

CCSJ Charter Authority Meeting Minutes

14 August 2025

The meeting was called to order at 2:04pm. Present were Ginger Rodriguez, Ellery Hunter, Shana Levinson, Lynn Miskus, Carrie Hutton & Brian Lowry.

Shana motioned to approve the 9 April minutes, Ellery seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The public meeting notice was read.

HAST Update

Carrie indicated that CCSJ Honors Society students were engaged in a mentoring program. With regard to the August dashboard, she noted that ILearn scores were not in yet, that additional data gathering was in progress, that things were not final, but unlikely to change dramatically.

Ginger asked why the slight decline occurred. Carrie noted that they are changing math instruction and anticipate a better year ahead.

Carrie noted that the leader retreat was held on campus and that we would do it again in the future.

TBLA Update

Carrie indicated that the August dashboard is waiting on 4 data points, and that the school falls in the 'conditional' range, and that she currently feels comfortable with the improvement. She highlighted a 74% pass rate on the IREAD, noting that the overall pass rate for other Gary schools is 55%.

Ginger asked if they have been engaged in the Science of Reading initiative. Carrie noted that they have taken advantage of opportunities in this regard and that 2 TBLA students have recently enrolled at CCSJ.

Carrie also noted participation in the board retreat and that ICIC did board training.

Carrie noted that the TBLA contract is for 3 years and that we will begin the decision-making process regarding the next contract at this time next year.

Office Update

Carrie noted that discussion regarding portfolio discussion continues and that Cathy Gonzalez is working on marketing materials. Ginger asked if this was typically done and Carrie noted this has not been verified. Ginger asked what the optimal number of client schools would total and Carrie suggested that having a portfolio of 6 would enable a sustained local focus.

Carrie indicated that job descriptions have been finalized (and filled). Lynn noted that this enables consistent administrative and performance teams across all client schools.

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Ginger asked about the enrollment at TBLA. Carrie indicated that their goal is 840, while current headcount is 814. She noted that the uncertainty surrounding construction projects hurt them last year.

Carrie indicated that the NACSA membership has been renewed and that members of the Charter Authority would attend their conference in October.

Carrie indicated that she delivered a summary of the Charter Authority's work to the CCSJ board, clarifying that, while CCSJ decides if the school will take on the work of authorization, the Charter Authority does the work of authorizing a particular school.

Carrie indicated that we will pursue a NACSA/IDOE grant in the fall, that they are planning mid-year reviews and that we intend to join the Indiana Charter Innovation Center so that peer-learning can occur more effectively.

New Business

Carrie asked what could happen in an executive session. Shana indicated that executive sessions typically address confidential matters pertaining to personnel and lawsuits. Shana indicated that she would look into charter school-specific statutes. A discussion regarding the nature of executive sessions followed.

Carrie noted that the efficiency of the TBLA board was being explored. Lynn noted that full financials will be available in the year-end report.

Public Comment

No public were present.

Next meeting dates were discussed and Ellery moved to adjourn the meeting at 3pm. Shana seconded. The motion passed unanimously.