

West Lafayette Community School Corporation

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TO: Dr. Shawn Greiner, Superintendent
Board of School Trustees

FROM: Amy Austin, Board of School Trustees President

DATE: February 7, 2024

RE: Board Compensation

Last month we voted to compensate board members the per diem for regular meetings only, and to no longer compensate board members for special meetings. This item was not on the agenda, and no one had the opportunity to review it in advance of the vote. My fear is that board members were "put on the spot" and forced to vote against their own financial interests in an effort to not look greedy. This action will have effects into the future, and we can't only think of ourselves as we make it. In the interest of attracting excellent candidates to run for school board, and in the interest of attracting candidates from all socioeconomic backgrounds, some of which may not be able to afford to volunteer that time, I propose that we should revisit the issue of board member compensation as an equity issue.

The motion is in two parts. First, I will move that we increase the board compensation to be commensurate with the rate Indianapolis pays, in accordance with state law, at \$150 for monthly meetings, and \$75 per special meeting, with the compensation limited in the same way it was prior to last month's vote, and in accordance with state laws, retroactive to January 1, 2024.

Second, I will move that we reinstate special meeting pay, at \$75/meeting, retroactive to January 1, 2024.

Please see the included memo from ISBA regarding board member compensation and the change I mentioned above.

Thank you for your consideration.



Greetings,

On December 18, 2023, ISBA Legal Services sent a school board organization memo to you. The memo outlined the statutory requirements for the reorganization meeting and the board of finance meeting. The memo also discussed board compensation and the anticipated increase in per diem rates for 2024.

We are pleased to inform you that the Board of School Commissioners for the Indianapolis Public Schools approved an increase in the per diem rates on January 25, 2024. The maximum rates for 2024 are \$150 for regular meetings, which are those meetings established by board resolution, and \$75 for other meetings, such as special meetings, executive sessions, and committee meetings. The IPS Board provided that all compensation adjustments will be implemented and made retroactive to January 1, 2024.

School boards have the authority to review per diem rates for attendance at school board meetings at any time. With the action taken by the IPS Board, school boards may consider increasing their current per diem rates to an amount that does not exceed the maximum rates established by the IPS Board. If a board decides to increase the per diem rate for board members, the increase may be effective immediately or retroactive to January 1st.

Please feel free to contact the ISBA Legal Staff if you have questions.

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