced agenda item **4 – Presentation of Petition to Terminate Gary Community School Corporation’s Status as a Distressed Political Subdivision**.

Mr. Eric Parish from MGT delivered the presentation.

Chairman Johnston introduced agenda item **5 – Consideration of Petition** and provided a summary of the proposed resolution to terminate GCSC’s distressed status. Ms. Brown moved that the resolution be approved. Mr. Joyce seconded the motion.

Mr. Joyce and Mr. Holt offered comments regarding the progress and accomplishments made in the school corporation over the past several years. The resolution was approved by a vote of 5 to 0.

Chairman Johnston introduced agenda item **6 – Additional Comments**.

Chairman Johnston, Rep. Smith, and Rep. Thompson shared their perspectives on the significance of the return of the school corporation to local control.

The members of the Gary school board and Superintendent Stokes offer appreciation for restored fiscal health of the district and for the opportunity to serve.

Mayor Melton spoke on behalf of the community and expressed optimism for the future.

With no other business before the board, Chairman Johnston adjourned the meeting.