

Goodwill LEADS, Inc.
Board Meeting Minutes
January 19, 2025 at 12:00 p.m. Eastern

The Goodwill LEADS, Inc. Board of Directors met in the Jude Leighton room of The Academy at 2721 Kenwood Ave. Those Present were:

LEADS, INC. Board:

Debie Coble, Goodwill President/CEO
Anthony Allison, Board Chair
Andrea Pearman, Vice Chair, virtually
Ann Carol Nash
Audra Peterson
Juliann Jankowski
Marcos Rodriguez, Jr.
Taira Nelson, virtually
Audra Peterson, virtually
Wally McQuade

Missing:

Dana Trowbridge

Staff present:

Dr. Chris Alber, Vice President of Excel Centers
Melissa LaPlace, School Director South Bend
Katie Lowe, School Director Elkhart
Aquinas Lewis, School Director Gary
Dr. Countance Anderson, School Director Hammond, virtually
Jennifer Gammage, Early Childhood Services Director
Kimberly Beck, Central Office & Data Manager
Shire Kuch, CFO
Kimberly Moll, Accountant

Others present:

Margene Zink, Accountant with Kruggel & Lawton
Allison James, Accountant with Kruggel & Lawton

NOTES ON THE MINUTES

Roll call and all votes on measures presented to the board are done via a roll call vote that is reflected in the minutes and performed within the approved measures outlined in the bylaws.

WELCOME

The meeting began at 12:00 p.m. Those present were announced by roll call.

Roll Call		
Board Member	Y	N
Debie Coble	Present	
Anthony Allison	Present	
Andrea Pearman	Present, virtual	
Dana Trowbridge		Not Present
Juliann Jankowski	Present	
Ann Carol Nash	Present	
Wally McQuade	Present	
Marcos Rodriguez	Present	
Taira Nelson	Present	
Audra Peterson	Present	

PUBLIC COMMENT

There being no public present, no comments were made.

SBOA AUDIT

Ms. Zink and Ms. James reviewed the audit results with those present. There were no further questions and both Ms. Zink and Ms. James left after the results were reviewed.

APPROVAL OF THE OCTOBER 22, 2024 AND OCTOBER 29, 2024 MINUTES

There being no questions or corrections, Ms. Nash moved to approve the minutes, and Ms. Jankowski seconded the motion.

Approval of Meeting Minutes		
Board Member	Y	N
Debie Coble	X	
Anthony Allison	X	
Andrea Pearman	X	
Dana Trowbridge		
Juliann Jankowski	X	
Ann Carol Nash	X	
Wally McQuade	X	
Marcos Rodriquez	X	
Taira Nelson	X	
Audra Peterson	X	

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Mr. Kuch reviewed the financials with those present. There being no questions at the time, a motion was made to approve the financials by Ms. Jankowski and seconded by Mr. McQuade.

Approval of Financials		
Board Member	Y	N
Debie Coble	X	
Anthony Allison	X	
Andrea Pearman	X	
Dana Trowbridge		
Juliann Jankowski	X	
Ann Carol Nash	X	
Wally McQuade	X	
Marcos Rodriquez	X	
Taira Nelson	X	
Audra Peterson	X	

Mr. Kuch then reviewed the accounts payable with those present. There were no concerning charges or questions, and a motion was made to approve the accounts payable by Ms. Nash and seconded by Ms. Jankowski.

Approval of Accounts Payable		
Board Member	Y	N
Debie Coble	X	
Anthony Allison	X	
Andrea Pearman	X	
Dana Trowbridge		
Juliann Jankowski	X	
Ann Carol Nash	X	
Wally McQuade	X	

Marcos Rodriguez	X	
Taira Nelson	X	
Audra Peterson	X	

The adjusted budgets were reviewed and discussed; however it was determined during the meeting that as the adjustment due to the approved Quality Counts II funding did not change any school's budget more than the 10% adjustment during the school year, there was not actually a need for new budgets. There was no vote on these budgets, and the previously approved budgets still stand.

LEGISLATION UPDATE

Ms. Coble updated those present on the status of the lobbying with state officials over an adjustment to the per student funding given after state ADM reporting periods. The Excel Centers were asking for an increase of 1,000\$ per student.

The most recent update was that the state was considering a 5% decrease in all budgets across the departments. This was not a final number, but Ms. Coble wished for those present to be aware of the status of the discussion. There was hope that some increase would still be the outcome.

MICHIGAN CITY PROJECT

Ms. Coble informed those present of current Goodwill efforts on CTE training in Michigan City, and how it was opening the doors to further discussions about a possibility of exploring possibilities for an Excel Center or Academy in the Michigan City area. No firm plans were in place at the time of the discussion.

SUPERINTENDENTS REPORT

Dr. Alber first congratulated the Excel Center South Bend team, and particularly Ms. LaPlace on successfully completing the requirements for the charter renewal of the Excel Center South Bend. The renewal was approved for the maximum 15-year extension.

He informed those present of his plans to join Ms. Coble or Mr. Canneth Lee in Washington D.C. to represent the Michiana Excel Center during Advocacy Day to engage with lawmakers and share the impactful work that the Excel Centers do.

Dr. Alber then reviewed the current count numbers with those present in preparation for the February 1st ADM count. The Excel Centers currently sat at 632 students, but had plans to ensure they met or surpassed 870 by February. Plans including offering bridge classes in the morning and afternoon, encouraging PLATO enrollment as a recruitment tool, and brainstorming further best practices for enrollment.

Dr. Alber reviewed the current most recent federal school grades with those present. The Excel Centers Gary, South Bend, and Hammond received A grades, while the Excel Center Elkhart received a B.

He then informed those present of the status of the Elkhart Excel Center relocation. The new Elkhart campus was fully open and operational, the staff moved location in December of 2024. He encouraged those present to visit the new site, and invited them to the ribbon cutting ceremony.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 1:36 p.m.

Kimberly Beck
Central Office & Data Manager

