

**GOODWILL EDUCATES, INC., OPERATING  
THE EXCEL CENTER® EVANSVILLE SOUTHEAST  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
August 15, 2024**

The Board of Directors of The Excel Center Evansville Southeast met on August 15, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. in the Board Room at 5001 Washington Avenue, Evansville, IN.

**Board members present:**

Cheryl Kuchna, Chair  
Jared McIntosh  
Carlada Patterson, Vice Chair  
Connie Ralph, President  
Michelle Ramacciotti  
Amanda Simmons, Treasurer  
Michael West, Secretary

**Staff present:**

Kim Bassett  
David Blaize  
Morgan McCray  
Juanita Rager  
Brandy Smith

Board Chair Cheryl Kuchna called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. All members were physically present.

There was no public comment.

The minutes of the June 20, 2024 Board meeting were reviewed. On a motion by Michelle Ramacciotti, seconded by Jared McIntosh, the minutes were approved as written. A roll call vote was taken, all members present voted affirmatively to approve the meeting minutes.

Amanda Simmons presented the treasurer's report for July 2024. Total revenue for July is \$224,648.25 with total expenses of \$111,500.38 for a net income of \$113,147.87. The Accounts Payable Voucher Register for July was reviewed. On a motion by Jared McIntosh, seconded by Michelle Ramacciotti, the treasurer's report was approved. A roll call vote was taken; all members present voted unanimously to approve the treasurer's report. The report will be filed for audit. Amanda reported that the State Board of Accounts approved Kemper CPA Group LLC as auditor for Goodwill Educates, Inc. Amanda then requested Board approval to change the time period of financial reports presented at Board meetings from the month immediately preceding the meeting, to the month prior to that. A one-month lag period is standard across most industries. On a motion by Michelle Ramacciotti, seconded by Carlada Patterson, the revised period for financial reports described above was approved. A roll call vote was taken; all members present voted unanimously to approve the revised time period.

David Blaize gave the Director's Report. There are 381 students enrolled. Student orientation began July 31; several sessions were held to accommodate the 150 students who signed up for orientation. Student demographics show an age range of 18 to 72. Thirty percent of students are from the Evansville Promise neighborhood. In staffing, the life coach positions have been filled, and two childcare positions for the Little Scholars Center still need to be filled.

Connie Ralph reviewed SOPs for Information Technology, Paid Time Off, Cell Phone Use, Wireless Communication Device Guidelines, and Marketing & Communications. After

discussion, on a motion by Carlada Patterson, seconded by Michelle Ramacciotti, the SOPs were approved. A roll call vote was taken; all members present voted unanimously to approve the SOPs.

Upon a motion made by Carlada Patterson, seconded by Michelle Ramacciotti, and after discussion, the Board of Directors of Goodwill Educates, Inc., unanimously approved the following motion:

The Vice President of Human Resources of Evansville Goodwill Industries, Inc., the contracted Human Resources Representative for Goodwill Educates, Inc., is authorized to hire without prior Board approval any prospective employee, contractor, and/or volunteer after thorough and careful background evaluation to ensure compliance with ICSB requirements. Backgrounds may include the following convictions: operating a motor vehicle while intoxicated, battery, domestic battery, criminal confinement, public indecency crimes, contributing to the delinquency of a minor, weapons offenses, and offenses involving controlled substances. Additionally, this authorization will apply to any offense not listed above that is not outlined in the ICSB requirements and that is not directly relevant to the position with Goodwill Educates, Inc. However, the Vice President of Human Resources must seek Board approval to proceed with hiring any prospective employee, contractor, and/or volunteer who have convictions or substantiated reports of child abuse or neglect that could impact their ability to perform their duties effectively and safely.

The Board reviewed the language and terms of the loan agreement and promissory note between Goodwill Educates, Inc. and Evansville Goodwill Industries, Inc., for repayment of the cost of construction of The Excel Center. The loan amount will be determined when all change orders are completed then the loan agreement must be approved by the EGI Board. After discussion, on a motion by Jared McIntosh, seconded by Carlada Patterson, the Board voted unanimously to authorize Board Chair Cheryl Kuchna as signer on the loan agreement. A roll call vote was taken, and all members present voted affirmatively to authorize Board Chair Cheryl Kuchna as signer on the loan agreement.

Brandy Smith reported that Bridgett Abston of ICSB made a pre-opening site visit to The Excel Center on August 14.

Connie Ralph gave an update on the renovations of The Excel Center at the new building. The Open House and ribbon cutting is August 16. The first day of class is August 26.

Connie reported that a grant of approximately \$45,000 from the Welborn Foundation is being used for furniture for the drop-in childcare center. The CSP grant award announcement has been delayed. If awarded GEI would use the approximately \$1M for classroom furniture among many other things.

As there was no further business the meeting was adjourned at 10:51 a.m. The next Goodwill Educates, Inc. Board of Directors meeting is scheduled for December 5, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael West  
Secretary