

Career Academy of South Bend, Inc.
Minutes of Meeting of Board of Directors
August 22, 2023

Directors Present: Larry Garatoni, Michael Garatoni, Iris Hammel, Chad Hartzell, Marian Hodges, Nick Swisher, Rachel Savoie, Janet Scott

Directors Absent : John DeSalle

Staff Attending: Jeremy Lugbill, Andrew Hoyt, Nick Garstka, Becky Bartlett, Maria Reilly, Candy Vanbuskirk, Kim Richardson, Rob Koehler, Aaron Esper

- A. Call to Order. Larry Garatoni called the meeting to order at 5:15 pm.
- B. Approval of Minutes. The minutes of the most recent (June 27) meeting were approved.
- C. Organizational Updates. Jeremy led off announcing some position changes. Roxanne Bryant, formerly Dean of Students at Career Middle School, is now interim principal for Success Academy. Becky Bartlett, formerly principal at Success Academy, is now Curriculum Director for the District. Denise Seger, formerly Associate Superintendent at Penn Harris Madison, is now interim H.R. Director for the District. Jeremy described the staff training completed over the summer on project-based learning and other topics.

1. Celebrations and Success Stories.

- a. Summer "Maker" Camp. Jeremy introduced Dr. Marilyn Nash, who led the summer "maker" camp at Success Academy. Dr. Nash introduced students who presented their work.

- b. City Connects. Jeremy introduced Anita Wigfall, Social Worker for Career Middle and Career High, who headed the administration in the 2022-23 school year of the "City Connects" program, sponsored by Marian University for identifying and providing social services for students in Indiana public schools. Over 300 students were assessed and provided with appropriate services, not just from social workers but many community providers, such as Beautiful Mind for mental health therapy, Beacon Health, Meridian Health Services, the Boys and Girls Club, Cultivate and DoorDash to service families needing food assistance, South Bend Parks and Arts, the Kroc Center, United Way, United Health Services, Kindness Over Blindness for glasses and eye exams, Smiles for mobile dental care, 100 Black Men for fitness, the Red Cross, and the St. Joseph County Health Department.

c. Food Service Contract. Jeremy explained board approval is required every year for renewal of our agreement for food service for Purdue Polytechnic, which is too small to have its own contract. Upon motion, renewal of the agreement was approved.

D. Principals' Reports.

1. Career Academy High School. Nick Garstka said the high school has reorganized its teams from grade level to subject matter, so instead of a ninth grade team there's a math team. The school has also adopted a policy to motivate students not to be tardy, which has been a problem: class doors are locked to late-comers. Nick said the summer athletic camp went well, turn-out was high and students had good experiences.

2. Career Academy Middle School. Maria Reilly said the middle school's had a good start to the year. The first few days were focused on team building and school culture, that included going to a roller rink, behavior was excellent. Enrollment is high so space is a concern. Larry said he's asked Panzica to make some modifications to the 3919 Crescent Circle building so that it can be used for classes and school offices.

3. Success Academy. Roxanne Bryant said Success Academy got off to a good start with Back-to-School night on August 7, over 500 people attended, which is encouraging for our focus this year on increasing parent involvement. There was naturally a fall-off during the COVID period so it will take time to build up. Increasing attendance will also be a focus this year, we'll have awards each quarter for students not missing any days.

4. Success Academy at Boys and Girls Club. Brie Childs reported that SABGC had its first two field trips to the South Bend Police Department's back-to-school cookout and to the South Bend Fire Department, which is our "safe place" where students are to go if there's ever an emergency and they need to leave the school. So it's important that the students know how to get there and for the older kids to know how to help get younger students to that safe place. While there, they learned about fire safety and emergencies. They toured the living quarters of the firefighters, were able to operate a fire hose, and learned about the equipment on the firetrucks. Now all the kids know where to go if they need to leave the school.

5. Portage School of Leaders. Andrew Hoyt reported that the Portage School of Leaders opened on August 9 at the Ivy Tech building at 250 East Sample Street. We've taken over about half of that building and it's worked well. Teachers and students have responded positively and with enthusiasm. Chartwells has done a good job arranging food service. Now we're getting into the work of establishing a "mastery" learning process as described in prior meetings. That's a long process, it's not just a switch to flip, this takes a lot of thought. ing those bridges. One part of this will be taking a student survey every quarter, we've just

completed the first. Among other things the surveys will measure student attitudes towards growth mindset, sense of belonging, engagement, and sense of self-efficacy. A system of self-regulated and personalized learning requires students with a high sense of self-efficacy. We're seeing signs of students having a sense of ownership of their education. For example, today I received a proposal that I hadn't asked for, dealing with dress code: they don't think our dress code is formal enough. Not what I expected. Of course, not all the students are on the same page. But the sense of freedom and responsibility is exactly what's needed.

E. Marketing. Steph Ebersol introduced herself, she's joined Career working in admissions. She said enrollment is lower than had been projected for the Portage school, which is not surprising since we've had no location to show. We're also low, to a lesser extent, for SABGC but picked up somewhat after the building became available in mid-July. Rob Koehler, Marketing Director, confirmed the point: our buildings are an important attraction. For the older buildings we have waiting lists in most grades.

F. Financial Statements and Budget. Kim presented the disbursements report, credit card detail and financial statements for the period ending June 30. Revenue remained above budget and expenses below budget. After further discussion, the disbursements report, credit card summary, and financial statements were approved.

G. Academic Data. Becky Bartlett presented results of last year's ILEARN tests for Success Academy and Career Middle (grades 3-8) and SAT scores for the high school.

