



# Northwest Indiana Lighthouse Charter Schools

## Minutes

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

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#### **Date and Time**

Monday September 23, 2024 at 5:30 PM

#### **Location**

Gary Lighthouse College Prep Campus located at 725 Clark Road, Gary, IN. 46406

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#### **Directors Present**

A. Briggs, A. Nicholson, E. Little, J. GEORGE, J. Parks, S. Caruthers

#### **Directors Absent**

A. Brown Thirston, M. Robinson

#### **Ex Officio Members Present**

G. Adell (remote)

#### **Non Voting Members Present**

G. Adell (remote)

#### **Guests Present**

A. Franz, A. Ross, A. Shaw, Alex Mueller (remote), Amanda Bates, C. Jackson, D. Sevier, Guest of Food Service, J. Beasley, K. McGuire, L. Franklin, M. Platt, M. Segrest, Raleigh Mayberry, S. Breitenbach

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## I. Opening Items

### A. Record Attendance

### B. Call the Meeting to Order

A. Nicholson called a meeting of the board of directors of Northwest Indiana Lighthouse Charter Schools to order on Monday Sep 23, 2024 at 5:37 PM.

### C. Approve Minutes

S. Caruthers made a motion to approve June 2024 minutes June 2024 Northwest Indiana Lighthouse Charter Schools Board Meeting on 06-24-24.

A. Briggs seconded the motion.

no discussion

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

#### Roll Call

J. GEORGE	Aye
S. Caruthers	Aye
A. Brown Thirston	Absent
E. Little	Absent
A. Nicholson	Aye
J. Parks	Aye
A. Briggs	Aye
M. Robinson	Absent

## II. Finance

### A. Bond Search Contract Review

Alex Mueller went through the pertinent information listed in the bond report. Please see full report previously submitted.

Highlighted: Debit Service & strong cash balances should position us to receive a favorable rate by banks. Lender services will be metric based to increase opportunity to secure additional funding for projects over the life of the bonds. There are no fees until a favorable contract is signed. Once the board approves moving forward, bids will go out and they will update in three weeks. Alyse, Jason and Shana asked questions relative to the proposal. David-the attorney- is in favor of us moving forward with the proposal.

J. Parks made a motion to accept the report and move forward with the bond search proposal pending the attorney's final approval.

S. Caruthers seconded the motion.

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

#### Roll Call

J. Parks	Aye
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**Roll Call**

A. Brown Thirston Absent  
E. Little Absent  
A. Nicholson Aye  
J. GEORGE Aye  
S. Caruthers Aye  
M. Robinson Absent  
A. Briggs Aye

**B. East Chicago**

Financial reports for June and July were provided. Please see full report.

Shana inquired about the transferring of funds into the year 2025 to cover large expenses. Her concerns will be addressed to David, the attorney, for better clarity on this issue, versus the money being used now. She will send her concerns for better clarity to be answered by David the attorney.

S. Caruthers made a motion to authorize the payment of June and July bills for all campuses.

J. Parks seconded the motion.

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

**Roll Call**

A. Nicholson Aye  
J. GEORGE Aye  
A. Brown Thirston Absent  
A. Briggs Aye  
M. Robinson Absent  
S. Caruthers Aye  
E. Little Aye  
J. Parks Aye

**C. Gary**

**D. Investment Consideration**

David submitted his report, pls see full repeort. Jason asked about risk investments based on suggestions come out of the bond report. David reported that they will be operating from low risk-bearing stance. Additional questions regarding the ability to earn interests on the money in the bank.

J. Parks made a motion to Jason moves to adopted the report and move forward as presented.

S. Caruthers seconded the motion.

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

**Roll Call**

E. Little Absent  
J. GEORGE Aye

**Roll Call**

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

**III. Committee Reports**

**A. Governance**

The governance committee met on September 18th, 2024. The following were agenda items discussed.

1. There is a lack of communication between the board and Marcus Robinson. Emails and calls have gone unanswered. Should there be no contact between now and October's meeting, a motion to remove him from the board will be considered.
2. All board member bio's are needed to be added to the website.
3. Retreat dates are proposed - October 12 and two days during the week of Oct 21st; Members present agreed to meet on Saturday, October 12, 2024, at 9 or 10 am virtually. Retreat topics--- bylaws, board responsibilities and other topics-

Report accepted as FYI

**B. Intent to Renew**

Ms. Beasley discussed the renewal of the contract with Ball State. As part of the process, the Ball State authorizers and community stakeholders will meet on November 13th and the 14th. The board is strongly encouraged to attend the 13th. Please see the report for complete details. All board members are strongly advised to attend.

