

Intergenerational Schools Board of Directors Special Meeting

Held Jointly with TIS, LIS & NWIS

Thursday, January 28, 2021

Zoom



THE
Intergenerational
SCHOOLS

A COMMUNITY OF LIFELONG LEARNERS

Board Attendance:	TIS	NWIS	LIS
Sarah Trimble	Present	Present	Present
Erika Adlakha	Present	Present	Present
Lynn Carpenter	Present	Present	Present
Tiffany Brazelton	Present	Present	Present
Stacy Miller	Present	Present	Present
Bob Nicolay	Present	Present	Present
Mark Olson	Present	Present	Present
Mark Charvat		Absent	
Jonathan Holody			Present
Lee Trotter	Present		
Molly Wimbiscus		Present	
	8/8	8/9	8/8

Staff:	Organization
Brooke King	Executive Director, IGS
Molly Toussant	Director of Education, IGS
Sarah Alonso	Director of Network Operations, IGS
Amy Cascio	Project Manager, IGS
Rachel Hanni	Director of Operations, LIS
Matt Cox	Director of Operations, TIS
Andres Perez-Charneco	Director of Operations, NWIS
Silvia Kruger	Principal, TIS
April Maimone	Principal, NWIS
Shawn Hallowell	Principal, LIS
Somadina John	Assistant Principal, TIS
Kristin Miracle	Assistant Principal, LIS
Nancy Szilagyi	Assistant Principal, NWIS
Guests:	Organization
Dr. Jeff Jaroscak	ESCLEW, TIS Sponsor
Matt Rado	CMSD, NWIS & LIS Sponsor
Nichole Collins	Intergenerational Cleveland
Dr. Maier	Metro Health Medical Center

Meeting was officially called to order at 5:05pm by Sarah Trimble, Board Chair.

Public Comment

Trimble

Ms. Trimble acknowledged the letters the board received from the teachers and staff. She asked those teachers that submitted a letter to the board to speak briefly if they wanted to summarize their thoughts. Ms. Funk, a Primary Teacher at TIS-East explained that her letter was signed and sent to the Board members on behalf of 30 teachers, both from TIS-East and LIS. Her letter expressed concern for teaching both in person and online at the same time, and worries that it will provide an inequitable learning environment for the students in person and at home. She expressed concern that special education students will not be able to receive their legal service time requirements. Mr. Foerst, an Applying Teacher at TIS-East spoke focusing on delaying return to the building until all staff wanting to receive the vaccine had received both shots to be fully vaccinated. Mr. Casey, a Developing Teacher at Lakeshore highlighted the changing of safety protocols in the classroom and the uncertainty of a vaccination date for staff.

Ms. Trimble asked Ms. King if she would provide information on the vaccine rollout and accessibility to the teachers and staff. Ms. King needed to certify to the state that the schools will be teaching in-person by March 1, 2021 in order for staff to be part of the Phase 1B vaccine roll out. She has been receiving conflicting information regarding the exact implementation in Cleveland and for our schools specifically, so it has taken some time to get correct information to share. Ms. King explained that she has received a few surveys from the County, Cleveland Department of Public Health, and CMSD, where she needed to indicate staff interest in receiving the vaccine. She said she will communicate any information as she received it.

Ms. Toussant addressed the aforementioned issue of special education at TIS-East. She stated that there were growing numbers of students identified for special education at TIS before COVID and the school had budgeted and has advertised for an additional intervention Specialist to support these students and maintain compliant caseload numbers. TIS-East is in the process of sourcing this service by the hour through our contracted vendor, Total Education Solutions, until a staff member can be hired. There are also meeting set up with Cleveland Hearing and Speech and TES to plan for providing services in a safe environment (scheduling one student at a time, disinfecting between seeing students, etc.). This is something that our service providers and administrators are planning for at all three schools.

