



MEETING MINUTES OF  
THE GOVERNING BOARD OF  
WEST40 INTERMEDIATE SERVICE CENTER #2

The West40 ISC #2 Governing Board Meeting was held on Friday, March 22, 2024, at 8:00 a.m., at 415 Lexington Street, Maywood, IL 60153. President, Dr. Jennifer Kelsall called the meeting into order at 8:01 a.m.

**I. Roll Call:**

Present: Dr. Jennifer Kelsall, Dr. Ed Condon, Dr. Kristin Kopta, Mr. Stuart Brown, Dr. Leah Gauthier, Ms. Kyle Lindquist, and Ms. Elieen Piper-Simpson.

**Not Present:** Dr. Aldo Calderin, Ms. Kathleen Tomei, and Ms. Dana Wesolowski.

Board President, Dr. Kelsall declared a quorum of West 40 ISC #2 Governing Board meeting at 8:01 a.m.

**Also present:** Dr. Jayme Tighe, Ms. Christi Tyler, and Ms. Lefvia T. Marrero.

**Present Via Zoom:** Ms. Mary-Rita Moore, Ms. Cara Wiley, Ms. Katie Elvidge

**II. Approval of January 19, 2024 Minutes:** It was moved by Dr. Kristin Kopta and seconded by Dr. Ed Condon that the West40 ISC#2 Governing Board approves the minutes as presented. On call of the roll, the vote was as follows:

**Ayes:** Dr. Jennifer Kelsall, Dr. Ed Condon, Dr. Kristin Kopta, Mr. Stuart Brown, Dr. Leah Gauthier, Ms. Kyle Lindquist, Ms. Mary-Rita Moore, and Ms. Elieen Piper-Simpson.

**Nays:** None                                  The motion carried without dissent.

**III. Presentations:**

**Financial Report - Ms. Crisiti Tyler**

Ms. Tyler reported the revenue remained fairly steady in February, with an increase in operating expenses. The increase is attributed to purchased service expenses that are related to grants.

An analysis of cash flow will determine a pay-back schedule for the \$9M debt certificate issued in May of 2023 - with a final payment due May 2026.

She also reported that West40 now has the final determination on the Level of Care Grant applied for. As reported in the past, we requested \$7M to be used for windows, HVAC, elevator, and other expenses for phase I of this project. The final amount awarded to West40 is \$4M which will be used to fund the HVAC system for the offices and community room. We continue to pursue additional avenues for funding for this project - including private donors.

### **Assistant Executive Director Report - Dr. Jayme Tighe**

Dr. Tighe reported as follow:

The **SCOTY** award night was a great success with over 130 students receiving the School Citizen Of The Year award.

**ICEARY** was also a huge success with over 100 staff attending, 6 presentations, and an RSSP student winning the Outstanding Student Award; the Comms team did most of the marketing and video work for the event.

A request has been submitted to ISBE to change ALOP students served from 4-12 to K-12. Now waiting on approval or once the 45-day wait period has lapsed, we automatically get approved.

**ISBE** has requested West40 oversee the Chicago Public Schools, School Improvement Work by providing intense support to the schools that have been designated with comprehensive and intensive designations. CPS currently has 100, schools under the comprehensive designations, and 40 schools that have been identified as intensive. West40 will be hiring 4 new School Improvement Specialists to specifically do the work in Chicago. South Cook ISC is hiring 3 and Lake and Kane Counties will be hiring one School Improvement Specialists. The School Improvement model for this is based on School Improvement work currently being done at West40. ISBE is hopeful the School Improvement Work will become a model for the State. The work will start in April and run through March, 2026. ISBE will fund this initiative with ESSER dollars. Schools identified as intensive or comprehensive must go through an intense needs assessment and those funds are being allocated through the 1003b grant funds.

**Cook County Public Health Award** - Each Intermediate Servicing Center (ISC) received \$675,000 to support Behavioral Health Programs and Services between June 1, 2024 and November 30, 2026.

### **West40 Advocacy Day in Springfield**

On March 13th, 15 West40 staff members visited over 40 legislators and assistants in Springfield advocating for bills:

- [HB4800](#) which deals with the RSSP grant formula. Proposes these changes:

- I. Use Average Student Enrollment in the distribution calculation instead of Best Three Months of Average Daily Attendance.
- II. Change the first part of the calculation to distribute \$100,000 to each ROE/ISC instead of \$30,000 but only if there is an additional \$2.73 Million added to the appropriation amount over FY24.
- [HB5418](#) proposes to allow ROEs and ISCs to apply for school maintenance project grants.

Currently, ROE and ISCs are the only public school entity not able to apply for these grants.

