
STATE OF INDIANA

DISTRESSED UNIT APPEAL BOARD



INDIANA GOVERNMENT CENTER NORTH
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INDIANAPOLIS IN 46204
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Distressed Unit Appeal Board Meeting Memorandum

Thursday, September 29, 2022

Call to Order: A meeting of the Distressed Unit Appeals Board (“DUAB” or “Board”) was held September 29, 2022, at 1:30 p.m. EDT at the Indiana Government Center South Building, Conference Rooms 1 and 2, 302 W. Washington Street, Indianapolis, Indiana 46204. Members of the Board attending the meeting in-person include Chairman Justin McAdam, Wes Bennett, Paul Joyce, Representative Vernon Smith, Representative Jeff Thompson, and Senator Liz Brown. Peter Miller, Executive Director, was also in attendance.

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

Chairman McAdam introduced agenda item **3 – Approval of the Minutes.**

Mr. Joyce made a motion that the August 29, 2022, minutes be passed as presented. Mr. Bennett seconded the motion. The motion passed (3-0).

Chairman McAdam introduced agenda item **4 – Public Comment.**

- Ms. Kendra Johnson stated that the history of Gary should be taught in the schools and expressed support for the playground at Bethune.
- Ms. Tracey Coleman expressed concerns with Gary Community School Corporation’s academics
- Mr. Steven Heinold advertised an event happening at Westside Leadership Academy and invited members of the community to join.
- Mr. Roosevelt Ward thanked GCSC and the Westside Leadership Academy for naming the new football field after a former community member from Roosevelt High School.

Chairman McAdam introduced agenda item **5 – Gary Community School Corporation (“GCSC”) School Operations Update.**

Dr. Paige McNulty provided updates on the new greenhouse, student immunizations, STEM community fair, student extracurricular groups, capital projects, collective bargaining, athletics, and STEM and literacy coaches. Chairman McAdam asked about ADM and Dr. McNulty stated that they are still waiting on it to be finalized. Mr. Bennett asked about how many students potentially have to miss school due to immunizations and Dr. McNulty stated that there are currently around 200 students. Chairman McAdam clarified that those are the state required immunizations and Dr. McNulty confirmed.

Chairman McAdam introduced agenda item **6 – GCSC Academic Update.**

Mr. Rajeev Bajaj, Ms. Kim Bradley, and Andre Wright provided updates. Chairman McAdam asked follow-up questions on data collection and team engagement. Mr. Bennett asked clarifying questions on the academic plan. Mr. Joyce noted the importance of being able to write effectively. Rep. Smith thanked the leadership staff for meeting with him and asked if the contract has been finalized. Chairman McAdam stated that the contract is still in process. Rep. Smith asked follow-up questions on the academic plan and testing.

Chairman McAdam introduced agenda item **7 – School Improvement Fund/1065 Claims.**

Ms. Wolverton presented the claims docket. Mr. Bennett made a motion the claims docket be approved as presented. Mr. Joyce seconded the motion. The motion passed (3-0).

Chairman McAdam introduced agenda item **8 – Consideration of GCSC Paraprofessional Employees Contract.**

Dr. McNulty presented the contract. Rep. Smith asked if any paraprofessionals are in training to become a teacher and Dr. McNulty confirmed that there are. Ms. Kubacki made a motion the contract be approved as presented. Mr. Bennett seconded the motion. The motion passed (4-0).

Chairman McAdam introduced agenda item **9 – Authorizations by the DUAB Executive Director.**

Mr. Miller presented the contracts and budget notice authorized since the last meeting:

- a) *Discovery Education* – Science and social studies curricula
- b) *Buck Institute* – Project based learning workshops
- c) *Fountas & Pinnell* – Guided reading materials
- d) *Tarkett* – Flooring at WSLA auditorium
- e) *GARIUP* – Sidewalks at WSLA football field
- f) *Kidstuff* – Indoor playground at Bethune
- g) *Lakeshore* – Preschool learning materials at Bethune
- h) *Curriculum Associates* – iReady formative testing
- i) *2023 Budget Notice* – Notice to taxpayers (Form 3)

Rep. Smith asked clarifying questions about the project based learning workshops.

Chairman McAdam introduced agenda item **10 – Consideration of MGT Contract Benchmarks.**

Chairman McAdam and Mr. Miller provided background information on the benchmarks. Mr. Miller introduced the benchmarks he recommends be approved:

- 1) Academic Item C - Formative Assessments
- 2) Academic Item E - GACC Outcomes
- 3) Engagement Item B - Frequently Asked Questions
- 4) Engagement Item D - School Advisory Committee
- 5) Engagement Item E - Leadership Academy
- 6) Operations Item F - School Improvement Fund Plan Implementation
- 7) Fiscal Item D - Enrollment - GACC

Rep. Smith asked clarifying questions and whether there should be rewards or penalties. Chairman McAdam noted that those are two sides of the same coin. Mr. Joyce made a motion the seven identified benchmarks be approved as presented. Mr. Bennett seconded the motion. The motion passed (3-0).

Chairman McAdam asked if there was any new business to come before the Board and Rep. Smith asked about being able to get Board materials in a more timely manner. Chairman McAdam stated that he always has the goals of getting materials to everyone at least five business days before the meeting.

Chairman McAdam adjourned the meeting.