



## BELIEVE SCHOOLS, INC

### Minutes

#### BELIEVE February Board Meeting

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##### **Date and Time**

Wednesday February 15, 2023 at 5:00 PM

##### **Location**

BELIEVE Circle City High School  
2540 N Capitol Ave  
Indianapolis, IN 46208

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##### **Directors Present**

A. Bennin (remote), B. Akintomide, C. Crawley, C. Glier, D. Dennis, H. Harshman, J. Fulk (remote), L. Turner, M. Whitmire (remote)

##### **Directors Absent**

D. Bouie, M. Canada

##### **Guests Present**

K. Neal-Brannum, T. Vonderheit

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#### **I. Opening Items**

##### **A. Call the Meeting to Order**

H. Harshman called a meeting of the board of directors of BELIEVE SCHOOLS, INC to order on Wednesday Feb 15, 2023 at 5:05 PM.

##### **B. Student Visit**

A freshman scholar came and joined us to share about her experience as a dual enrollment student.

### C. Attendance

### D. Approve December Minutes

C. Glier made a motion to approve the minutes from December Board Meeting on 12-14-22.

B. Akintomide seconded the motion.

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

## II. School Updates

### A. Principal's Report

Attendance:

- School attendance overall is improving slightly
- Friday attendance is not as strong
- The school leadership is going to begin a few initiatives to increase and incentivize attendance

Enrollment:

- There have been 8-10 new scholars since the start of the semester, for 210 current enrollment
- The enrollment team's focus is around enrollment heading into the 23/24SY. Round 1 ended early February, and we already surpassed our goal of 50 (landed at 54 - over 20 student increase compared to the previous year)
- The team hosted lunch and learns, tours, etc. that have all contributed to meeting middle school students earlier than we have in the past

School-wide GPA:

- We did not have a strong start at the beginning of this semester. We've had several conversations with village leaders around what supports are needed for students. There will be extended days for students with GPAs of 2.0 or below. There are newly added academic support hours during the day. We've also had more parent and family meetings.
- The team is talking to both teachers and students to understand the root cause.
- The team hopes and expects to see changes in the coming weeks
- Dr. T - How is the team monitoring grade books?
- Jackson Anderson - Teachers are required to update gradebooks by 8am, but there are some practices of grading that display the need for follow-up with teachers. There have been recent updates to grading policies that teachers and students are getting used to.

Student Academics:

- Freshman have already almost surpassed their goal in growth on P/SAT
- Sophomores have not grown
- Juniors and Seniors have had little growth
- Teachers will be digging into data every Friday to have quicker progress monitoring
- Data is really being pushed by the leadership team to ensure there is growth across all grade levels
- D. Dennis - did you have MOY data last year?
- B. Akintomide - are you worried that current 9th graders will experience the same no growth in their 10th grade year?
- Jackson-Anderson - Overall, the current sophomore class, there is work to do and there are conversations around what professional development can be given to sophomore level teachers to support.
- Transportation for students to dual enrollment courses and early career has been a challenge, but a new bus driver has been hired.

#### Professional Development:

- Many individuals on the leadership team have been traveling to attend PD

#### Staff Culture:

- Friday rotations- The team has implemented a plan to provide teachers and staff with more time to do the things they need to do. This has been really successful so far.

#### Talent & Hiring:

- Intent to Returns - These surveys have gone out and been filled out to inform the hiring needs for the 23/24SY.
- Leadership positions have been posted and instructional positions will be posted in the months to come.

### **B. Executive Director's Report**

- Kim shared updates around growth, fundraising, partnerships, and staffing.

## **III. Committee Updates**

### **A. Governance**

No updates.

**B. Academic Excellence**

The Academic Committee is meeting tomorrow.

**C. Finance**

There was not a committee meeting this month. Documents have circulated around the committee for financial oversight.

**D. Development**

The development committee has recurring meetings set. Topics of discussion will be around fundraising strategies. Bunmi visited a development training with Teagan in St. Louis and the team will connect with the committee to share learnings. Plans will be in place for a brunch event later this year to raise funds. We also may implement open houses to raise funds. More details will be discussed in the next committee meeting.

**IV. Board Engagement & Celebrations**

**A. Previous Month's Engagements & Celebrations**

- Many board members supported a fundraising initiative in the last month.
- Bunmi traveled to St. Louis for a training to support the development efforts

**B. Upcoming Opportunities**

- Speakers are invited to the St. Louis board
- There are ways for the board to get involved and informed politically with the current session
- There is an event at the end of the month for Black History Month
- The Mind Trust is hosting a community event at the school in April

**V. Closing Items**

**A. Next meeting**

March 21

**B. Adjourn Meeting**

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 6:30 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,  
H. Harshman