



MEETING MINUTES OF  
THE GOVERNING BOARD OF  
WEST40 INTERMEDIATE SERVICE CENTER #2

The West40 ISC #2 Governing Board Meeting was held on Friday, May 19, at 8:00 a.m., at 4413 W. Roosevelt Rd Suite 104, Hillside, IL 60162. President, Dr. Jennifer Kelsall called the meeting into order at 8:02 a.m.

Board President, Dr. Kelsall declared a quorum of West 40 ISC #2 Governing Board was present at 8:06 a.m.

I. **Roll Call:**

**Present:** Dr. Jennifer Kelsall, Dr. Ed Condon, Dr. Kristin Kopta, Mr. Stuart Brown, Dr. Leah Gautier, Ms. Kylie Lindquist, and Ms. Eileen Piper-Simpson.

**Not Present:** Dr. Stanley Fields, and Ms. Kathleen Tomei

**Also present:**

Executive Director, Dr. Mark Klaisner, Assistant Executive Director, Dr. Jayme Tighe, Chief School Business Official, Ms. Christi Tyler, Sr. Director of Executive Support, Dr. Mike Popp, Executive Administrative Assistant, Ms. Tammy Marrero, Mr. Phil Abraham, Ms. Hiedi Bellm, Mr. Steve Bogren, Mr. Chris Coffey, Mr. Scott Fuigi, Mr. Joe Gage, Ms. Renee Makris and President of Village of Westchester Mr. Greg Hribal and Trustee Gia Maria Benline.

II. **Approval of March 17, 2023 Meeting Minutes, March 17, 2023, Closed Session Meeting Minutes, and April 17, 2023, Special Meeting Minutes**

The motion was made by Ms. Eileen Piper-Simpson and seconded by Dr. Kristin Kopta, the motion carried unanimously.

### III. **Public Comment:**

President Kelsall welcomed visitors and invited comments from the audience.

Dr. Klaisner introduced the Superintendent of Cicero School District 99, Dr. Aldo Calderin to the Board for approval to fill one (of two) board member vacancies.

Dr. Calderin shared his professional background working in different school districts and is looking forward to working with the Board to help West40 meet its mission.

Dr. Kelsall, moved to get Dr. Calderin approved. The motion was made by Ms. Kylie Lindquist and seconded by Dr. Condon; the motion was carried without dissent. Dr. Aldo was welcomed by the Board and asked to sit at the table.

Village of Westchester, President Greg Hribal, introduced himself and reported the Village is optimistic about the work West40 will be doing at St. Joe's. Mr. Hribal stated he was there to learn more about what is coming forth to the town and is looking forward to working cooperatively with the organization. He looks to impress upon the townspeople that what West40 brings will in fact be a compliment to the village as a whole.

### IV. **Presentations:**

**Financial Report:** Chief School Business Official, Ms. Christi Tyler highlighted the fund balance had dropped due to payments made for West40 @ Lexington. Ms. Tyler reported that the debt certificate was closed on May 4th, on time for the closing of St. Joe's property on May 5, 2023. That money will provide the dollars necessary to pay the remaining Lexington renovations and front dollars for the St. Joe's renovations as well, much like a reimbursement model. Ms. Tyler noted that the 3-year loan can be paid off anytime after 15 days of issuance (effective May 20th); interest will be recalculated as payments are made.

Dr. Kelsall turned the meeting over to Dr. Klaisner.

**Executive Director Report:**

Dr. Klaisner celebrated the complete purchase of the St. Joe property in Westchester, and that West40 now owns a new cargo van, which has been branded with the organization's logo.

Dr. Klaisner reported that he and Dr. Tighe met with leaders from the Village of Westchester, including President Mr. Hribal and Trustee, Ms. Gia Maria Benline, to discuss the work West40 does and plan a brief overview of the plan for West40 at St. Joe's.

Dr. Klaisner also reported that joining the Comprehensive Educational Services (CES) department are two statewide Behavior Threat Assessment experts that will work alongside the school districts on Behavior Threat Assessment plans. The villages of Maywood and Melrose Park have requested these safety specialists work with the villages to help develop plans around safety and threat assessments in those towns.

Illinois State Superintendent, Dr. Sanders has nominated Dr. Klainer to a national commission to work with Secretary Cardon. Region 9 comprehensive centers will redesign the grant, where the regions are putting together a nationwide committee. Just recently, Region 9 most recent event, interviewed students from the West40 Regional Safe School who went there to talk about their experience transitioning from a safe school setting to their home school; the event was featured nationally. Dr. Klaisner has also been appointed the University of Illinois Cancer Center Educational Lead on the Cancer Center Board, thus demonstrating West40's impact is expanding throughout the state and beyond.

Dr. Klaisner turned the meeting over to Ms. Athi Toufexis, from Studio GC, who presented draft floor plans with overall site concepts and diagrams for the property.

**Comments from the Board:**

Dr. Kelsall asked for clarification on whether West40 plans to keep the existing school structure and only modernize the interior; Dr. Klaisner replied the property has enough space (64 classrooms) for programming, while it needs major changes, additions will not be necessary at this time. During the first week of June, West40 plans to hold Town Hall meetings at the property,

where the community can come to be part of Q&A sessions around the vision of West40 for the property.

Dr. Calderin, recommended sensory material be considered for outdoor educational spaces.

**V. Adjourned:**

Member Dr. Ed Condon moved and it was seconded by Dr. Kirstin Kopta; the motion carried unanimously, be it resolved that West40 ISC# 2 Governing Board hereby adjourned at 8:47 a.m.