THE EXCEL CENTER, LLC
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
AUGUST 12, 2024

MINUTES

The Board of Directors of The Excel Center, LLC met at 9:00 a.m. August 12, 2024, at Goodwill's headquarters. Present were:

Gita Baker, present
Kofi Barko, present
Patricia Castaneda, present
Garland Graves, present
Perry Griffith, present
Kent Kramer, present
Jay Oliver, present/virtual
Don Palmer, present
Laura Pickett, present
Josh Shelton, present/virtual

Staff/Other:

Shelley Ashley
Brandy Bridgeforth
Katie Bustamante
Dana Calfee
Twyla Carlson
Josh Cooper
Ivan Cropper
Betsy Delgado
Steve Dillon
Rachel Eble
Corey Emery
Matt Fortney
Emily Fritsch
Mike Gallo
Lynn Greggs
Amanda Grube
Mirian Henry
Kacie Klem
Sylvia Lauer
Brandon Marks
Kim Myers
Mike Myers
Madison Ortman
Lakia Osborne
Lameca Perkins
Kari Podany
Shonda Russell
Eric Schlegel
Sarah Thomas
John Westfall
Danielle White
Jeri Zawadzki

Board Chair Gita Baker presided and called the meeting to order.

There was no public comment.

On a motion by Perry Griffith, duly seconded, the meeting minutes of the May 13, 2024, meeting were approved as previously distributed. Roll call by individual members' present were all in agreement of approval.

Matt Fortney and Josh Cooper gave the Treasurer's report for the period through June 30, 2024. Matt/Josh noted the total year-to-date revenue is $34,259,000, $2,491,000 ahead of budget and total year-to-date operating income is $2,005,000, $1,537,000 ahead of budget. Goodwill funding is ahead of budget due to an additional $100,000 from a GCSI grant that was able to be allocated to GEI and for use of Retail Round Up to support barrier removal efforts. Federal funding is ahead of budget due to a large claim for the ARPA grant for Southeast, and the receipt of a Charter School Program (CSP) grant for furniture in Shelbyville and Marion County. ESSER III claims are being monitored closely to ensure we will claim all dollars by September 2024. Professional fees are over budget due to the year-end GEI fee calculation and subsequent payment from qualifying Excel Centers in GEI. Operations provided $3,044,000 year-to-date. Investing activities used $2,559,000 net for the purchase of fixed assets less intercompany repayments made by GEI to Anderson. Net increase in cash year-to-date is $485,000.

On a motion by Perry Griffith, duly seconded, the financial statements for June and accounts payable for April, May and June were approved unanimously. Roll call by individual members' present were all in agreement of approval.

Katie Bustamante provided updates on the organization's progress, including opening our 17th Excel Center in Grant County set to open in the late fall, opening the 18th Excel Center in Bartholomew County after Labor Day, and the completion of the first year of the southeast Excel Center with an upcoming ribbon-cutting ceremony. She commented on the kick-off of the beginning of the year programming in July with Sherie Scott from ICSB as the keynote speaker and welcoming over 45 new staff to orientation.

There was discussion around the ongoing research with Lab for Economic Opportunity (LEO), a program that aims to provide evidence for the effectiveness of non-profit programs. There are efforts to increase program uptake by leveraging artificial intelligence and changing the orientation model to bring students in one-by-one post-application. There will be an expansion of the LEO study to more schools, with a focus on randomized control trials.

Lakia Osborne and Corey Emery reported on 2023-24 outcomes, highlighting the following:
Outcomes –

- Highest number of credits earned since before COVID at 38,100
- Highest number of students who earned credits
  - 5,053 *Nearly 500 more than last year
  - Only 6% of students were online-only compared to 21% a few years ago
- Enrollment is 767 more students attending in the first week than this time last year
  - 2,900 eligible for funding
- Ended last year with strong graduation numbers and are on a strong path
  - 808 students graduated
- LEO study moved from pilot stage into full implementation by Oct 1 across all 18 schools

Opportunities –

- The multi-language learner percentage grew from 27% in 22-23 to 36% in 23-24. Graduation gap persists for this population
  - All schools will be receiving SIOP Training throughout this year
  - Working with local legal clinics to assist with student needs
  - Found local assistance for getting students who are immigrants work permits
  - Working towards closer partnerships with the Haitian Association, MERC Indy, and the Immigrant Welcome Center
- With six school leaders starting in the last 12 months, we are anxiously looking forward to implementing the 2nd versions of the Director and next-level leadership series

Focused on the Strategic Plan –

- We are aligning our goals to strategic plan to maximize our efforts continuing to focus on L&D, DEI, Mental Health initiatives, and more.
  - Streamlining onboarding practices in all positions
  - Focus on mental health support and trauma-informed work
  - Operationalizing DEI practices

There was discussion on the growth of the Haitian population in the schools and the potential of offering classes at Shadeland to accommodate this with a highlight of the importance of understanding the complexities of the multi-lingual learners (MLL) across the state.

Lakia reported on the School Safety Specialists, highlighting the following:

- The Indiana General Assembly passed the House Enrolled Act (HEA) 1492 requiring board members to approve school safety specialists.
- Each charter school shall designate at least one (1) individual who is not a school resource officer to serve as the school safety specialist.
- Requirements for the safety specialist include attending mandatory training held by the Department of Education, developing school safety plans each year, and providing updates regarding safety to the board when needed.

    - All schools have complied with these standards since the opening of our schools. No changes were needed to our corporation's practices; however, it is now written as law to adhere to those standards.
- According to the code, all school safety specialists shall be chosen by the school corporation with the approval of the governing board.

Betsy Delgado requested approval from the board of the below listed individuals to be assigned as the School Safety Specialists for the 2024-25 school year.

School	School Safety Specialist
Indy Met	Shannon Brown, Sofia Shine
Anderson	Elysse James, Jack Alvarado
Bloomington	Twyla Carlson
Clarksville	L'Tanya White, Dishonne Slaughter, Rusty McMakin
Decatur	Sylvia Lauer, Meg McElroy
Kokomo	Anthony Siegfred
Lafayette	Mike Myers, Anita Brown, George Williams, Ryan Kingsley
Meadows	Lauren Bangs, LaMeca Perkins
Michigan St.	James Capps
Muncie	Andrea Newman, Josh Yoder
Noblesville	Steve Dillon, Wes Coker
Richmond	Brandy Bridgeforth, Matt Couch
Shadeland	Kristen Kledzik
Shelbyville	Shonda Russell
Southeast	Johnny Manson
University Heights	Jeri Zawadzki, Morgan MacDonald
West	John Westfall

On a motion by Kofi Barko, duly seconded, the list of School Safety Specialists was approved as presented.

Emily Fritsch introduced Jeri Zawadzki, Director of the University Height Excel Center. Jeri then shared the success story of a former student, Lon Song, who graduated with Microsoft Office and dual college credits.

Emily introduced a new Director, Dana Calfee, who will be heading the new Columbus location.

Betsy noted that Patrick McAllister was no longer at the mayor's office and Shaina Cavazos had taken his place.

Gita Baker introduced new Boad Director, Patricia Castaneda.

There were no updates/comments from the Mayor's Office.

The meeting was adjourned.