

**INDIANAPOLIS PUBLIC EDUCATION CORPORATION
BOARD MEETING**

Indianapolis-Marion County City-County Building

200 E. Washington St., Indianapolis, IN

Public Assembly Room – 4 P.M.

July 22, 2026

Meeting Minutes

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

Call to Order of Regular Meeting: Chairperson Harris called the July 22, 2026, meeting of the Board of the Indianapolis Public Education Corporation to order. He noted the work accomplished since the prior meeting, including continued progress on the referendum, and previewed the two principal items for the evening: an update from the Performance Framework Working Group and, as the main agenda item, the selection of an Executive Director.

Approval of Minutes of June 22, 2026 Public Meeting: Chairperson Harris introduced the approval of the minutes of the June 22, 2026 public meeting. A Motion to adopt the Minutes of June 22, 2026, as presented was made by Member Duke Star and seconded by Member Thompson. The Board approved the Motion by voice vote.

Approve Mayor's Recommendation for Executive Director: Chairperson Harris reviewed the Executive Director search process, noting that 36 individuals had applied for the role. He explained that the Executive Director Working Group had interviewed several candidates and recommended six finalists to the Mayor, that Mayor Joe Hogsett had interviewed all six finalists, and that, pursuant to the statute creating IPEC, the Mayor had recommended Dr. Karega Rausch for the Board's approval.

Chairperson Harris provided background on Dr. Rausch, noting that he is a lifelong Indianapolis resident who has worked across the education, government, and nonprofit sectors, including prior service in the Indianapolis Mayor's Office under two mayoral administrations. He also holds a Ph.D. in educational psychology from Indiana University. Members Castañeda and Hammond, of the Executive Director Working Group, offered supporting comments. Chairperson Harris recognized Dr. Rausch, who addressed the Board, thanked the Mayor and the Board, and described his commitment to improving student outcomes.

A Motion to approve the Mayor's recommendation of Dr. Karega Rausch as Executive Director of the Indianapolis Public Education Corporation was made by Member Castañeda and seconded by Member Thompson. Following an opportunity for discussion, the Board approved the Motion.

Presentation from the Accountability Standards Working Group: Chairperson Harris recognized Member Edward Rangel, who presented the Performance Framework Working Group's report on behalf of himself and Members Hope Duke Star and Janet McNeal. Member Rangel explained that House Enrolled Act 1423 assigns IPEC two distinct responsibilities: acting on chronic low performance using one evidence-based approach applied consistently across every governance model, and reallocating underused facilities to match building usage with actual enrollment. He reviewed the statutory timeline, including the progress report due to the Legislative Council by August 1, 2026, and the full performance framework due to the Legislative Council by November 30, 2027, taking effect for participating schools in school year 2028–29.

Following the presentation, Chairperson Harris opened the floor for questions and board members discussed. Chairperson Harris thanked Members Rangel, Duke Star, and McNeal for their work.

Consideration of Consulting and Legal Services Contract: Chairperson Harris introduced the extension of the engagements of Acting Executive Director Mike O'Connor and legal counsel Jon Mayes through September 1, 2026. A Motion to approve the proposed contract was made by Member Thompson and seconded by Member Castañeda. 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 and Accountability Working Group's update would be submitted to the Legislative Council. He reported that IPEC had worked with the Marion County Clerk's Office and the Marion County Election Board, which had the information necessary to place the state-required referendum language on the November ballot, and that the applicable submission deadline was August 1, 2026, with the Election Board scheduled to meet later in the month.

He further reported that IPEC had coordinated with the Auditor's and Treasurer's offices to transfer approximately \$1.4 million of initial funding to IPEC's accounts, and that the Board would be notified once the transfer was complete.

Additional Information Items: Chairperson Harris indicated that there were no additional information items for review.

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 August 12, 2026, at 4:00 P.M. at a location to be determined.

Adjournment: A Motion to adjourn was made by Member Hammond and seconded by Member Thomas. The motion was adopted by voice vote.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Harris', written over a horizontal line.

Chairman, David Harris

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Patricia Castaneda', written over a horizontal line.

Secretary, Patricia Castaneda