INDIANAPOLIS PUBLIC EDUCATION CORPORATION
BOARD MEETING

Indianapolis-Marion County City-County Building
200 E. Washington St., Indianapolis, IN
Room 221 – 5 P.M.
June 22, 2026
Meeting Minutes

Members Present (all in person): David Harris, Hope Duke Star, Ashley Thomas, Deandra Thompson, Dexter Taylor, Janet McNeal, Patricia Castañeda, John Hammond, and Edward Rangel

Public Hearing on Additional Appropriation (Ind. Code § 6-1.1-18-5(a)): Chairperson Harris opened a public hearing on the consideration of an additional appropriation. No person chose to speak on the additional appropriation resolution. A Motion to close the public comment period was made by Member Rangel and seconded by Member Thompson. The Board approved the Motion.

Call to Order of Regular Meeting: Chairperson Harris called the June 22, 2026, meeting of the Board of the Indianapolis Public Education Corporation to order and acknowledged the work of the three active working groups since the prior meeting: (1) Referendum, (2) Executive Director/Staffing, and (3) Performance Framework/Accountability. Chairperson Harris noted that the Executive Director Working Group had reviewed the 36 applications received for the Executive Director position.

Approval of Minutes of May 28, 2026 Public Meeting: Chairperson Harris introduced the approval of the minutes of the May 28, 2026 public meeting. A Motion to adopt the Minutes of May 28, 2026, as presented was made by Member Hammond and Member Thomas seconded the Motion. The Board approved the Motion.

Consideration of Resolution Approving Additional Appropriations: Chairperson Harris recognized legal counsel Jonathan Mayes to explain the resolution. Mayes noted that political subdivisions and municipal corporations such as IPEC must ordinarily have a budget approved by November 1 for the following calendar year, but that IPEC did not exist until March 31, 2026, and therefore had not gone through that process. He explained that House Enrolled Act 1423 granted IPEC funds distributed by the county auditor upon request, and IPEC had followed the additional appropriation process directed by Indiana Code and the Department of Local Government Finance, that notice had been posted, and that the public hearing had been held.

Mayes advised that the Board would approve claims and expenditures in future meetings and would develop more detailed budgets over time. Following an invitation for questions, a Motion to approve the appropriation of additional funds was made by Member Thomas and Member Castañeda seconded the Motion. The Board approved the Motion.

Consideration of Resolution Approving the Presentation of a Referendum Levy Question to Voters: Chairperson Harris acknowledged that the bulk of the meeting would pertain to the 2026 Operating Referendum, thanked Board members and the community for their work since the prior meeting, and offered opening remarks recognizing the difficulty of the assignment and the many stakeholders who had contributed, including the Superintendent and IPS staff, the Indy Chamber, the Referendum Working Group and the Acting Executive Director.

Presentation by Acting Executive Director: Chairperson Harris recognized Acting Executive Director Mike O'Connor, who presented his recommendation and supporting analysis. O'Connor noted that roughly 42,000 students attend public schools of all types within the IPS boundary, split approximately evenly between traditional public schools and public charter schools, and reviewed the history of Indiana's referendum framework, including the 2008 property tax caps and the current eight-year operating referendum that began in 2018 and expires in 2026. O'Connor reviewed the prior Referendum Working Group meetings and listening sessions.

O'Connor recommended a referendum rate of $0.372 for a four-year term. He explained that the current $0.196 rate is expected to generate approximately $49 million, but beginning next year, must be shared with public charter schools, and that the recommended $0.372 rate is estimated to generate approximately $87.8 million annually, to be divided evenly between IPS and public charter schools (approximately $43.9 million each), with roughly 60 charter schools having opted into participation.

O'Connor described the anticipated cost reductions, efficiencies, and revenue opportunities associated with the rate, including IPS spending reductions, and continued advocacy at the state level regarding special education and English language learner funding. He explained that four-years was recommended to provide stability while allowing IPEC to implement transportation and facilities work in later years.

Public Comment: Chairperson Harris opened the public comment period, and Roman Moreno reviewed the process, advising that each speaker would be allotted three minutes and that speakers would be called in the order sign-up responses were received. At the conclusion of public comment, Chairperson Harris transitioned into discussion from the board.

Discussion, Deliberation, and Action: Chairperson Harris opened the floor for Board discussion. A Motion by Member Hope Duke Star to adopt a tax rate of $0.42 for a four-year term was made and seconded by Member Thomas. Following discussion, the Board did not approve the Motion and the Motion failed. Chairperson Harris opened the floor for further discussion or another motion. A Motion to adopt the Acting Executive Director's recommended rate of $0.372 for a four-year term, was made by Member McNeal and seconded by Member Thompson. Following extensive deliberation, the Board approved the Motion unanimously.

Consideration of Internal Controls Policy: Chairperson Harris recognized legal counsel Jonathan Mayes to present the resolution and Internal Controls Policy. Mayes explained that the State Board of Accounts regulates how municipal corporations such as IPEC spend funds and approve payments, and that IPEC is required to adopt an internal controls policy as part of its spending and budgeting process now that funds have been appropriated. Following an invitation for questions, a Motion to approve the resolution was made by Member Hammond and seconded by Member Thomas. The Board approved the Motion.

Acting Executive Director's Report: Chairperson Harris recognized Acting Executive Director Mike O'Connor to provide his report. O'Connor reported that the Performance & Accountability Work Group had held one meeting, that Member Edward Rangel has been asked to lead that effort and convene the next meeting, and that a status update is due to the Indiana General Assembly by August 31, 2026. O'Connor further reported that the Executive Director Work Group had met to review the 36 applications received through the portal, had narrowed the list for initial interviews, and would establish a finalist list to be presented to the Mayor of Indianapolis for interviews and a final selection, which would then be presented back to the Board.

Additional Information Items: Chairperson Harris indicated that there were no additional information items for review. Chairperson Harris then transitioned the meeting to public comment.

Public Comment on Action and Information Items: Chairperson Harris opened the final public comment period, and turned it over to Roman Moreno, who reviewed the public comment process. Moreno advised that each speaker would be allotted three minutes and that speakers would be called in the order sign-up responses were received. Chairperson Harris closed public comment after the last speaker.

Approval of Claims: Chairperson Harris indicated that there was no approval of claims.

Future Meeting: Chairperson Harris announced that the next meeting of the IPEC Board will be held on July 22, 2026, at 4:00 P.M. at a location to be determined.

Adjournment: A Motion to adjourn was adopted.

Signed by: David Harris 67C262FC36E94DA...	Signed by: Patricia Castañeda 8ACEB9EEBAD146E...
Chairman, David Harris	Secretary, Patricia Castaneda