



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

The West40 ISC #2 Governing Board Meeting was held on Friday, January 19, 2024, at 8:00 a.m., at 415 Lexington Street, Maywood, IL 60153. President, Dr. Jennifer Kelsall called the meeting into order at 8:04 a.m.

Board President, Dr. Kelsall declared a quorum of West 40 ISC #2 Governing Board meeting at 8:10 a.m. after Roll Call due to inclement weather delays.

**I. Roll Call:**

Present: Dr. Jennifer Kelsall, Dr. Kristin Kopta, Dr. Aldo Calderin, Ms. Elieen Piper-Simpson, and Ms. Kathleen Tomei.

**Arrived after Roll Call:**

Mr. Stuart Brown, Dr. Leah Gauthier, and Ms. Dana Wesolowski .

**Not Present:** Dr. Ed Condon, Ms. Kyle Linquist, and Ms. Mary-Rita Moore

**Also present:** Dr. Mark Klaisner, Dr. Jayme Tighe , Ms. Christi Tyler, Mr. Joe Gage, Ms. Renee Makris, Ms. Lezlie Fuhr and Ms. Lefvia T. Marrero.

**II. Approval of December 8, 2023 Minutes:** It was moved by Ms. Kathleen Tomei and seconded by Dr. Aldo Calderin that the West40 ISC#2 Governing Board approves the minutes as presented. On call of the roll, the vote was as follows:

**Ayes:** Dr. Jennifer Kelsall, Dr. Kristin Kopta, Mr. Stuart Brown, Dr. Aldo Calderin, Dr. Leah Gauthier, Ms. Elieen Piper-Simpson, Ms. Kathleen Tomei, and Ms. Dana Wesolowski

**Nays:** None                                      The motion carried without dissent.

**III. Presentations:**

### **Financial Report - Ms. Crisiti Tyler**

Ms. Tyler reported that the EANS I and EANS Reallocation Grant (RG) work done on behalf of the Illinois School Board of Education (ISBE) came to an end on Monday Jan 15, 2024 ; EANS II work will continue through September 30, 2024.

The capital expenditure at Lexington dropped significantly in December and is moving towards a more normal track of expenditures going forward.

### **Comments:**

Dr. Klaisner extended his heartfelt gratitude for Ms. Tyler's continuous dedication and deep commitment to the financial interest of the organization.

### **Assistant Executive Director Report - Dr. Jayme Tighe**

Dr. Tighe announced that nominations for the upcoming Student Citizen Of The Year (SCOTY) Awards, will come to an end on February 2, 2024; thus far over 130 students have been nominated. The event is scheduled to be held at W. Leyden High School on March 20, 2024; additional work is being done around parking limits.

Dr. Tighe reported on the capacity expansion of the Pearson VUE Testing Center at Lexington which now includes extended hours, additional testing (including the WorkKeys exam), and increased seating capacity, all of which align with the West40 Strategic Plan goals for Pearson VUE Center.

Lastly, Dr. Tighe provided an update on the West40 school districts' [Annual Summative Designations of Illinois School Report Cards](#), highlighting West40 school districts falling under the Exemplary and Commendable designations; she was pleased to report that there are no schools under the Intensive accountability indicator.

Below are the West40 school districts' summative designations ratings:

**Exemplary** - 15 schools

**Commendable** - 96 schools

**Targeted** - 15 schools (9 districts)

**Comprehensive** - schools 7 (3 districts)

**Intensive** - 0

The West40 Professional Learning (PL) Team is working in 7 of the 9 districts that have a designation of targeted or comprehensive (e.g., Continuous improvement, teacher evaluation, co-teaching, SEL).

For more information, please contact Dr. Jayme Tighe at [jighe@west40.org](mailto:jighe@west40.org).

### **Student Programs Report - Senior Directors, Mr. Joe Gage and Ms. Renee Makris**

The student programs currently serve 2468 students in 51% of the West40 school districts, including 8 high schools, 9 middle schools, and 18 elementary schools; 79% of the students being served are served through an ALOP program which is the most proactive, least restrictive type of continuum support.

#### **Safe School**

Current student enrollment is 42 students from 17 schools served; four have transitioned back to their home school, including one who graduated in December and another in May.

The program has 16 staff members including teachers, social workers, and restorative interventionists all of which help establish a sense of safety and belonging for all incoming students.

#### **Remote High Needs ALOP (HNALOP)**

The current student enrollment is 57 from 18 school districts served; three students referred to the program due to credit deficiency are now early graduates. School districts are looking at the HNALOP program as a better alternative to homebound services, the approach has also helped fill teacher shortages.

