



Lucy Witte
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Indiana School for the Deaf
School Board Meeting

March 23, 2016
12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Alumni Building, Media Center

Minutes

Voting Members Present:

Dr. Ray Furner
Kelly DiBenedetto
Rebecca Gromala
Ann Reifel
Lucy Witte

Non Voting Members Absent:

Chad Timmerman

Non-Voting Members Present:

Rep. Ed Clere
Kristan Sievers-Coffer

ISD Staff:

Superintendent Geeslin

- I. **Call to Order:** Chairperson Witte convened the meeting at 12:43 p.m., noting that requirements for a quorum were met. The Board members introduced themselves.
- II. **Approval of minutes:** Motion by Dr. Furner, second by Ms. DiBenedetto, to accept the minutes of the October 28, 2015 meeting as printed. Motion carried.
- III. **Chairperson's Remarks:** Chairperson Witte thanked everyone for attending today's meeting. Chairperson Witte reminded the board and the audience of the importance of conducting the meeting in a bilingual / bicultural format. Only one person will communicate at a time to ensure that all communities are fully informed of today's proceedings.
- IV. **Superintendent's Report:**
 - Introduced the Academic Bowl team and coaches (Chuck Daube and Mary Kovatch). The team won the Regional competition and will compete at the National level on April 23, 2016.

The Indiana School for the Deaf is a bilingual educational environment where students belong, excel and thrive academically and socially.

- ISD, being proactive, had all fountains/sinks tested for lead by the Indiana Department of Health (DOH). DOH found 2 fountains tested positive for lead. The fountains were shut off and have been replaced. Staff and students were offered free lead testing last Tuesday. It will take 3-4 weeks to receive the results.
- Simpson Hall (old girls dormitory) is scheduled to be razed this summer. ISD was approached by Indiana Landmarks to revitalize Simpson Hall. Demolition was suspended for 90 days in order to perform a structural analysis (paid by Indiana Landmarks) to determine if the dorm can be salvaged. Once the analysis is received there will be further discussion. Developers have showed an interest in transforming Simpson Hall into a commercialized building. This is not beneficial to ISD and will be detrimental to a learning environment. Several deaf organizations have been contacted and feel that if the building is to be rehabilitated it should benefit the deaf community as a senior citizen center or deaf community center.
- ISD staff was contacted by an Indiana Chapter of Black Deaf Advocates representative to provide an update on ISD's progress on diversity issues. They are pleased with our progress.
- ISD continues to work with State Personnel Department to increase the teachers' aides and residential mentor salaries.
- Attended ADARA conference and presented the mental health partnership ISD has with Aspire Services.

A. 1. Student Life Division – Matthew Krueger, Student Life Director

- Division report – no questions from the Board
- Still struggling to maintain having quality Residential Mentors. We still have a high staff turnaround. Dean of Girls tendered her resignation. Dean of Boys might retire at the end of this school year.
- ISD athletes continue to perform well.
 - Varsity football had their second best season record.
 - An ISD wrestler was named Wrestler of the Year
 - One of our girl basketball players was named NDIAA player of the year.
- ISD hosted the Deaf Teen America pageant. ISD students won both the male and female category with each receiving \$2,500 scholarship to Gallaudet University.

2. Financial Report – John Skjeveland, Chief Financial Officer

- Financial statement – no questions from the Board
- ISD is on currently budget but may overspend during the quarter due to unexpected expenses.

3. Operations Report – John Skjeveland, Interim Chief Operating Officer

- Division report - no questions from the Board
- Will share Capital projects at the May 2016 meeting
- Need to replace buses due to frequent breakdowns

4. Education Division Report – Kim Kause, Director of Instruction

- Division report - no questions from the Board

- Provided current student enrollment, including ethnicity and exceptionality numbers
- Action Plan update was shared with the Board
- ISD will go through re-accreditation with AdvancEd in March 2017. The team will request meeting with the School Board.
- Chairperson Witte requests data shared at the next meeting regarding students achievements (scores) and ISD diploma requirements.

V. **Old Business:** None

VI. **New Business:**

1. Adoption of NEOLA policies – Superintendent Geeslin
 - Chairperson Witte and Vice Chairperson Reifel reviewed the suggested policy changes and would like the Board to accept the recommended changes. Motion by Dr. Furner, second by Ms. DiBenedetto to accept the recommended changes. Motion passed.

VII. **Public comments:** None

VIII. **Board comments:**

- Chairperson Witte – School Board 2016-2017 meeting schedule needs to be determined. Several alternatives were discussed. Chairperson Witte & Vice-Chairperson Reifel will determine the schedule which will be shared with the Board members at the May meeting.

IX. **Next meeting:** May 24, 2016 at 5:00p.m. in the Alumni Building, Media Center

X. **Adjournment:** Motion by Ms. DiBenedetto to adjourn, seconded by Ms. Gromala. Meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.