

APPROVED



Northwest Indiana Lighthouse Charter Schools

Minutes

April 2025 Northwest Indiana Lighthouse Charter Schools Board Meeting

Date and Time

Monday April 28, 2025 at 5:30 PM

Location

College Prep Campus
725 Clark Rd
Gary, IN 46406

Directors Present

A. Briggs, A. Brown Thirston, A. Nicholson, E. Little, J. GEORGE

Directors Absent

J. Parks, S. Caruthers

Ex Officio Members Present

G. Adell (remote)

Non Voting Members Present

G. Adell (remote)

Guests Present

A. Franz, A. Ross, A. Shaw, C. Jackson, D. Sevier, J. Beasley, J. Jackson, L. Franklin, Mr. Mayberry, Susan Kim

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 Apr 28, 2025 at 5:42 PM.

C. Approve Minutes

E. Little made a motion to approve the minutes from March 2025 Northwest Indiana Lighthouse Charter Schools Board Meeting on 03-17-25.

A. Brown Thirston seconded the motion.

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

Roll Call

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

II. Building Level Reports

A. Principals Reports

Please review the attached reports submitted by the building principals.

Mr. Ross- highlighted the growth seen by students over the course of the year.

96% of seniors have been accepted into college, with \$2million in scholarships offered.

III. Finance

A. East Chicago and Gary Financials

David Sevier presented the February 2025 monthly financial statements for the Gary and East Chicago campuses.

Please review the full financial reports attached to this report

E. Little made a motion to approve the February 2025 financial statements for Gary and East Chicago campuses and the Regional report.

A. Brown Thirston seconded the motion.

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

Roll Call

| | |
|-------------------|--------|
| J. GEORGE | Aye |
| J. Parks | Absent |
| S. Caruthers | Absent |
| A. Brown Thirston | Aye |
| A. Nicholson | Aye |
| E. Little | Aye |

B. Esser 3 Funding and Bond Updates

Jessica Beasley-Executive Director presented. Please see full attached report.

Mrs. Beasley discussed changes at the federal and state level that have the ability to impact current building, staffing and special projects for the upcoming school year.

At present, the school district remains at good standing pending changes.

With respect to the bond deal, it has been paused due to ongoing changes at the market level. The goal is to reevaluate the market's standing before moving forward.

IV. Committee Reports

A. Governance

We received information from Ball State that our charter has been renewed for five years.

E. Little made a motion to accept and approve the five-year charter renewal contract.

A. Brown Thirston seconded the motion.

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

Roll Call

| | |
|-------------------|-----|
| J. GEORGE | Aye |
| A. Nicholson | Aye |
| A. Brown Thirston | Aye |
| E. Little | Aye |

Roll Call

J. Parks Absent
S. Caruthers Absent

Discussion had to approve:

The 2025/2026 board meeting calendar
The parent/student handbook
The personnel handbook

See attached supporting documents

A. Brown Thirston made a motion to accept the parent/student handbook.

E. Little seconded the motion.

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

E. Little made a motion to accept the personal handbook.

A. Brown Thirston seconded the motion.

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

Roll Call

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

A. Brown Thirston made a motion to accept the 2025/2026 board meeting calendar.

E. Little seconded the motion.

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

Roll Call

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

B. Academic Excellence Report

Board member Mrs.Thirston provided an overview of April's Academic Excellence committee meeting.

Leaders and educators remain committed to addressing noted math and reading deficits despite significant growth and development this academic year.

C. Development

Board member Mrs. Little reported out.

The Development Committee did not meet for the month of April. She did advise that we are still waiting to hear if we will be awarded the grant we applied for last month.

Mrs. Beasley reported that discussions are needed to develop a Plan B is needed should there be a loss of grant funding at the federal level. The potential loss of funding could impact special services offered to students due to district lay-offs in the upcoming school year.

V. NWILCS District Reports

A. District Level Reports

Susan Kim reported on behalf of Karin McGuire. Please see the attached report.

Mrs. Kim highlighted next year's planning goals based on the various testing data and performance measures gathered over the school year.

The Pre-K requests was approved. Pre-K will be offered Fall '25.

Strategic Planning with school teams is underway.

Executive Director, Jessica Beasley reported.
Please see attached report

Radical Intentionality will remain the theme for the upcoming school year.

Billboards and bus advertising are part of the marketing plan to make the district more visible to potential families.

Preparing for the School Improvement grant is underway. We will partner with Mass Insight to help navigate the grant application.

Mr. Mayberry has been promoted to Director of Community Engagement

Mr. Mayberry reported.
See attached report

Continues to identify and cultivate community partners and projects to enhance the school experience for scholars.

The adoption of Brunswick Park is moving forward.

Mrs. Franklin reported.

See attached report

Interviews to fill several open positions are underway.

The 'Family Intent to Return' process is underway with 88% of current families planning to return.

Over 300 families registered for the fall.

The administration building is nearing completion. The hope is to conduct June's board meeting there. If not, we will meet there in September '25.

The Food Service RFP process is underway and will be brought for a vote at May's meeting.

VI. Closing Items

A. Public Comments

No one present from the public

B. Executive Session

E. Little made a motion to move into executive session.

A. Brown Thirston seconded the motion.

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

Roll Call

J. Parks Absent

E. Little Aye

J. GEORGE Aye

S. Caruthers Absent

A. Nicholson Aye

A. Brown Thirston Aye

A. Brown Thirston made a motion to come out of executive session.

E. Little seconded the motion.

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

Roll Call

J. GEORGE Aye

S. Caruthers Absent

A. Nicholson Aye

A. Brown Thirston Aye

J. Parks Absent

E. Little 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 6:59 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
J. GEORGE

Documents used during the meeting

- 2024-2025 GLCPC March Board Report.docx.pdf
- EC March 24_25 Board Report.docx.pdf
- _GLCS Primary Campus Board Report-March 2025.docx (1).pdf
- _UPPER Board Report 24 - 25 MARCH_APRIL .docx.pdf
- Feb 25 Financial Summary.xlsx
- Feb 2025 NWILCS Financial Statements.xlsx
- SY2526 Draft - Family_Student Handbook.docx
- SY2526 Personnel Handbook - DRAFT.docx
- 25-26 NWILCS Board Meeting Calendar .pdf
- April Executive Director Report 24-25.pdf
- April SY2425 Operations Board Report .docx.pdf