

Indianapolis Classical Schools Board Meeting
at Riverside High School
February 18, 2020

Board members present were John Watson, Dave Sternberg, Peggie Sabens, Mark Nottingham, Dan Roy, Patrick Crittenden, David Steele, Brenda Roper, Miguel Rodriguez, Keith Steiner, and Mindy Cunningham, with Mac McWhirter attending by telephone. Staff present were Janet McNeal, Juli Woodrum, Karen Lalioff, Sean Henseleit, Tenika Holden-Flynn, Jonathan Harris, and Robin Knop Mires.

Mr. Watson called the meeting to order at 7:30 am. A quorum of the Board was present. The minutes of the prior meeting of the Board were reviewed and approved.

Mr. Watson provided an update regarding a potential site for the planned K-8 school. The most recent site that was explored will not work. Other potential options were discussed.

A presentation regarding the planned K-8 school was provided by Dr. Holden-Flynn and Mr. Henseleit, including the work that has been done regarding the curriculum, procedures, enrollment, teacher recruitment, and community outreach. The school will have a classical liberal arts model. There will be a focus on early intervention for students who are struggling as opposed to waiting to remediate later. A discussion as to whether a “restart” or “fresh start” would be best.

Dr. Harris provided an update regarding teacher recruitment, including efforts to recruit more diverse teachers and the challenges of recruiting diverse talent to Indianapolis.

Mr. Nottingham provided the Treasurer’s Report on behalf of Adrian Miller. We received a generally strong audit report that noted IT infrastructure as an area for improvement. Financial issues are impacted by enrollment and expenses. HHS enrollment is essentially at its maximum and RHS enrollment must improve to positively impact the financial situation. HVAC repairs at HHS continue to be costly and steps to mitigate the problem are being discussed. Audit costs are high. Next year, the financial benefit of being an innovation school essentially goes away. Enrollment for fall 2020 is strong for HHS and needs to improve at RHS. RHS would benefit from better transportation links.

Slate of officers, committees, and board members was elected.

Annual conflict disclosures were made. Actual and potential conflicts disclosed were as follows: Mr. Watson (Van Rooy); Mr. Nottingham (Young Life chapter at HHS); Mr. Sternberg (consulting work for ICS); Mr. Roy (Indianapolis Public Schools); Ms. Cunningham (children

employed by Ratio and Trendy Minds); Judge Roper (potential for conflict in legal proceedings that might arise); Mr. McWhirter (bond ownership); and Ms. McNeal (Claude McNeal Productions).

Trendy Minds provided an updated presentation on naming and other branding options.

The meeting was adjourned.