

Lighthouse Academies of Northwest Indiana Board of Directors Meeting  
**Minutes of a Meeting (General Session) of the Board Held on June 15, 2015**

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– **Persons in Attendance:**

- Eddie Harvey, President/ Board Member
- Kay Ward-McDuffie, Secretary /Board Member (via telephone)
- Yvette Irons-Johnson, Board Member
- Michelle Henry-Maxwell, Board Member
- Rita Daniels, Board Member
- James Piggee, Board Member
- Jeremy Williams, NWI Regional Director
- Tina Dobson, Finance
- Ed Power, Facilities (via telephone)
- Angela West, Principal (CPA)
- Charlotte Jackson, Principal (Upper Academy)
- Rashid Kharchaf, Principal (Gary Primary)
- Lisa Rusen, Principal (EC)
- Kaitlin Karpinski, Principal (8<sup>th</sup> Grade Academy)
- Martin De Costa, Director of Teacher Leadership (Mathematics/Science)
- Bertha Rios, Finance

**Motions and Action Items:**

1. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 6:04 p.m. by Mr. Eddie Harvey.  
Mr. Jeremy Williams verified that notice of the meeting was posted at all campuses.
2. **Approval of Minutes** Mrs. Yvette Irons-Johnson made a motion for approval of the general session minutes with the correction. Mrs. Michelle Henry-Maxwell seconded the motion. A vote was taken with all voting in favor.
3. **Discussion Notes:**

**Facilities Update (Mr. Ed Power)**

The summer projects are being completed. These projects include remediating flooding problems in the parking lot at EC, as well as blacktopping the lot. Specialist will meet June 17<sup>th</sup> to determine a solution. City workers (EC) hit a fence at the EC campus. The city has promised to make the repairs required. There are doors at the EC campus where the door knobs are not working properly and will be replaced. To enlarge one of the classrooms at Pierce Street there is a proposal to remove a wall. Issues relative to the HVAC warranty will be addressed this summer. The gymnasium floor at CPA is in need of repair. Dr. Ward

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McDuffie asked a question relative to the public address system at CPA. This is an issue that will be taken into consideration.

**Finance Update** (Ms. Tina Dobson) Dr. Kay F. Ward McDuffie made a motion for approval of the bills. Mr. James Piggee seconded the motion. A vote was taken with all voting in favor.

Ms. Dobson reported that additional funds have been received as the result of the receipt of additional Title I funds that had been requested.

**Technology Update.** Ms. Seguin indicated was not present.

#### **4. NWI Principal Reports**

Mrs. Angela West, the principal of CPA shared information regarding the 2015 graduation ceremony and the accomplishments of the scholars who received their diplomas. The partnership with Ivy Tech will continue during the 2015-2016 school year. There will potentially be more scholars who will graduate with college credit and/or an associate degree.

Mrs. Charlotte Jackson, the principal of the 3-7 campus reported there is a need for 10 additional students to meet the student enrollment criteria. There is a need for an ELA and Mathematics instructor for grades 6-7 (2015-2016).

Ms. Lisa Rusen, principal of the EC campus indicated suspensions during the 2014-2015 school year were reduced by 66%. There is a need for 4 teachers in grades 5-7 for the 2015-2016 school year.

Mr. Rashid Kharchaf, principal of Gary Primary indicated there was a need for 10 students in the all-day kindergarten. There are 22 available seats in grade one.

Mr. Jeremy Williams informed the board members the Mrs. Bertha Rios will be leaving NWI Lighthouse. A regional operations manager has been hired to take over her responsibilities.

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It appears opening a school in Hammond is not advisable at this time. The focus will be to pursue expanding educational services in East Chicago so students attending that campus will receive a K-12 education. Mr. Williams will be meeting with the mayor to ascertain whether there is support for this proposal. There is a rent-friendly facility available for use to bring to fruition this goal.

7. **Adjournment:** The general session meeting was adjourned at 6:57 p. m. Mrs. Michelle Henry Maxwell made a motion. Mrs. Yvette Irons-Johnson seconded the motion. A vote was taken with all voting in favor.

Kay F. Ward McDuffie, Ed. D  
July 9, 2015