Ms. Trimble asked Dr. Maier, the schools' MetroHealth Medical Advisor to explain the current classroom spacing recommendations, mentioned in the teacher statements. Dr. Maier stated that this is a big topic in all schools, and that everyone needs to understand that spacing requirements is one part of a multi-layered safety protocol. Schools will not only be spacing, but enforcing mask-wearing, handwashing, limiting transitions, deep cleaning, investing in air quality improvement, etc. All of these together will reduce the risk of COVID transmission in the school setting. She explained that the gold standard of 6 feet set forth by the CDC was initially issued for the public at large and assumed little or no masking. The American Academy of Pediatrics has recommended a minimum of 3 feet in schools. Six feet is ideal and will reduce the need to quarantine in the event of a positive case in the school, but she believes classrooms can be safe at less than six feet with all other protocols strictly enforced, and that the risk of denying some students in person school can outweigh the risks of spacing at 5 feet or 4 feet vs. 6 feet.

Ms. Trimble asked Dr. Maier if she could elaborate on why the Cuyahoga County Board of Health will not be extending its Stay at Home Advisory set to expire on January 31, 2021. Dr. Maier explained that recent data taken from a few studies across the country, including the one done by Duke University, show that there is extremely low transmission of the virus in schools when safety measures are in place and being followed.

Ms. Trimble asked Ms. Toussant to speak about the concern raised about simultaneous teaching of in-person and online students resulting in an inequitable education for these groups of students. Ms. Toussant stated that every time families have been surveyed, more than half have a need for in person school, and these numbers make it impossible to completely split classes into remote or in person, resulting in our small classes having BOTH. For some students at home learning is just not nearly as effective as if they were in the school building, with the interaction and structure of being present. It is extremely difficult to identify student needs while teaching them online. Since this method of teaching is new for the IGs it is important that she has teacher participation when it comes to developing what this type of teaching will look like.

Ms. King presented on the schools' reopening proposal (Power Point). This proposal takes into account all of the new information the schools have received since the last special board meeting. The new proposal will have all students who selected in person to start on Monday, February 22nd.

There was discussion between board members about the current inequities in the education being provided. Ms. Toussant clarified that currently, both of these methods are inequitable and that it is the educators job to work collaboratively to mitigate this as much as possible.

Mr. Holody asked for clarification on school closing due to the virus. Ms. King explained that the only closures that would occur would be due to either a shortage in staffing due to illness, or a quarantine situation that would require more than just a classroom to stay home (instructed by the Board of Health). This plan would still follow community trends and the school would likely close if community spread was so high that the County was approaching Purple.

Ms. Miller shared her experiences working at a neighboring school that recently opened back up. They are also teaching in person and online simultaneously. She stated the teachers and staff are happy to be back and overall it has been a positive experience.

Motion to Approve Re-Opening Plan and Adjusted Protocols as presented

- **Quarantine protocols, transitions, sharing of disinfected educational materials**

Motion: Bob Nicolay; Seconded by: Mark Olson

Motion passes unanimously

Mr. Olson thanked all of the teachers for their service. Mr. Olson then reviewed the individual air cleaner units that they are researching to be placed in each of the classrooms, and how these will improve the air quality and air turnover in the rooms.

Motion to approve Unbudgeted Facilities Purchase Request for Air Quality Improvements, not to exceed \$40,000 at each school. COVID funding or General Funds to be used.

Motion: Mark Olson; Seconded by: Stacy Miller

Motion passes unanimously

Ms. King explained that each school will be hiring a temporary, full time, building substitute to help support classrooms at a time when finding daily substitutes is very challenging.

Motion for Unbudgeted Personnel Actions (Building Substitutes)

Motion: Stacy Miller; Seconded by: Tiffany Brazelton

Motion passes unanimously

Adjourn

Trimble

Meeting adjourned at 6:31pm

Next Regular Board Meeting Scheduled
Wednesday February 24, 2021
Zoom Meeting

Minutes prepared by Sarah Alonso, Director of Network Operations:

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Sarah Alonso

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Signed by Lynn Carpenter, Vice Chair :

DocuSigned by:

Lynn Carpenter

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