



# Northwest Indiana Lighthouse Charter Schools

## Minutes

### Board Meeting

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#### Date and Time

Monday May 22, 2023 at 5:30 PM

#### Location

Gary Lighthouse College Prep Campus

725 Clark Rd

Gary, IN 46406

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#### Directors Present

A. Briggs, A. Brown Thirston, A. Nicholson, A. Payne, J. GEORGE, S. Caruthers (remote)

#### Directors Absent

M. Maldonado, M. Swope

#### Guests Present

A. Franz, A. Shaw, C. Jackson, J. Beasley, J. Holmes, J. Tebeleff (remote), K. McGuire, L. Franklin, M. Platt, Marcus Robinson

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### I. Opening Items

#### A. Record Attendance and Guests

#### B. Call the Meeting to Order

A. Payne called a meeting of the board of directors of Northwest Indiana Lighthouse Charter Schools to order on Monday May 22, 2023 at 5:59 PM.

### C. April 6th Minutes

S. Caruthers made a motion to approve the minutes from Board Meeting on 04-06-23.

A. Payne seconded the motion.

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

#### Roll Call

A. Payne	Aye
M. Maldonado	Absent
J. GEORGE	Aye
A. Brown Thirston	Aye
A. Briggs	Aye
S. Caruthers	Aye
M. Swope	Absent
A. Nicholson	Aye

### D. April 24 Minutes

J. GEORGE made a motion to approve the minutes from Board Meeting on 04-24-23.

A. Payne seconded the motion.

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

#### Roll Call

J. GEORGE	Aye
A. Payne	Aye
M. Maldonado	Absent
M. Swope	Absent
A. Briggs	Aye
A. Brown Thirston	Aye
A. Nicholson	Aye
S. Caruthers	Aye

## II. Finance

### A. East Chicago

S. Caruthers made a motion to Approve the EC bills and financial report for April 2023.

J. GEORGE seconded the motion.

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

#### Roll Call

M. Maldonado	Absent
A. Briggs	Aye
M. Swope	Absent
A. Payne	Aye
J. GEORGE	Aye
A. Brown Thirston	Aye
A. Nicholson	Aye

**Roll Call**

S. Caruthers        Aye

**B. Gary**

S. Caruthers made a motion to Approve the Gary bills and financial report for April 2023.

J. GEORGE seconded the motion.

J George asked about a double payment for insurance.

J Tebeloff stated it was from last month and was able show the credit for the refund of the payment on page 6 of the report.

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

**Roll Call**

A. Briggs            Aye

J. GEORGE          Aye

S. Caruthers        Aye

M. Swope            Absent

A. Brown Thirston Aye

A. Nicholson        Aye

M. Maldonado      Absent

A. Payne            Aye

**III. Governance**

**A. 23-24 Board Meeting Calendar**

J. GEORGE made a motion to Approve the 2023-2024 Board Meeting Calendar with the option to amend as necessary.

A. Nicholson seconded the motion.

There is a typo on the July meeting. Typo will be corrected before the dates are published

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

**Roll Call**

A. Nicholson        Aye

A. Briggs            Aye

M. Maldonado      Absent

A. Payne            Aye

M. Swope            Absent

A. Brown Thirston Aye

J. GEORGE          Aye

S. Caruthers        Aye

**B. Update: Board Retreat and Board Trainings**

**IV. Committee Reports**

**A.**

## Academic Excellence Committee

A Payne reported the meeting was attended by A Payne, A Briggs, and A Brown Thirston.

First idea is to identify what the goals will be and how the board is able to support. We will also need to identify a chair in order to report out.

J Beasley reported:

We did go over the new academic SOPs we have established and are putting in place.

Talked about the Resondability tool that the district will be using to report out.

We did discuss the opportunity to step away from NWEA. This will require a vote. We did partner with another network that will be able to offer shorter, more frequent assessments in order to We have a solid proposal to send to Ball State after today's vote in order remove NWEA as one of our testing tools we will be using going forward.

A. Briggs made a motion to make the switch to IREADY as opposed to the NWEA platform in order to assess our scholars.

A. Nicholson seconded the motion.

Is this information our scholars or country wide information?

This is provided by the vendor and is country wide data.

Do we have data from our scholars?

We just finished the testing and will finish NWEA testing on Friday.

Do we have to get approval from Ball State to make this change?

We do need to provide them the change so we are in compliance with what they have listed as our assessments.