S. Caruthers made a motion to submit the Intent to Renew application to Ball State.

J. Parks seconded the motion.

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

**Roll Call**

A. Brown Thirston	Absent
J. GEORGE	Aye
A. Briggs	Aye
A. Nicholson	Aye
S. Caruthers	Aye
M. Robinson	Absent
E. Little	Aye
J. Parks	Aye

**C. EC Renewal Application Submission**

S. Caruthers made a motion to submit Renewal application for the EC Campus.

A. Briggs seconded the motion.

All members present provided a wet signature.

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

**Roll Call**

J. Parks	Aye
J. GEORGE	Aye
A. Nicholson	Aye
S. Caruthers	Aye
A. Briggs	Aye
A. Brown Thirston	Absent
M. Robinson	Absent
E. Little	Aye

**IV. NWILCS District Reports**

**A. District and Building Level Reports**

Ms. McGuire provided the data comparing the improvements in the IRead and ILearn test scores across campuses . Please see the full report. There was some discussion regarding the difference between the IRead and ILearn scores in relationship to other schools and the other tests taken by Lighthouse students.

-The IBeacon grant was renewed. The summer program was seen as a success.

-A teacher's operation manual was created over the summer along with updates to teacher's pacing guides and exit tickets to gauge learning and comprehension mastery.

Teachers also worked on Unit Internalizations-to ensure teachers understand the material they are expected to teach before doing so.

-The board congratulated all the schools for the hard work and positive results stemming from the IRead and ILearn tests scores. Jason asked questions regarding teacher retention. Jessica answered that the schools are doing what they can to engage teachers by creating a dynamic work culture while understanding the climate of scarcity relating to teacher access.

This report was submitted as FYI

**B. Operations Updates**

Mrs. Beasley submitted her report. Pls see full report. 1. Enrollment numbers are up due to the success of Community/Family Engagement. 2. Introduced Ms. Bates as the Project Aware grant Coordinator. 3. The Board and staff were presented with school gear related to the marketing strategy adopted by the school. 4. Strategic planning committee is being formed to consider--creation of preschool development, and a state teacher certification program.

Mrs. Franklin reported on terminations, family engagement, facility updates, change of bus company and teacher retention.

Principals highlighted one area from their reports: Ms. Jackson gave shout out to 5th graders and the partnership with Star Gaze; Mr. Ross pointed out the positive attendance of the teaching staff; Ms. Franz pointed out the high IREAD and ILEARN results.

## V. Closing Items

### A. Public Comments

No members from the public were present to speak

### B. Executive Session

Moved into Executive Session at 7:10pm

J. Parks made a motion to retire to executive session.

A. Briggs seconded the motion.

Accepted by consensus

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

### C. Adjourn Meeting

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 7:44 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,  
J. GEORGE

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## Documents used during the meeting

- NWILCS June 2024 Financial Packet updated.pdf
- NWILCS Financial Packet July 2024.pdf
- East\_Chicago\_Top\_10\_Non-Payoll\_Payment\_6-2024.xlsx
- July 2024 Financial Summary.xlsx
- East\_Chicago\_Top\_10\_Non-Payoll\_Payment\_7-2024.xlsx
- NWILCS June 2024 Financial Packet updated.pdf
- NWILCS Financial Packet July 2024.pdf
- Gary\_Top\_10\_Non-Payoll\_Payment\_6-2024.xlsx
- July 2024 Financial Summary.xlsx
- Gary\_Top\_10\_Non-Payoll\_Payment\_7-2024.xlsx
- Investment Recommendation.pdf

- Investment Plan.docx.pdf
- September Executive Director Report 24-25.pdf
- ILEARN 2024 Local Comparison Data.xlsx
- EC September 24\_25 Board Report.docx (1).pdf
- August GLCSPC Board Report.pdf
- \_UPPER Board Report 24 - 25 September .docx.pdf
- 2024-2025 GLCPC\_September\_Board Report.docx.pdf
- September SY2425 Operations Board Report .docx (1).pdf
- JUNE 2024 FINANCIAL SUMMARY (2).xlsx
- JUNE 2024 FINANCIAL SUMMARY (2).xlsx