



# Northwest Indiana Lighthouse Charter Schools

## Minutes

### June 2024 Northwest Indiana Lighthouse Charter Schools Board Meeting

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#### Date and Time

Monday June 24, 2024 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, J. GEORGE, J. Parks, M. Robinson (remote), S. Caruthers

#### Directors Absent

A. Nicholson

#### Guests Present

D. Sevier, J. Beasley, J. Tebeleff (remote), K. McGuire, M. Platt, M. Segrest, Parker Cossaboom (remote), S. Breitenbach

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#### I. Opening Items

##### A. Record Attendance

##### B. Call the Meeting to Order

S. Caruthers called a meeting of the board of directors of Northwest Indiana Lighthouse Charter Schools to order on Monday Jun 24, 2024 at 5:35 PM.

### C. Approve Minutes

J. GEORGE made a motion to approve the minutes from May 2024 Northwest Indiana Lighthouse Charter Schools Board Meeting on 05-28-24.

J. Parks seconded the motion.

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

#### Roll Call

|                   |        |
|-------------------|--------|
| A. Nicholson      | Absent |
| J. Parks          | Aye    |
| A. Brown Thirston | Absent |
| S. Caruthers      | Aye    |
| A. Briggs         | Aye    |
| M. Robinson       | Absent |
| J. GEORGE         | Aye    |

## II. Finance

### A. East Chicago

J Tebeleff offered the financial report for East Chicago that had been in the packet.

S Caruthers asked for a motion.

J. GEORGE made a motion to Accept the East Chicago financials as presented and schedule of bills for April.

A. Briggs seconded the motion.

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

#### Roll Call

|                   |        |
|-------------------|--------|
| A. Brown Thirston | Absent |
| A. Briggs         | Aye    |
| M. Robinson       | Aye    |
| S. Caruthers      | Aye    |
| J. GEORGE         | Aye    |
| A. Nicholson      | Absent |
| J. Parks          | Aye    |

### B. Gary

J. Tebeleff offered the financial report for Gary that had been in the packet.

S. Caruthers asked for a motion.

J. GEORGE made a motion to accept the Gary financials as presented and schedule of bills for April.

A. Briggs seconded the motion.

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

**Roll Call**

|                   |        |
|-------------------|--------|
| J. Parks          | Aye    |
| M. Robinson       | Aye    |
| S. Caruthers      | Aye    |
| J. GEORGE         | Aye    |
| A. Brown Thirston | Absent |
| A. Briggs         | Aye    |
| A. Nicholson      | Absent |

**C. Bond Refunding**

D. Sevier presented the information that was shared in the Bond Refunding Documents to the board. He stated that the documents are all attached for review.

D. Sevier asked if there were questions?

J. Beasley stated these are documents for discussion and that we should be looking at the bond market to update our bond agreements.

J Parks asked if there are any covenants attached to our bonds that will include additional fees if we do this?

D Sevier said there are not.

S Caruthers asked if the sourcing company is charging us fees?

D Sevier stated it is included in the bond refunding

S Caruthers asked what are they doing for us?

D Sevier stated that if at any point we decide no to refund our bonds, there is no cost if we choose not to move forward.

S Caruthers asked if the transaction cost the amount their fees?

D Sevier stated yes, and they are happy to come at any point and answer any questions.

S Caruthers stated that after I go through this, I believe I may have additional questions. I think there companies that cost less than this.

D Sevier stated they were very thorough in their process in comparison to the others.

S Caruthers asked if there were bids for this sourcing?

D Sevier stated that they did not ask for written bids, they put the feelers out and with the sourcing companies, this one was very thorough.

S Caruthers stated ok. We will move on to committee reports.

### III. Committee Reports

#### A. Academic Excellence

#### B. Governance

S Caruthers stated Ms. Little has done all that is required to become a board member.

This would be for the 24-26 term. I will entertain a motion.

J. Parks made a motion to to approve Elaine Little to the board for the 24-26 term.

A. Briggs seconded the motion.

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

#### Roll Call

|                   |         |
|-------------------|---------|
| M. Robinson       | Aye     |
| A. Briggs         | Aye     |
| A. Nicholson      | Absent  |
| A. Brown Thirston | Absent  |
| J. Parks          | Aye     |
| S. Caruthers      | Abstain |
| J. GEORGE         | Aye     |

### IV. NWILCS District Reports

#### A. District and Building Level Reports

Ms McGuire will share her report...

K McGuire reported on the Academic Report as presented in the packet. first discussing ELA progress.

J George asked if when school started we were at the 13% on the graph.