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

### Roll Call

A. Nicholson	Aye
J. GEORGE	Aye
A. Briggs	Aye
A. Brown Thirston	Aye
M. Swope	Absent
A. Payne	Aye
S. Caruthers	Aye
M. Maldonado	Absent

**B.**

## **Development Committee**

A. Nicholson reported:

This committee focuses on current partnerships, updates on projects, housekeeping items. A potential goal is to organize a fundraiser on behalf of the schools that the board will be running. Will have more info coming.

Current updates on aviation day and Veecom partnership.

Looking forward to the next meeting.

Did we talk about the meeting cadence?

We did not talk about the cadence

Members who will be on this committee, connect to find out the best meeting time going forward.

## **V. NWILCS District Reports**

### **A. District and Building Level Reports**

Ms. Jackson reported on Upper's attendance at 86%. Using the playground to have students outside in the nice weather. 8th grade Sneaker Ball is tomorrow.

A Payne asked about Upper 8th grade graduation is June 2nd at 5:45pm.

A Payne asked for the board members to let us know what graduations that they are available for

Mrs. Franz stated primary attendance is remaining steady and they are keep a close eye on it. Career Day was amazing. K graduation is June 1 at 9am. 1-3 awards are June 2 beginning at 9am.

Last Day of school is June 2.

Dr. Holmes stated the high school Prom was Friday at Lost Marsh. Also had field trips to VeeCom in Indy. Also a group to the Anime conference on Friday. Attendance is holding steady at 88%. Seniors finished exams last week. 9-11 this week. Grad Rate is 94%, but we do not have all unknowns off the cohort. Have about 13 on cohort as unknowns

Ms. Shaw stated that EC is shifting planning to SY23-24. Had 8th grade luncheon. Attendance is holding at 90% mark. Have good number of candidates coming in. Discipline issues mostly on playground right now. May 31st is step up day for scholars K-7. 8th grade graduation will be May 31st at CPC at 6pm.

A Payne asked if the honeymoon period over?

Ms. Shaw stated she didn't believe it existed.

A Payne asked who took trips to the zoo?

Mrs. Franz answered Primary

A Payne asked where is Washington Park Zoo?

Mrs. Franz answered Michigan City

How many campuses are doing summer school? All campuses...June 5-29 and HS also has July 10-25.

K McGuire stated we just finished ILEARN and NWEA will be finished by Friday. We have scheduled out our meeting to analyze our end of the year data and strategize the coming school year.

EOY teacher evaluations have been completed.

We have been working around our big rocks and what that will look like in strategic planning.

We just had a group go to TLAC, and a literacy PD this past week. We are making detailed plans on how to push these out to the full staff.

Mrs. Beasley stated that we have been going through our videos to be posted. I shared those out. I met with marketing person day to see how those items will look like on the website. We are getting everything together this year.

Strategic plan has been getting stored up for the organization. We worked with leaders and several team members to develop these and not just doing them ourselves.

We are working hard to decide what our Big Rocks are and will be this next school year.

A Payne asked Are planning to continue our contract with Wired?

Mrs. Beasley stated yes.

A Payne stated that she wanted to thank everyone for all the work that has gone into developing our identity.

## **B. Operations Update**

We are working to close out the school year and we also have 3 positions that we will hire as soon as possible for FC at EC, Ops Associate at Upper and Geometry teacher at CPC as well as the director of finance.

We have a thorough cleaning schedule for the the summer for our buildings.

We have a lot of PDs for the newly developed SOPs for the upcoming school year.

A Nicholson said she appreciated the level of detail in the reports this month and the templates that have been used.

A Nicholson stated one long term goal is the yellow house...is the idea to make this office space and no longer need to rent space?

Mrs. Beasley stated yes, we needed a contractor. We are also looking at a possible tear down and then use of modulars in order to make this an easier plan.

J George asked at Primary, needing classroom assistants, is this new?

Mrs. Franz stated we have moved some assistants into other roles so those assistant roles are now open.

## **VI. Closing Items**

### **A. Public Comments**

### **B. Executive Session**

### **C. Adjourn Meeting**

S. Caruthers made a motion to adjourn.

A. Payne seconded the motion.

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

**Roll Call**

A. Payne	Aye
M. Maldonado	Absent
A. Nicholson	Aye
J. GEORGE	Aye
A. Briggs	Aye
M. Swope	Absent
S. Caruthers	Aye
A. Brown Thirston	Aye

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. Platt

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**Documents used during the meeting**

*None*