



# Northwest Indiana Lighthouse Charter Schools

## Minutes

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

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#### Date and Time

Monday December 9, 2024 at 5:30 PM

#### Location

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

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December 2024 Meeting Minutes

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#### Directors Present

A. Briggs, A. Brown Thirston, A. Nicholson, E. Little, J. GEORGE, J. Parks, S. Caruthers  
(remote)

#### Directors Absent

*None*

#### Guests Present

A. Franz, A. Ross, Alex Meuller (remote), C. Jackson, D. Jones, D. Sevier, J. Beasley, K.  
McGuire, L. Franklin

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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 Dec 9, 2024 at 5:30 PM.

### C. Approve Minutes

J. GEORGE made a motion to approve the minutes October 2024 Northwest Indiana Lighthouse Charter Schools Board Meeting on 10-28-24.

A. Briggs seconded the motion.

Prior to the motion being made, a call for changes were made, none voiced.

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

#### Roll Call

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

## II. NWILCS Bond Review and Vote

### A. NWILCS Bond Review and Vote

Alex Meuller provided a high level overview of the bond process based on the documents forwarded prior to the meeting.

The recommendation is that we move forward with HJ Sims to provide for the bond procurement and Ice Miller as the bond attorney.

Mr. Meuller provided that his role is to provide oversight to ensure that the work that HJSims is aligned with the proposal submitted and ensure that the school's best interest is maintained.

Please see the full report and proposal for details.

S. Caruthers made a motion to accept the bond engagement letter from HJ Sims pending any adjustments from our legal counsel.

J. Parks seconded the motion.

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

#### Roll Call

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

#### **Roll Call**

J. Parks                      Aye

J. Parks made a motion to accept the engagement letter from Ice Miller as bond counsel pending any adjustments from our legal counsel.

E. Little seconded the motion.

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

#### **Roll Call**

J. Parks                      Aye

J. GEORGE                  Aye

E. Little                      Aye

A. Nicholson                Aye

A. Brown Thirston        Aye

S. Caruthers                Aye

A. Briggs                     Aye

### **III. Building Level Reports**

#### **A. Principals Reports**

Please see full report

##### **Building Principal Highlights**

Principal Franz-

Provided \$500.00 in donated food items during the Thanksgiving season.

Partnered with State Representative Vernon Smith in holiday efforts, Secret Santa.

On December 19 there will be an art presentation of student's work, an invitation to follow.

Principal Jackson-

Skate Party-December 13. Students with positive behavior are invited

Holiday Party on December 19, treat donations accepted.

Reindeer games, December 20th

Principal Ross-

Forty-one of the eighty-four senior students have college acceptances.

Over 1 million dollars in scholarship monies were reported.

Improved attendance, disciplinary issues are down, no major push back to the cellphone ban.

### **IV. Finance**

#### **A.**

## East Chicago

See full financial report for East Chicago.

David Sevier highlighted areas in the September financial reports that showed overspending in certain areas. This was caused by loss of ESSER funding and delayed reimbursements from approved grant monies.

October-December reports should show the deficits erased.

The Finance team is planning a workshop to assist the board with better understanding the complexity of the financial reports.

A. Briggs made a motion to accept the financial packet with the request to pay the bills listed in the report.

E. Little seconded the motion.

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

### Roll Call

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

## B. Gary

See full financial report for Gary.

David Sevier highlighted areas in the September financial reports that showed overspending in certain areas. This was caused by loss of ESSER funding and delayed reimbursements from approved grant monies.

October-December reports should show the deficits erased.

The Finance team is planning a workshop to assist the board with better understanding the complexity of the financial reports.

A. Briggs made a motion to accept the September financial report with the request to pay outstanding bills.

E. Little seconded the motion.

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

### **Roll Call**

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

## **V. Committee Reports**

### **A. Governance**

No Report Submitted

### **B. Academic Excellence Report**

Andrea Thurston provided an overview of the Academic Excellence meeting.  
Reviewed testing data from the high school's most recent tests (Please see full report from Karin McGuire). Met with Mr. Ross to discuss his vision for the school.  
Committee goals-  
increase college/career readiness options for scholars  
increase family engagement  
increase early literacy

### **C. Development**

Elaine Little provided an overview of December's committee meeting.  
Discussed the purpose of the committee and goals to achieve its purpose.  
Discussed possible fundraising efforts and who would benefit from these efforts  
-track team  
-purchase a van to help with one-to-one transport of identified students  
-assist the districts' efforts to feed families at Thanksgiving  
Create a list of community partners  
Review the document from Friday  
Invite Mr. Mayberry to join the committee

## **VI. NWILCS District Reports**

### **A. District Level Reports**

Please see the full report.

Karin McGuire provided a detailed review of the various testing done at the high school level, what it means and how the district can support teachers, parents and students to improve test scores. Increase the use of incentives to encourage student engagement.

Jessica Beasley provided an update of the licensing renewal process and reported that a decision would be made by the end of February; continue to encourage the use of Naviance to promote pathway success of scholars-6th grade to 12th grade; continue to encourage the development and use of the district's website and social media platforms to promote the schools and the work being done.

## **B. Operations Updates**

Please see the full report.

Latrice Franklin discussed the use of Terracone to perform a comprehensive facility overview to suggest building improvements. The last building assessment was done several years ago. The cost is \$28,700.00. The completion of this assessment will also assist with increased favorable positioning as we seek bond underwriters.

A. Briggs made a motion to accept the proposal from Terracone to perform building assessments in the amount of \$28,700.00.

E. Little seconded the motion.

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

### **Roll Call**

J. GEORGE	Aye
A. Briggs	Aye
E. Little	Aye
A. Nicholson	Aye
A. Brown Thirston	Aye
J. Parks	Aye

## **VII. Closing Items**

### **A. Public Comments**

There were two guests from the public at the meeting, Cheyenne Four and Xavier Smith. Mr. Smith indicated that he wanted to send his remarks/concerns via email. Ms. Four did not speak.

### **B. Executive Session**

The meeting recessed at 7:15pm to move into the Executive Session. At 7:40pm, we returned to the board meeting.

### **C. Adjourn Meeting**

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 7:41 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,  
J. GEORGE

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### **Documents used during the meeting**

- Engagement Letter - Sims\_NW Indiana Lighthouse Charter Schools 2025 (4880-4161-2541.v2).pdf
- HJ Sims Engagement Letter NWILCS 11.18.24.pdf
- EC December 24\_25 Board Report.docx.pdf
- October.NovGLCS Primary Campus Board Report-November 2024.docx.pdf
- UPPER Board Report 24 - 25 November .docx (1).pdf
- 2024-2025 GLCPC\_November\_Board Report.docx.pdf
- September 2024 Ratios.pdf
- SEPTEMBER\_2024\_FINANCIAL\_SUMMARY.xlsx
- September 2024 Financials.xlsx
- September 2024 Ratios.pdf
- SEPTEMBER 2024 FINANCIAL SUMMARY.xlsx
- September 2024 Financials.xlsx
- December Executive Director Report 24-25.pdf
- December SY2425 Operations Board Report .docx.pdf