West40 has partnered with North and South Cook ISCs to implement ALOP programs in their regional area.

#### **Truancy:**

Current student enrollment is 265 students in the 17 schools, with approximately 140 of those students, successfully returning to their home schools and 9 successfully transitioning into an ALOP.

#### **Senior's Plus ALOP**

The current student enrollment is 162 served in 3 school districts (Morton, Leyden, and Proviso). Mr. Gage and Ms. Makris celebrated that 23 students graduated and that another 8 students completed the 10-week Manufacture Connect program and passed their National Institute of Metalworkers Skills (NIMS) certification. They will be receiving continued job placement assistance this semester until successful placement.

In the Leyden area, students will be offered a new location at Triton Community College to complete their high school endeavors.

In the Proviso area, 16 students will soon complete graduation requirements.

The FY 24 goal is to serve over 3000 students, and refine, implement, and sustain an effective truancy program that can serve the entire West 40 region.

Mr. Gage reported there will be a development of rubrics that are job specific, utilization of a new evaluation software, and training on inter-rater reliability will be provided to all ALOP staff.

The ALOP has 106 staff members, primary student advocates, site coordinators, area directors, and teachers currently serving 25 school districts.

Mr. Gage also highlighted the average cost of a student advocate for schools partnering with West40 comes as a form of reduction of tier dollars the school would receive through Evidence-Based Funding.

Family engagement nights and resources (including employment assistance provided to parents), after-school programs, and professional learning continue to be areas of focus.

For additional information, Mr. Gage can be reached at [jgage@west40.org](mailto:jgage@west40.org) and Ms. Makris at [rmakris@west40.org](mailto:rmakris@west40.org).

#### **Comments from the Board:**

Ms. Elieen Piper-Simpson celebrated that students are now receiving high school diplomas from their home school and is pleased with how students are being transitioned back to their home school.

Mr. Stuart Brown recognized the pivotal role Mr. Gage and Ms. Makris play in creating a nurturing and supportive educational environment for students, their families, and the staff.

#### **Executive Director Report: Dr. Mark Klaisner**

Dr. Klaisner reported that West40 is being considered for school improvement operations at Chicago Public Schools.

Together with Dr. Tighe, Dr. Klaisner plans to participate in conversations regarding teacher certification and content testing barriers that continue to severely affect the teacher shortage, and eliminate potential candidates. From an equity perspective, Dr. Klaisner said “The White candidates score under 50% the first time around, the Latino candidates score in the low 30% and the Black candidates score slightly under 20%”. To help address this issue, the Comms

Department prepared a video that tells the story of local graduates who have found it difficult to pass a content test(s), thus preventing them from fulfilling student teaching requirements and filling vacant positions.

### **St. Joe's**

Dr. Klaisner recapped the Village of Westchester, requiring a planning and zoning process which is currently pending review and approval from the Village of Westchester Zoning Board and advisory committee.

Director of Youth in Care, Ms. Lezlie Fuhr continues conversations with Lurie's Hospital around programming for youth in care.

### **Heart 2 Heart Store**

Ms. Pam Vujovich continues to build new partnership with local [grocery] stores in efforts to help meet the increased needs of families weekly.

### **Legislation:**

Changes for RSSP funding are forthcoming to boost the model of the current funding formula and increase in support across the State.

### **ALOP**

The goal of the ALOP is to make the kindergarten to 4th grade level a top priority. Jill Reedy, Regional Superintendent in Decatur, legislated for a waiver; the approach is to apply for a waiver and also change the statute to allow ALOPs in that grade level, hopefully by next August with one or both options.

Dr. Tighe, Mr. Gage and Ms. Makris, are having conversations with the American Institute of Research around their middle school data program that focuses on collecting data, monitoring professional development and implementation, and is designed around the need for belonging for students to be successful. Their grant allows for free professional learning, data systems, and West40 support. To have a research-based to look at the power of "belonging" as an aspect of student success is an initiative West40 is looking to learn more about.

### **Comments from the Board:**

Board President Dr. Kelsall expressed profound appreciation to the staff for their unwavering commitment and outstanding efforts in providing exemplary student services.

### **IV. Public Comment:**

No one chose to speak.

**V. Adjourned:** Member Ms. Elieen Piper-Simpson moved, seconded by Dr. Aldo Calderin. Be it resolved the West40 ISC# 2 Governing Board hereby adjourns at 9:15 a.m.

The next West40 Governing Board Meeting will be held on Friday, March 22, 2024, at the West40 Lexington Campus on 415 Lexington Street in Maywood, IL 60153 at 8:00 a.m.