For context, test scores for Indiana as a whole were disappointing, showing little if any recovery from declines in the COVID period.¹ There were similar disappointing results nationwide and world-wide.²

¹ <https://www.indystar.com/story/news/education/2023/07/12/ilearn-2023-indiana-students-test-scores-show-little-improvement-post-pandemic/70403699007/>.

- ² In low-to-middle-income countries, the percentage of ten-year-olds unable to “read and understand a simple text” has risen from 57 percent before the pandemic to about 70 percent. *Joint report by the World Bank, UNESCO, UNICEF, U.K. government, USAID, and Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation*, https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2022/06/23/70-of-10-year-olds-now-in-learning-poverty-unable-to-read-and-understand-a-simple-text?utm_source=Sailthru&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=20220716_Weekend_Jolt&utm_term=Jolt-Smart
- The impact is not limited to the developing world: “Even in high-income countries able to quickly organize real-time online instruction, learning losses appear substantial. . . . Data from an 8-week school shutdown in the Netherlands show a learning loss equivalent to 20 percent of a school year. . . . Evidence from across the United States mirror the situation in Europe, with significant learning losses in math and reading. In Texas, only 30 percent of third graders tested at or above grade level in math in 2021, compared to 48 percent in 2019. Similar learning losses have also been observed in California, Colorado, Tennessee, North Carolina, Ohio, Virginia, and Maryland.” (Joint Report).

This pattern makes year-to-year comparisons difficult but even so, comparisons are necessary.

In this context, it is remarkable that Career Academy High School's English SAT pass rate increased from the prior year by 11.6% (42.2% to 53.8%).

Eng 2023	Black	Hispanic	White	Paid	F/R	Gen Ed	Spec Ed	Total
State	26.2	34.1	57.7	61.2	34.2	55.7	15.7	50.5
Career HS	35.0	-	57.5	65.0	42.1	63.3	22.2	53.8
CAHS 2022	22.7	63.6	46.2	48.7	36.4	47.0	23.5	42.2
SBCSC 2023	19.5	28.6	63.0	52.4	26.5	40.2	16.7	37.4

Career High's Math SAT pass rate declined from 24.1% in 2021-22 to 21.8% in 2022-23 while the state rate declined from 31.1% to 30.7%.

Career Middle School's English ILEARN pass rate improved slightly from the prior year (20.8% in 2021-22 to 23.3% in 2022-23) while the math pass rate declined slightly (6.2% to 5.7%).

Success Academy's English ILEARN pass rate improved slightly (10.8% to 11.5%) while its Math pass rate improved by 7.4% (17.1% to 24.5%).

Marian asked whether it's appropriate to use Indiana statewide pass rates for comparison - how does Indiana compare with other states? Larry said Indiana does better than the national average despite spending less than the national average.³

Becky outlined a series of measures to be implemented this year for both math and English.

Iris noted the Indiana legislature in this year's session created an extensive initiative for Indiana schools to improve teaching of reading by methods proven in research, the "science of reading."

- "**Global disaster**" is how the *Economist* described the situation, https://www.economist.com/international/2022/07/07/covid-learning-loss-has-been-a-global-disaster?utm_source=Sailthru&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=20220716_Weekend_Jolt&utm_term=Jolt-Smart.

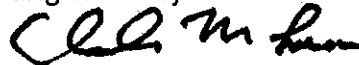
³NAEP sample tests show Indiana fourth graders above the national average for math (245 to 240) and reading (222 to 220).

https://www.nationsreportcard.gov/profiles/stateprofile/overview/IN?cti=PgTab_ScoreComparisons&chort=1&sub=MAT&sj=IN&fs=Grade&st=MN&year=2019R3&sg=Gender%3A%20Male%20vs.%20Female&sgv=Difference&ts=Single%20Year&tss=2019R3&sfj=NP

H. Trine Report. Emily Gaskill noted Education One’s assessments of CAHS, CAMS and SAPS are detailed in its online dashboard, <https://www.trine.edu/education-one/accountability/school-results.aspx>. CAHS is classified as a Tier 1 school, meaning there will be two full site visits per year. CAMS and SAPS are classified as Tier 2 schools, meaning quarterly visits. SABGC and the Portage School of Leaders, like any new schools, are classified as Tier 3, meaning there will be extensive site visits, especially in the first semester. Emily noted the ILEARN pass rates were better than the comparison schools⁴ but need improvement to be classified as “meets standard,” especially in math.

Emily added that both Career Academy High School and the Portage School have signed MOUs with Trine as to the new initiative at Trine called Instant Admission. The purpose of the program is to address access barriers that might exist for marginalized students to be able to go to a university, so Trine is providing various free dual credit courses, discounted rates on others. There's eligibility for a \$1,000 scholarship to use at Trine upon matriculation for all of students at Trine-sponsored charter schools. Any testing entrance requirements are being waived and Trine is offering merit based scholarships including an annual scholarship that will be offered to one student at a value of about \$18,000. When students come to Trine, they will have a university student success coach to support the student throughout their four years until graduation. This should be an important boost for every student interested in college.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.



Charles M. Loeser, Secretary

⁴ For Success Academy:

	2023 ILEARN ELA Pass %	2023 ILEARN Math Pass %	2023 IREAD Pass %
Success Academy	11.5	24.5	63
Coquillard	5.8	7.2	30.6
Harrison	8.0	12.9	39.4
Wilson	5.4	6.8	32.9

For Career Middle School:

	2023 ILEARN ELA Pass %	2023 ILEARN Math Pass %
CAMS	23.3	5.7
Navarre	7.0	0.8
Dickenson	11.2	3.2
Jackson	8.4	4.8