- The staff continues to work on follow-ups—answering questions/arranging for future visits
- Governor included a recommendation for \$350 million additional dollars for the EBF formula, however, he did not recommend an increase to the Safe School Grant, nor did he include increases to the ROE/ISC grant or TAOEP.

### **St. Joe's Update**

- Meeting this week regarding zoning
- They are now requiring us to have a conceptual meeting in public
- The next step is the zoning meeting in May, and then the whole Village Board meeting on May 14.
- Continue to work with our architect (on zoning, etc)
- Meeting with Lurie Children's folks: we both speak the same language regarding services we can provide at St. Joe's
- Lezlie meeting with Amy Grant (Wheaton - Adoption & Child Welfare Committee), legislator, not the singer, who wants to support the development of the program
- Abatement underway
- Demolition to follow
- Working with our communications team on alternate funding through private entities

### **Grants - Ms. Cara Wiley and Ms. Katie Elvidge**

Ms. Wiley reported that while the Grants Department was created in March 2023, West40 has historically received grants from ISBE and has since become the trusted subcontractor for ISBE federal awards.

The Grants Department is composed of a team of five as follows:

- Christi Tyler, Chief School Business Officer
- Cara Wiley, Director of Grants
- Katie Elvidge, Assistant Director of Grants
- [Carrie Szambelan](#) Fiscal Grants Specialist
- Dr. Diane Wolf, Grants Consultant

Currently, the Team manages 14 grants totaling approximately 12 million dollars annually, which is projected to net approximately 24 million dollars over the lifespan of the grants. Six grants remain pending and 2 awaiting award announcement; these opportunities could result in up to an additional \$6,275,000 if awarded.

The Grants Team also reported that West40 was recently awarded \$4 million for the St. Joe's project, and the highly competitive TAOEP grant; the Team also supports the 23 eligible West40 districts as they apply for the ISBE Stronger Connections Grant.

Currently Funded Projects at West40 include:

School-Based Mental Health	RSSP
REACH Out	After School Programs
Aware 1.0 & 2.0	SEL HUBs
Community Partnership: Norridge	Safe2Help
Community Partnership: PSVI	Elevating Bilingual Educators
ROE/ISC	Targeted Violence and Terrorism Prevention
TAOEP	

These grants and partnerships have allowed West40 to provide the following services:

- Mental health support statewide
- Partner with universities throughout the state to increase the pipeline of school-based mental health clinicians
- Supporting an Illinois pilot of the Science of Hope work
- Collaborating with other agencies and grantees to align initiatives statewide
- Sit on several statewide Task Forces to help guide initiatives

The Grants Team is looking forward to building capacity as more grants are acquired, ensuring fiscal responsibility, transparency, and integrity through all the projects as representatives of West40. For additional information, Ms. Wiley can be reached at [cwiley@west40.org](mailto:cwiley@west40.org) and Ms. Elvidge at [kelvidge@west40.org](mailto:kelvidge@west40.org).

**Comments from the Board:**

Dr. Condon confirmed Ms. Wiley and her team will be presenting at IASA on **Apr 19, 2024**.  
Dr. Kopta expressed her gratitude for the Team's guidance.

**IV. Public Comment:**

No one chose to speak.

**Closed Session: at 8:35 a.m. Personal Item**

The motion was made by Ms. Piper-Simpson and seconded by Kyle Lindquist.

**Ayes:** Dr. Jennifer Kelsall, Dr. Ed Condon, Dr. Kristin Kopta, Mr. Stuart Brown, Dr. Leah Gauthier, Ms. Kyle Lindquist, Ms. Mary-Rita Moore, and Ms. Elieen Piper-Simpson.

**Nays:** None                                      The motion carried without dissent.

**Open Session: at 8:40 a.m.**

The motion was made by Dr. Kristin Kopta, and seconded by Mr. Stuart Brown.

**Ayes:** Dr. Jennifer Kelsall, Dr. Ed Condon, Dr. Kristin Kopta, Mr. Stuart Brown, Dr. Leah Gauthier, Ms. Kyle Lindquist, Ms. Mary-Rita Moore, and Ms. Elieen Piper-Simpson.

**Nays:** None                                      The motion carried without dissent.

**V. Adjourned:** Member Dr. Kristin Kopta moved, seconded by Mr. Stuart Brown. Be it resolved the West40 ISC# 2 Governing Board hereby adjourns at 8:41 a.m.

The next West40 Governing Board Meeting will be held on Friday, May 17, 2024, at the West40 Lexington Campus on 415 Lexington Street in Maywood, IL 60153 at 8:00 a.m.