



**THOMAS GREGG**  
NEIGHBORHOOD SCHOOL

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

November 4, 2022

1:30 PM- 2:30 PM

**Members Present**

Ashley Acuff  
Valerie Davis  
Susan Vogt  
Michael Bowling  
Josh Bowling  
Beth Uselmann  
Shayna Sangster  
Susan Adams  
James Taylor  
Tracy Guerrero  
Mariana Lopez-Owens

**Members Absent**

Ranisha Martin  
Breanca Merritt  
Chris Cesnik  
Marie Mackintosh

**Staff Present**

Ross Pippin  
Dana Larson  
Anuja Petruniw

**Guests**

Shareyna Chang  
Brian Dickey

Dr.. Susan Adams called the November 4, 2022 Board of Directors meeting to order at 1:30 PM.

**Operations**

**A. Rebuilding Stronger Update**

**a. Washington Irving #14 Proposal\***

Mr. Ross Pippin shared an update regarding recent developments with the Rebuilding Stronger plan, including the shift to not merge School 2 and School 14 at the Washington Irving School 14 (WI14) site. Mr. Pippin shared that IPS has approached NEISC about partnering to operate WI14.

Mr. Pippin shared the history of School 14 and its transition 5 years ago to an out-of-LEA Innovation school, Urban Act Academy (UAA). IPS has opted not to continue an innovation agreement with UAA beginning with the 23-24 SY. Mr. Pippin shared that he and several board members met with the current UAA school leader who has committed to ensuring a smooth transition for her school community.

Mr. Pippin shared the NEISC School Start-Up Exploration document that detailed a rough draft timeline of how NEISC would potentially proceed in executing a partnership with IPS to operate WI14 for SY 23-34. Specific tasks to be completed through the end of 2022, into spring 2023, through summer 2023 and into launch of SY 23-24 were reviewed with the present members.

Mr. James Taylor shared a brief statement outlining the importance of the WI14 school community to the overall neighborhood community and JBNC's intention to be able to support the partnership between NEISC and IPS to operate WI14.

Mr. Pippin detailed the change to the draft Rebuilding Stronger plan that moved TGNS to Zone 3 alongside both WI14 and Brookside 54. Mr. Pippin shared his confidence that enrollment will not be a concern given this change in enrollment zone.

Dr. Adams shared that this partnership would be an opportunity to continue to promote great options for students and families within the community. Interest in replicating great things from TGNS but also taking into consideration the wishes of current WI14 stakeholders.

Mr. Mike Bowling inquired about the current enrollment at UAA @ WI14 and whether the Rebuilding Stronger zone proposal might impact enrollment positively or negatively at both WI14 and at TGNS. Mr. Pippin shared that while it will likely require some effort, WI14 should be able to improve its enrollment and TGNS enrollment should remain steady. Mr. Pippin shared the possibility for the two schools to share positions, perhaps one supporting enrollment at both buildings.

Ms. Susan Vogt shared that she would like to engage Holy Cross and potentially recruit a NEISC board member from Holy Cross to establish a partnership. Dr. Adams suggested NEISC consider present UAA BOD members as potential NEISC board recruits.

Mr. Taylor clarified that Mr. Pippin is asking for a board vote to allow him and his team to move forward with pursuing a partnership to operate WI14 and in doing so, permission to prepare the plan to submit for approval to IPS. Mr. Bowling shared concerns over the budget for Year 1 at WI14 due to enrollment.

Mr. Bowling motioned for approval. Ms. Valerie Davis seconded. Board approved pursuing the partnership between IPS and NEISC to operate WI14.

#### **B. TGNS Grade Configuration 24-25\***

Mr. Pippin reminded the group of conversation at the last board meeting about the pros and cons related to aligning with IPS in moving to K-5 at TGNS in the 24-25 SY. This move would allow 6th grade students to join their peers to make the transition together rather than joining into a middle school at a later time. This change would also require TGNS to increase enrollment at remaining grade levels in order to make up for the loss of roughly 70 students.

Mr. Taylor shared his hope that IPS can successfully manage the new middle school configuration but would love to keep the option open to TGNS contractually in order to be able to serve 6th grade again in the future should the need arise. Ms. Shareyna Chang will check with IPS leadership to determine whether this would require contract adjustments.

Mr. Josh Bowling motioned for approval. Mr. Taylor seconded. Board approves aligning with IPS to operate TGNS as a K-5 beginning in the 24-25 SY.

#### **Closing Items:**

Dr. Adams moved to adjourn. Ms. Vogt seconded. Meeting adjourned at 2:29.

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Dr. Susan Adams, Board Chair

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Recorded by Dana Larson