

Career Academy of South Bend, Inc.
Minutes of Meeting of Board of Directors
July 30, 2020

Directors Present: Dan Adams, Kay Antonelli, Larry Garatoni, Michael Garatoni, Chad Hartzell, Marian Hodges, Mark Melnick, Lori Smith, Nick Swisher
Staff Attending: Alex Hammel, Kim Richardson
Also Attending: Lindsay Omlur, Emily Gaskill, Charles Loeser

A. Call to Order. Larry Garatoni called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm. The meeting was held by Zoom.

B. Minutes of Prior Meeting. Dan moved for approval of minutes of the prior (July 28) meeting. The minutes were approved.

C. School Re-Opening. Larry explained the purpose of this special meeting is to reconsider the decision made in late June/early July to offer both on-site and on-line classes when the 2020-21 school year begins in August. That decision is now in doubt since there's been a significant increase in COVID-19 cases in the past four weeks, as detailed by the St. Joseph County Health Department, which yesterday issued its "Guidance for Re-Opening K-12 Schools in St. Joseph County" (the "Guidance") classifying the current level of COVID-19 cases in St. Joseph County as in the "Red Zone" in which on-site school operation is not advisable.

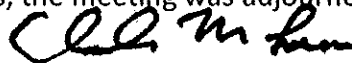
Alex explained that his management team, after consulting with teachers, families and health officials and carefully reviewing health data and medical advice, is recommending that the Board reverse the prior decision and instead approve beginning the school year with on-line instruction only. Having conferred with Larry on the issue, Alex proposes that the Board approve the attached resolution to that effect. Mike moved for presentation of the resolution and Marian seconded.

Chad asked if the possibility of on-site instruction as soon as 30 days from the beginning of school would be disruptive as compared to waiting until the end of the first grading period. Alex said that waiting to the end of a grading period would not make a difference.

Dan suggested the Board should specify under what conditions on-site operation will be approved. Larry said the Board will begin considering that question next week, bearing in mind that there will quite likely be new guidelines by the time the decision is made. Dan moved that the resolution be approved. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

Larry asked if anyone would like to comment. Lindsay Omlur, representing Trine University (authorizer of the schools), suggested that the decision should take into account not only the number of COVID cases but the distribution of cases by age group. For example, if there are no cases involving children age 10 and under, it might be appropriate to begin on-site instruction for that age group while staying with on-line instruction only for older students.

There being no further comments or questions, the meeting was adjourned.



Charles M. Loeser, Assistant Secretary

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
CAREER ACADEMY OF SOUTH BEND, INC.

The Board of Directors (“Board”) of Career Academy of South Bend, Inc. (the “Corporation”) adopts the following resolution as a directive to the management team for the Career Academy High School, the Career Academy Middle School, and Success Academy Primary School (the “Schools”).

Background

1. The St. Joseph County Health Department (“Department”) issued on July 29 its “Guidance for Re-Opening K-12 Schools in St. Joseph County” (the “Guidance”). The Guidance suggested that if the number of new COVID cases exceeded 28 cases per day, that would be a Red area and be a strong recommendation for online learning. The guidance also suggested that if the number of active cases of COVID per day exceeded 280 cases, that would also be a Red area and that online learning would be recommended.

2. The Department’s online summary of COVID-19 case data for St Joseph County as of this date, <https://www.sjcindiana.com/DocumentCenter/View/38830/07-29-20-COVID-19-Case-Update> shows that as of July 29 the County had an average of 40 cases per day over the last seven days, with 599 active cases. Both indicators clearly exceeded the recommended thresholds (updates: <https://www.sjcindiana.com/1855/Press-Releases>).

3. As noted in the South Bend Tribune article published today¹ describing the Guidance and the County data, there has been a significant increase in the rate of COVID-19 infection in the past: as of the beginning of July, conditions in the County were sufficient for K-12 schools to re-open in compliance in the Guidance, but the increase in cases has created conditions under which re-opening K-12 schools for on-site instruction is not advisable under the Guidance.

4. The Board is very concerned for the safety and welfare of our students, our staff and our parents.

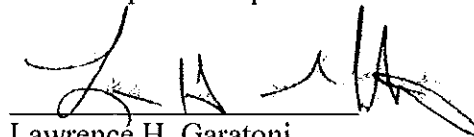
Resolution

Accordingly, the Board directs the management team as follows:

1. The Schools should be operated with on-line instruction only for at least one month and until such time as the County’s COVID-19 case level has reduced to the point that full-time or part-time on-site operation is appropriate.

2. The management team should monitor COVID-19 data and should begin on-site instruction in addition to online instruction when appropriate, with notice to parents.

3. Before beginning on-site instruction, the management team’s plan for operation with COVID-19 precautions shall be approved by the Board and published.



Lawrence H. Garatoni
President/Board Chairman

¹ St. Joseph County Department of Health lays out guidance for reopening K-12 schools, South Bend Tribune 7/30/20, https://www.southbendtribune.com/news/education/st-joseph-county-department-of-health-lays-out-guidance-for-reopening-k-12-schools/article_ca6d3ee0-d1b3-11ea-adbb-0794c6a12bb0.html