



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

The West40 ISC #2 Governing Board Meeting was held on Friday, September 16, 2022 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 8:00 a.m.

Board President, Dr. Kelsall declared a quorum of West 40 ISC #2 Governing Board was present at 8:00 a.m.

I. **Roll Call:**

**Present:** Dr. Jennifer Kelsall, Dr. Ed Condon, Mr. Stuart Brown, Dr. Stanley Fields, Dr. Leah Gauthier, Dr. Kirstin Kopta, Ms. Eileen Piper-Simpson, Dr. Tim Truesdale

**Not Present:** Ms. Kylie Lindquist, Mr. Darryl Richardson, Ms. Kathleen Tomei

**Also present:** Executive Director, Dr. Mark Klaisner, Assistant Executive Director, Dr. Mike Popp, Assistant Executive Director, Ms. Jaime Tighe, Chief School Business Official, Ms. Christi Tyler, Executive Administrative Assistant, Ms. Tammy Marrero and Nicole Piernunzi, Director of Specialized Support Services

II. **Approval of August 19, 2022 Minutes:**

It was moved by Ms. Eileen Piper-Simpson and seconded by Dr. Ed Condon that the West40 ISC#2 Governing Board approved the agenda as presented. On call of the roll, the vote was as follows:

**Ayes:** Dr. Jennifer Kelsall, Dr. Ed Condon, Dr. Stanley Fields, Dr. Leah Gauthier, Dr. Kirstin Kopta, Ms. Eileen Piper-Simpson and Dr. Tim Truesdale

**Nays:** None

- The motion carried without dissent.

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

President Kelsall welcomed visitors and invited comments from the audience. No one chose to speak.

President Kelsall turned the meeting over to Dr. Klaisner.

### IV. **Presentations:**

**Financial Report:** Chief School Business Official, Ms. Christi Tyler reported on increased revenue due to incoming Evidence Based Funding (EBF) dollars. Report also includes reason for increased expenses in August are due to prepaid staff in June and ongoing Lexington projects. Ms. Tyler confirmed Lexington related expenses are covered by EBF and program related funding and that West40 continues to keep the Cook County standard of three-months reserve.

**Specialized Support Services:** Nicole Piernunzi, Director of Specialized Support Services (SSS) reported on the expansion of the department highlighting its 3 pillars as Special Education, Social Emotional Learning (SEL) Hub (7 in total) Coaches (2) across the state (an initiative unique to West40), and School Safety and Threat Assessment, all of which provide classroom and school districts support with professional learning and assessments, behavior threat plans, IEP compliance and writing measurable ecology. The program provides English Learners (EL) and Autism Support Behavior support and is currently working with Safety Health Illinois to assist school districts with the implementation of the mental health tool kit into their SEL curriculum.

The Philip Rock Center also receives support from the program with technology and transition services. Ms. Piernunzi, assists North Cook ISC with program audits and is actively conducting a lab pre-school feasibility study. The team is part of the Leaders Director Network where new special education teachers can learn new skills and obtain professional development credits.

Ms. Piernunzi reported West40 has partnered with University of Springfield to become a sim-lab (north of I80) to facilitate training on "The Night Before"; a simulation experience that helps understand what may have happened to a student the night before showing up to class. Likewise, a

partnership with Community Partnership has been established to help implement and embed SEL into curriculum.

The newest division of SSS is School Safety and SEL implemented to plan trauma informed safer schools and teach on digital threat assessments.

The SSS Department is currently providing services in 14 West40 school districts and 7 North Cook school districts. They are also actively involved with Illinois Terrorist Task Force, Department of Homeland Security, Attorney General Office, Illinois School Campus Safety and Safer Schools Together. At the request of Dr. Condon, Ms. Piernanuzi reported funding was provided by IL AWARE, Community Partnership grants, SEL Hub Coachers, contracts through school districts and grants.

**Executive Director Report:** - Dr. Mark Klaisner reported West40 is intimately involved with Dr. Brian Gannon, Superintendent of SD 105 and ISBE team in providing for the unexpected arrival of migrants to the area. Dr. Klaisner also reported on the favorable response from DCFS and JJC to continue conversation on improvement efforts.

Dr. Klaisner celebrates the increase of program staff and provides the West40 organizational chart which highlights gears in movement beginning with the Belief, Mission and Vision (BMV). BMV, he described are drivers of the Cabinet (24 in total). Cabinet serves the Main Office and leaders and they integrate the West40 Strategic Plan (SP) at every Cabinet meeting. Leaders, are drivers of goals and activities from the SP and they support and evaluate Student Advocates and teachers. Dr. Klaisner emphasized that BMV is the driving force of West40.

Dr. Klaisner shared about the Regional Safe School's open house, where student led tours were organized and a panel by students addressed questions from over 35 visitors, including area superintendents. He concluded distributing the West40 branding books that helps people understand what West40 does and encourages all to live outside the box.

Dr. Tim Truesdale commended Dr. Klaisner on the organizational growth and outstanding work but cautioned him on spreading too thin; Dr. Kelsall shared the same sentiments.

**Comments from Board:**

Board president, Dr. Kelsall reminded board members of bylaws clauses, specifically addressing absenteeism; 3 consecutive absences are equal to resignation and a reminder that their role is to provide support and guidance and not to make financial decisions. Dr. Kelsall requested Ms. Marrero forward the bylaws to Board again.

Dr. Kelsall, also reminded the Board to review and reply with an evaluation of Dr. Klaisner request's to extend his contract.

Dr. Klaisner stressed his interest to continue to serve in his capacity does not include a new ask per se. He will reach out to Kriha & Sarah Boucek, representatives of the Board to formalize the process.

**V. Adjourned:**

Member Dr. Tim Truesdale moved, Seconded by Dr. Ed. Condon. Be it resolved the West40 ISC# 2 Governing Board hereby adjourns at 9:17 a.m.