K McGuire stated that previous numbers are in parentheses.

J Parks asked if there is a process to improve

K McGuire stated that each student who is in red receives MTSS interventions, the kids in the green shaded area are mostly high ability kids and there is a plan in place for these students as well.

K McGuire now reported on the next set of scores.

S Caruthers asked why the decrease in this ILEARN?

K McGuire stated that it was correlated with the teachers as to seasoned teachers and new teachers.

J Beasley stated that the exit tickets will definitely steer some of this data information in the future. We are going to restrict the autonomy of the teachers in their spaces in order focus on the analysis of the data.

A Briggs asked how were these teachers coached this year?

K McGuire stated that there was new curriculum this year and when we state things need to be done this many times a month, it must be done how we say.

We have planned out for the coming year the units, the planning, the assessments are all ready to go and we will be consist with this this coming year.

J George asked about adding this topic can be added in to the retreat that we have coming up? I would like to have a deeper dive into the this information.

K McGuire stated that she can also provide additional Academic SOPs and the three year plan for that retreat. Lastly, we have the IREAD information which has not really changed since last time. The last window closes this week so we still have several students who will be able to take that test again before the end of this week. The percentages have improved since last year in both EC and Gary.

J Parks asked if the data from other schools is accessible?

K McGuire stated we do, but it is not ready yet.

J Parks stated that he is interested to see the differences between our schools and kids to schools from the area, but not the immediate area in this school.

J Beasley stated that we have a very transient population and this adds to the issues. The data only shows pass rates.

J Parks asked if we are ale to restrict admission at all.

J Beasley stated that we cannot...if there is a seat, the student must be admitted.

J Parks said we should have additional conversation about this.

J Beasley stated that we do have some consortiums that are working on the behalf of charter schools. She also stated this is fight that we deal with every year. We are also needing to have the teachers and buildings to become accountable for the plans we have and are implementing.

K. McGuire stated that we were very intentional about the Leader PDI in order to really have the prinicpals know they are the captains of their ships. Little Beacons will be launching soon on July 15. If you know any scholars that are incoming K or incoming 1st graders, we do have about 20 more spots open.

A Briggs stated that we can share with the Urban League here coming up to get additional kids.

J Beasley stated we are continuing our Strategic Planning. I am excited for the upcoming retreat. We are super excited about our Family Engagement Specialists getting students enrolled. We are also very excited about the Community Engagement pieces, specifically working with the mayor's office to get the park next store cleaned up and running for the tennis courts. We are also working to get the billboards and busses marketing up and running. I also have the Instrumntl launch coming up. We are in a space of moving with radical intentionality through the next school year. We have to get to a place of innovative thinking. We have the district priorities and each building also has plans and priorities.

Any questions?

## **B. Operations Updates**

M Segrest stated there are a lot of capital projects going on if you want to stop in to see the progress. Or we can wait until they are done and see the final project.

## **V. Closing Items**

### **A. Public Comments**

### **B. Executive Session**

J. Parks made a motion to go into executive session.

A. Briggs seconded the motion.

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

**Roll Call**

|                   |        |
|-------------------|--------|
| A. Nicholson      | Absent |
| A. Briggs         | Aye    |
| J. GEORGE         | Aye    |
| M. Robinson       | Aye    |
| A. Brown Thirston | Aye    |
| J. Parks          | Aye    |
| S. Caruthers      | Aye    |

**C. Adjourn Meeting**

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 6:52 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,  
M. Platt

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**Documents used during the meeting**

- 2024\_05\_28\_board\_meeting\_minutes.pdf
- NWILCS April 2024 Financial Packet.pdf
- APRIL 2024 FINANCIAL SUMMARY (2) (1).xlsx
- East\_Chicago\_Top\_10\_Non-Payoll\_Payment\_4-2024.pdf
- Gary\_Top\_10\_Non-Payoll\_Payment\_4-2024.pdf
- Hello Board Members - Bond Refunding.pdf
- RFP REVENUE BOND.pdf
- RFP DRAFT.pdf
- NWILCS - Prospect List 061824 DRAFT.pdf
- Financing Timetable.pdf
- PowerPoint Presentation.pdf
- \_GLCS Primary Campus Board Report-May\_June.docx.pdf
- UPPER Board Report JUNE 23-24 docx edit.docx.pdf
- 23-24 GLCPC-HS Board Report June.docx.pdf
- EC June 23\_24 Board Report.docx.pdf
- June Executive Director Report 23-24.pdf
- June SY2324 Operations Board Report .docx (2).pdf