



# Northwest Indiana Lighthouse Charter Schools

## Minutes

### Emergency Board Meeting

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**Date and Time**

Tuesday October 3, 2017 at 5:30 PM

**Location**

LCPA (725 Clark Road, Gary, IN)

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**Directors Present**

E. Harvey, K. Ward McDuffie, L. Heard, M. Maxwell, N. Barksdale, N. Lucas (remote), R. Daniels, Y. Irons-Johnson

**Directors Absent**

*None*

**Guests Present**

Anthony Welles, C. Jackson, Constance Dickerson, Dr. Joshua Austin, Ericka McNeal, J. Beasley, Jazmin Pratt, Karen Spence, L. Harris (remote), LaTanya Westbrook, Latoria Pugh, Lynn Clark, M. Rea, Melanie Sulton, Michael Onofrio, Rodney Bly, S. Gallagher, S. Metcalf, Sarah Gallagher, Teondra Simmons, Wanda Welles, Willa Okeke

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**I. Opening Items****A. Call the Meeting to Order**

K. Ward McDuffie called a meeting of the board of directors of Northwest Indiana Lighthouse Charter Schools to order on Tuesday Oct 3, 2017 at 5:40 PM.

**B.**

## **Record Attendance and Guests**

### **II. Agenda Points**

#### **A. Notification Procedure to board and parents/guardians when there is a serious (life threatening)**

Deputy Chief of Schools Sarah Gallagher explained why the parents were not informed until 48hrs later about the potential bomb threat. She stated that this happened after school and an adult did not witness or hear it. The principal Rodney Bly stated that he received a phone call from a parent notifying that a student stated on the bus that he was going to shot up the school. This was not this student's first outburst. He has some issues that are being addressed with counseling. Dr. McDuffie, Board Chair, stated that in this day and age we must all be on alert. Just because an adult did not witness the incident does not mean it is not valid.

Motion made by Yvette Irons That a safety policy/procedure be put in writing to all academies in northwest Indiana parents. Seconded by Dr. McDuffie Voted and approved A parent stated that they did not receive the Robo Call and stated that other parents that she had spoken to also did not receive the Robo Call. Provide a copy of the policy to be available to the board. Also have a written policy provided to the parents.

#### **B. Adoption of Judge Inga's Program**

Mrs. Yvette Irons-Johnson explained the Project Rebuild program. It was asked by Mr. Harvey if Title I funding is available for this program. Deputy Chief of Schools, Sarah Gallagher stated that it would have to be approved by the State. It was stated by Ms. Gallagher that an attendance officer through the Homeless Advocate Program can be provided through Title I funds. Ms. Gallagher stated that it has to be for all of the schools including East Chicago and according to the presentation from Inga Lewis-Shannon, they service only the Gary area. Ms. Gallagher stated that this program is focusing on truancy but that is not the problem in our schools. She feels that the Homeless Advocate Program and using Title I is a better use of the Title I funds. Ms. Daniels stated that Project Rebuild should be used because it addresses attendance and truancy. There was a motion on the floor to approve Inga Lewis-Shannon's program Project Rebuild Program pending that Title I funds. Motion made by Yvette Irons-Johnson and seconded Dr. McDuffie.

#### **C. Elimination / Minimal Use of Restorative Practice**

Ms. Rita Daniels gave an explanation of the Restorative Practice. Dr. McDuffie made a comment that the school may be only using Restorative Practice as their form of discipline. A motion was made by Ms. Yvette Irons to put the Restorative Justice and the board along with the administrative team and teachers design a student code of conduct. Seconded by Dr. McDuffie Motion passed.

#### **D. Board Training - Brian Carpenter**

A motion was made by Mr. Harvey to accept Dr. Carpenter's training it was seconded by Yvette Irons. All in favor. No opposition.

### III. Closing Items

#### A. Public Comments

Parent, Ms. Clark spoke about her daughter having anxiety and there is a lot of disruption in the building. She is concerned about the environment of the school. Dr. McDuffie encouraged her that the Board is working to make improvements.

Parent Ms. Sultan stated that her sons have had to deal with a lot of racism. She spoke about the students who receive "A's" and "B's" being recognized. The principle Mr. Bly stated that they will begin having parents involved with the recognition and will schedule an event after break. Dr. McDuffie stated that a parent/teacher/student association should be established at every school.

Parent Mrs. Dickerson stated that all of the children do not have lockers, she questioned if the campus was closed campus, the duties of the security, and reported that there was a dance-off in a classroom that was posted live on facebook. Principle Mr. Bly stated that there are enough lockers for every child but they have not been assigned. He stated that they will be made available after the break along with school ID's. Jazmin Pratt spoke about the dancing in the classroom which was a class assignment about music appreciation and the children were demonstrating different dancing from different times. Other students took it upon themselves to film it and post it. It was too late to remove it because it had been shared by others. Ms. Pratt also spoke about yes the campus is closed and what the parent witnessed was the students in the Restorative Justice class were taking a walk with the guard to the park, but they were supervised.

#### B. Adjourn Meeting

K. Ward McDuffie made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:40 pm.

E. Harvey seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

##### Roll Call

K. Ward McDuffie Aye

R. Daniels Aye

N. Barksdale Aye

E. Harvey Aye

Y. Irons-Johnson Aye

M. Maxwell Aye

N. Lucas Aye

L. Heard Aye

The meeting was adjourned at 6:40 pm.

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 6:40 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,  
M. Maxwell