



**MINUTES OF THE
OF THE SOUTH BEND EMPOWERMENT ZONE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
1/18/23**

MINUTES

- Meeting Time Start: 6:06
- Meeting Called to Order: Sam Centellas, Board Chair

LOCATION

- SBCSC Boardroom

QUORUM

- Attendees:
 - Jeff Rea
 - Sonya Watkins
 - Ryan Matthys
 - Stephanie Ball
 - Kareemah Fowler
 - Sam Centellas
 - Davion Lewis

- Quorum Established (Y/N): Yes

AGENDA ITEMS

I. Approve Agenda

- A. The motion is seconded and the agenda is approved.

II. Approve Board Meeting Minutes, December 13, 2022

- A. Motion to table until February meeting was seconded.

III. President's Report

- A. Welcome to new board member, Sonya Watkins, and principals that are in attendance

IV. Committee Reports

- A. Focus: Special Education: Presented by Melanie Hackett, new Director of Diverse Learners
1. The Zone has begun to restructure and refocus the SPED program, which includes more than 300 students (comparable to the state rate at 12%-15%). Warren is an outlier at 27%.



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2. Due to SPED staff shortage, the Zone is using virtual Teachers of Record and School Psychologists to support students, and expects all IEPs to be in compliance within a week.

B. Focus: Mid-year Academic Data: Presented by Dr. Erin Lemrow and Roxana Zapata, Executive Director of Teaching & Learning

1. Students on grade level or above in Reading increased 2.3X and 3.4X in math, between Fall and Winter. Progress is attributed primarily to the Q2 reset, which resulted in fewer disciplinary events, and thereby enabling students to spend more time in class.
2. The Zone has begun using K12 Lift as a data tool moving forward. This tool shows the rate of progress of Zone students relative to their national peers in terms of being behind, at, or ahead of grade level.
3. Third grade reading proficiency is critically important for our students in relation to their likelihood of graduating high school at all and/or on time. This is especially significant for students of color and students living in poverty. Mastering reading in third grade closes racial/ethnic gaps in graduation rates.

C. Governance Committee

1. Sonya Watkins was formally inducted into the Board of Directors. The board also confirmed three officer appointments: Sam Centellas, Chair; Ryan Matthys, Treasurer; Rose Hiestand, Secretary.
2. The board also discussed the conflict of interest and disclosure policy.

D. Finance Committee:

1. The motion to approve reports on the Zone's financial position and budget vs. actuals was seconded.
2. The Zone's finance dashboard shows budget and real-time expenditures.
3. An ongoing challenge is the misalignment of reporting periods between the Zone and SBCSC—i.e., fiscal year and calendar year.

V. ZONE CHIEF UPDATES

- A. In January, Zone schools onboarded seven employees and separated from 13 employees.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT:

- A. None

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Cultivate the  **mind.** Inspire the **change.**



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- A motion was made, seconded, and carried unanimously to approve.
- Meeting was adjourned at 8:21 pm.

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