THE EXCEL CENTER, LLC
BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING
JANUARY 27, 2025

MINUTES

The Board of Directors of The Excel Center, LLC met at 9:00 a.m. January 27, 2025, at Goodwill's headquarters. Present were:

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

Staff/Other:

Brandy Bridgeforth
Katie Bustamante
Josh Cooper
Betsy Delgado
Steve Dillon
Corey Emery
Matt Fortney
Emily Fritsch
Mike Gallo
Jenny Grant
Lynn Greggs
Amanda Grube
Miriam Henry
Sylvia Lauer
Brandon Marks
Kim Myers
Mike Myers
Andrew Newman
Lakia Osborne
Khalilah Palmer
Kari Podany
Shonda Russell
Sarah Thomas
John Westfall
Danielle White
Jeri Zawadzki
Guest: Christy Kessler

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 November 4, 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 an introduction of the now consolidated finance team of Goodwill Education Initiatives and Goodwill of Central & Southern Indiana, reviewing the organizational structure of their department.

Matt Fortney and Josh Cooper gave the Treasurer's report for the period through December 31, 2024. Josh noted the total year-to-date revenue is $19.8 million, $1.3 million ahead of budget and an operating profit of $1.9 million, ahead of budget by $1.8 million. Cash flow at the end of the six months was a positive increase of $640,000, with a remaining cash balance of $8.6 million. Net assets are $19.9 million of $1.9 million from June 30. $4.8 million is driven from investment into our buildings. Fixed assets are up $1.9 million. Net income is $1.9 million versus a budget of $183,000. The Fall count came in just below 5,000 students. Josh wrapped the report up with a high-level review of positive revenue lines, grants, and expenses.

There was discussion on balancing the gap between the schools that are excess in student population and making sure they are being served with those who are not. There was also discussion on renting versus owning buildings.

On a motion by Kofi Barko, duly seconded, the financial statements for December 31, 2024, and the accounts payable vouchers for October, November and December were approved unanimously. Roll call by individual members' present were all in agreement of approval.

Katie Bustamante noted that they have officially moved into the permanent space at the Grant County Excel Center. She commented on the December renewal meeting of the Indiana Charter School Board (ICSB) for the Noblesville site and announced approval of a 15-year renewal of this location. Katie remarked on the upcoming graduations February 19 – 21 and encouraged members to attend. She also commented on GEI's selection to participate in Education Northwest's High School Alternative State Action Collaborative through a partnership with the Annie E. Casey Foundation.

Corey Emery noted that during the Noblesville renewal process, it was recommended we add an academic dashboard to our board meetings for a more robust and consistent way of discussing academics. He then reviewed the new format Part I – Demographics of the report, which includes age ranges, special populations, and persistence per each location.

There was discussion on moving persistence numbers up, coaching series, professional development for staff and trauma-related incidents. There was further discussion on the use of AI in the future, safe schools and communicating legal rights.

Corey then reviewed Part II – Number of Credits Earned for 2023-2025, per term and per location and Part III – Graduate Outcomes for 2024-2025, with goals per term and per location.

Lakia Osborne introduced the proposed 2025-26 school year calendar. She remarked that there are not many changes, but they had reset the formula to make sure it aligns more with the local school systems and the Ivy Tech school calendar.

On a motion by Patricia Castaneda, duly seconded, the Excel Center 2025-26 school year calendar was unanimously approved as presented.

Lakia also introduced the renewal of Shelbyville location. She commented on their last renewal five years ago and that they would be requesting a 15-year renewal for this time. She noted Shelbyville's persistent and consistent results since its inception in 2016. Lakia requested approval from the board to submit a letter with the intent of renewal. She noted the process would officially start in the fall.

On a motion by Perry Griffith, duly seconded, the board unanimously approved submitting a letter with intent to renew for the Excel Center Shelbyville location.

Mirian Henry introduced Sylvia Lauer, Director of the Excel Center Decatur. Sylvia introduced Frantz Saint Paul, a student of the Excel Center who is a lifelong learner from Haiti. He has extensive law enforcement experience and is pursuing a high school diploma. Frantz spoke on his past, overcoming obstacles and his success story while attending the Excel Center.

Miriam introduced Brandy Bridgeforth, Director of the Excel Center Richmond. Brandy spoke to her student James Ellison who was unable to attend in person. She commented on his past struggles and his success story through attending and graduating from the Excel Center.

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

The meeting was adjourned.