

**IDEA Public Schools, Greater Cincinnati, Inc.**

**Board of Directors Meeting**

**Thursday, July 28, 2022**

**Board Members Present:** Jorge Perez, Dwight Young, Marquicia Jones-Woods, Deon Mack, Cynthia Geer

**Board Members Absent:** none

**Staff Present:** Dr. Jeff Cottrill, Jessica Hess, Matt Kyle, Phil Schneider, Jennifer White, Leanne Hernandez, Jazmine Leon-Wing, and Andrew Clarence

**Legal Staff & Consultants Present:** none

**Audience Present:** Stephanie Attaya of Marcum LLP, Theda Sampson of Fordham Foundation

**Meeting is called to order at 2:07 pm EST.**

**Welcome, Call to Order and Establish Quorum**

Dwight Young welcomed all attendees to the meeting and confirmed quorum.

**Summary of Motions and Approvals**

1. Approval of revised Compulsory Attendance Policy.

Motion by: Dwight Young

Seconded by: Jorge Perez

All in favor: Vote passes unanimously

2. Approval of 2022-23 IDEA Greater Cincinnati, Inc. Student Handbook

Motion by: Jorge Perez

Seconded by: Dwight Young

All in favor: Vote passes unanimously

3. Approval of Banking Signature Authority Resolution:

- Curriculum materials purchasing
- AR Zone
- Textbooks
- Technology
- CAPEX budget for network/internet
- Furniture

Motion by: Jorge Perez

Seconded by: Dwight Young

All in favor: Vote passes unanimously

4. Ratification of designation of Stephanie Attaya of Marcum LLP as Treasurer:

Motion by: Dwight Young

Seconded: Jorge Perez

All in favor: Vote passes unanimously

5. Approval of Transportation Designation Resolution:

Motion by: Jorge Perez

Seconded by: Dwight Young

All in favor: Vote passes unanimously

**Executive Report**

Matt Kyle, Executive Director, gave his Executive Report for IDEA Cincinnati. Matt Kyle stated that IDEA Cincinnati was close to reaching the Accelerate Great Schools enrollment goal for April. He went on to break down the numbers for applications received for each grade for each campus and how many students have committed to accepting at seat at an IDEA Cincinnati campus. Matt Kyle also noted that the numbers for accepted applicants was lower than expected due to families being unfamiliar with the process, the need for more Spanish speakers on staff, and more work needed to build stronger school advocate resources in the Valley View area. Jorge Perez commented that other local charters schools usually have great activity around their lotteries and IDEA would need to build up a good reputation to build excitement for their own. Matt Kyle moved on to talk about the policy change needed concerning charging out of state students and Phil Schneider added that a statement needed to be outlined and language made clear. Matt Kyle told the board about the current number of staff at IDEA Cincinnati and announced the recent hire of the Director of Special Programs. He announced that a Super Interview Day would be held in conjunction with the Thurgood Marshall fund to interview recent teacher graduates. Dwight Young asked if Matt Kyle connected with anyone at Hillsdale about hiring teachers which Matt said he hadn't yet but would. Matt Kyle said that construction was on track for both campuses, noting that building structures were beginning to go up at Price Hill and gutting the buildings continued at Valley View. He discussed the potential future campus sites that are being looked; Phippen Road, Winton Road, and the Drake Hotel in the Arlington Heights/Reading area. He asked the board about changing the IDEA Cincinnati launch schedule, which was originally two sites a year, but he would like it amended to every other year. Matt Kyle said the challenges of open areas of land, the political entanglements of acquiring a property and the challenges of the supply chain have made it difficult

to stick to the original launch schedule. Jorge Perez asked if there were any consideration for smaller footprint and in partnership with other local organizations. Matt Kyle said that he considered it and has discussed with IDEA Headquarters that smaller acres are going to be needed as space is much more limited in Ohio than Texas. Dwight Young said that they should be reaching out to the Archdiocese of Cincinnati because they are selling a lot of land. Phil Schneider answered that he had a conversation with the facilities manager and the land is still being decided by the local parish and it's a couple years away. Matt Kyle ended his report, asking the board members to consider the new launching plan that allows time for thinking creatively about where to serve students.

### **Financial Report**

Travis Markey reviewed the Financial Report with the board. He told the board that expenses for IDEA Cincinnati would be higher in April as more staff has been hired but the organization was still on track with their budget. Jorge Perez asked about adding resources to increase compensation for hiring teachers as Matt Kyle had noted teacher hiring is challenging. Travis Markey answered that discussions were underway to build in additional resources for the teachers in next year's budget. Matt Kyle added that he has stressed the need to be competitive in the Ohio job market. Travis Markey ended his report with upcoming payments that are expected to be added to the budget from Accelerate Great Schools.

### **Advancement Report**

Phil Schneider went on to give his Advancement Report. He spoke of a plan to have a donors pledge around certain items like school lunch and work continuing on policy compliance with the State of Ohio. Phil Schneider announced the two additional board members, Vincent Terry and Deion Mack, which were being voted on for board membership. He outlined what would be the next steps after taking votes and notifying the potential board members of the vote. He ended by asking the board if they could attend a luncheon with the Cincinnati Founding Teacher Fellows on March 24<sup>th</sup> and announcing the next board meeting would be on June 9<sup>th</sup> and in person.

### **Budget Item Discussion and Approval**

Phil Schneider introduced Andrew Clarence, Budget Director, who talked about budget items and approval. Andrew Clarence introduced 5 amendments concerning expenditures related to furniture and textbooks for the campuses that need to be ordered earlier than planned due to supply chain issues. He went through each item and explained what they are needed for. Matthew Sawyer spoke about some items that will be unique to Cincinnati and the reasoning for acquiring them. Jorge Perez asked If there was a federal cap for changing policies. Stephanie Teaford said there isn't one for the board and Jorge clarified that he was asking if staff wanted to change policies. Andrew Clarence said that staff doesn't have the power to change policies without the board's approval. Stephanie Teaford added because we are spending state funds, approvals need to go through the board.

**Thomas Fordham Institute Contract Presentation**

Phil Schneider introduced Dan Fishman to the board members. Daniel Fishman spoke about the Fordham contract that is a partnership that lays out the responsibilities for Fordham and our financial obligations. He explained Fordham was selected as sponsor because of the high standards and a positive prior experience. Jorge Perez asked what the estimated value is of the 5% of the enrolled students funding to Fordham. Stephanie Teaford answered that the value is a lot lower than what is usually charged and it's a fair offer. Dan Fishman said if the board approves, the final signatories will take place in May.

**Ohio Treasurer Process and Finalist Presentation**

Dan Fishman explained that the board is being asked to approve a candidate to serve as Treasurer. He explained approving a Treasurer complies with state statutes regarding the position on a board. Additionally, the Treasurer will ensure compliance to federal and local laws. The contract for the Treasurer would be a one-year contract to serve the board and they will work with IPS and report to the board. He said that 3 applicants were reserved and felt that Massa Financial Solutions was the strongest applicant.

**Meeting Adjournment**

The board adjourned the meeting at 3:43 pm ET.

**Certification**

I certify that the foregoing are the true and correct minutes of the meeting of the Board of Directors of IDEA Greater Cincinnati, Inc. held on July 28, 2022.

DocuSigned by:  
*Marquicia Jones-Woods*  
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Marquicia Jones-Woods, IDEA Greater Cincinnati, Inc. Board Secretary