



UNITED SCHOOLS OF INDIANAPOLIS

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Official Record | September 28, 2026

DATE	September 28, 2026	LOCATION	Avondale Meadows Middle School
CALL TO ORDER	4:05 p.m.	ADJOURNMENT	5:00 p.m.
FORMAT	In person and via Google Meet	QUORUM	Present

1. Attendance

Board members present: Jake Crouch; Carlston Elliott; Bill Harris; Sarah Lofton; Abby McDonough; Ross Ridge; Jetta Vaughn; and David Starkey.

Present remotely: Sarah Lofton, Ross Ridge, Mariele Rujevcan, and Jetta Vaughn via Google Meet.

Not present: None

USI leaders and guests referenced in the meeting record: Superintendent Darius Adamson; Dr. Corye Franklin; Dr. Camille Darden; Kristen Stratton; Victoria Jackson-Dinkins; Aunye Hockett; Carvis Herron; Ciara Jones; Dr. Christina Thurman (virtual); Tammy Chaney- TogetherEd; Christopher Weissman- TogetherEd; Davis Moore of OEI; and other invited staff and guests.

2. Board Action Items

The Board considered the following matters. Each motion was seconded and carried.

Action	Motion by	Second by	Result
Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes	Jake Crouch	Carlston Elliott	Carried
Approval of Financial Statements	Carlston Elliott	Jake Crouch	Carried
Approval of Paid Parental Leave Policy Update	Ross Ridge	Sarah Lofton	Carried

3. Connect to Purpose

Dr. Camille Darden highlighted USI's expanding visibility and community partnerships. Staff from all three schools represented the network on WISH-TV's Lifestyle Live to promote enrollment, and USI received prominent recognition as a sponsor during the UniverSoul Circus opening weekend through its partnership with The Mind Trust. Vision Academy was recognized by Marian University for the highest IREAD growth in the REID initiative, increasing 23 percentage points to an 83.9% third-grade pass rate. The network also celebrated Amanda Calkins's participation in The Mind Trust's Emerging Leaders Fellowship and media recognition of VAR Assistant Principal Butler for National Principals Month.



4. Finance Committee

Financials

For the period ending August 31, 2026, USI reported \$4.71 million in total funds available, of which \$74,916 was unrestricted, and 145 consolidated days cash on hand when all funds were included. The projected June 30, 2027 debt-service coverage ratio was 0.10. Consolidated revenue was \$2.266 million, approximately \$136,000 below budget, while expenses were \$2.581 million, approximately \$62,000 below budget. The resulting consolidated operating loss was \$314,608, with timing of federal grant approvals and enrollment-related state funding affecting revenue. The audit was nearing completion, and leadership planned to revise the budget in October after official enrollment counts, with Finance Committee review before presentation to the Board.

Audit and Enrollment

Tammy Chaney introduced Christopher Weissman of TogetherEd, and Abby McDonough provided an audit update. Leadership noted that final enrollment information would inform the amended budget and that the revised financial plan was expected to return to the Finance Committee in October.

5. Governance Committee

Paid Parental Leave Policy

The Board reviewed and approved an updated Paid Parental Leave Policy developed with Milestone to align USI practice with current requirements. The policy provides 20 days of paid leave for eligible full-time employees and 10 days for eligible part-time employees after six months of employment, subject to the terms and qualifying events stated in the policy.

Charter Renewal and External Partnerships

Board members reported on AMA's OEI charter-renewal process and the scheduled November 4 interview and December 9 renewal hearings; the Board also noted upcoming renewal site visits for VAR and AMMS. Superintendent Adamson discussed the AMMS innovation agreement with IPS and plans to evaluate whether revised terms could provide direct financial or service benefits to USI. He also updated the Board on the IPS referendum and the potential implications of IPS's announced withdrawal from Enroll Indy, particularly for family awareness of non-IPS school options.

6. Development Committee

Jetta Vaughn reported that the Huntington Foundation donated a \$5,000 contribution. Planning continues for the Building Minds, Changing Lives Gala on December 3, 2026, at Vision Academy, with a 5:30 p.m. reception and a 6:00-8:00 p.m. program. Frederick Yeakey was confirmed as the featured speaker. Carvis Herron will lead event planning, and the program will emphasize storytelling rather than an auction. Board members were encouraged to share sponsorship materials, invite guests, and engage potential donors and business partners.



7. Academic Committee

Beginning-of-Year Academic Data

Victoria Jackson-Dinkins presented beginning-of-year Acadience and i-Ready results, official IREAD outcomes, and spring 2026 ILEARN performance across the network. Indiana's 2026 IREAD pass rate was 88.7%; AMA achieved 67.7% with 42 of 62 students passing, and Vision Academy achieved 83.9% with 26 of 31 passing. Compared with 2025, AMA improved 9.4 percentage points and Vision improved 23.4 points, while network ILEARN proficiency increased in both English language arts and mathematics. Leadership emphasized that beginning-of-year diagnostics establish the instructional baseline and will guide differentiated support, intervention, and progress monitoring. Academic priorities include effective CKLA implementation, common planning time and professional learning communities, stronger Tier 1 mathematics instruction, and use of the Education Advanced evaluation platform to strengthen feedback and classroom effectiveness.

8. School Dashboard Highlights

Avondale Meadows Academy

Principal Aunye Hockett reported current enrollment of 292 against a goal of 310 and noted that the school was considering an additional fourth-grade section because of current grade-level demand. Beginning-of-year i-Ready results showed a stronger starting point than the prior year: approximately 27 students were three grade levels below in ELA and 26 in mathematics, while more than half of students were one grade level below. Attendance was 94.70%, placing AMA close to its goal. The school began the year with staffing vacancies and teacher transitions but was returning to normal operations as key positions were filled and the instructional coach resumed coaching responsibilities. Because CKLA routines and pacing required additional support, AMA adjusted its action-plan timeline and will use common planning time, standards and mastery review, practice clinics, and continued Tier 1 monitoring to strengthen implementation.

Network Dashboard Development

Leadership reported that Kristen Stratton was leading the development of an online data dashboard aligned to goals, network and school-level data. The planned platform will provide ongoing access to enrollment, academic, attendance, and other performance measures in a concise visual format.

9. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m. The next regular Board meeting is scheduled for November 16, 2026, at 4:00 p.m. at Vision Academy.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sarah P. [unclear]', is written over a horizontal line.

Board Secretary / Designee

10/05/2026

Date Approved