

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES OF THE GREATER  
CLARK COUNTY SCHOOL CORPORATION FOR CENSURE OF SCHOOL BOARD  
TRUSTEE WILLIAM HAWKINS**

This Resolution was adopted by the Board of School Trustees of the Greater Clark County School Corporation at its regular public Board Meeting held on December 8, 2020.

**WHEREAS**, the Board of School Trustees of the Greater Clark County School Corporation is committed to the highest degree of professional conduct and ethics by its Board Members; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of School Trustees of the Greater Clark County School Corporation recognizes that Board members have ethical duties and responsibilities related to their public office toward each other as Board members; to the Greater Clark County School Corporation and to the public constituents that elected the members to the School Board; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of School Trustees of the Greater Clark County School Corporation has promulgated its policy on Board member ethics in Board Policy; and

**WHEREAS**, Board Bylaw 0143 states that, “Individual members of the Board do not possess the powers that reside in the School Board”. Board Members may not act independently as individuals on official matters. Board Members may only act on Board-related decisions as a group during official meetings; and

**WHEREAS**, Board Bylaw 0144.2 states that, “A School Board member should honor the high responsibility which his/her membership demands by representing at all times the entire school community”; and

**WHEREAS**, Board Bylaw 0144.2 states that, “A School Board member should maintain desirable relations with the Superintendent of Schools and his/her staff”; and

**WHEREAS**, Board Bylaw 0144.2 further states that, “A School Board member should respect his/her relationships with other members of the Board by respecting the opinion of others and by graciously conforming to the principle of “majority rule”; and

**WHEREAS**, Board Bylaw 0144.2 also states that, “A School Board member should meet his/her responsibilities to his/her community by refusing to discuss confidential business of the Board in his/her home, on the street, or in his/her office”; and

**WHEREAS**, Board Bylaw 0144.2 also states that, “A School Board member should meet his/her responsibilities to his/her community by insisting that all school business transactions be on an open, ethical, and above-board basis”; and

**WHEREAS**, Board Member William Hawkins has been acting in violation of the above Bylaws.

1. On or about August 17, 2020, Board Member William Hawkins shared a contract for a project with an attorney without first informing the Board of School Trustees. Mr. Hawkins did not obtain consent from neither the Board nor from the company who prepared the Contract to share the Contract with outside counsel. Individual members of the Board do not possess the powers that reside in the School Board. Board Member

William Hawkins acted independently as an individual on an official matter. Mr. Hawkins failed to meet his responsibilities to his community by discussing confidential business of the Board with an attorney. Mr. Hawkins also failed to meet his responsibilities to his community by failing to be open, ethical, and above-board basis.

2. On or about October 27, 2020, the Board voted to approve the Contract. Mr. Hawkins voted against the Contract for the Project. During this Board Meeting. Mr. Hawkins failed to maintain desirable relations with the Superintendent and his staff when he made disrespectful comments to District Administration attacking their intelligence and competence.
3. Despite the Board's approval of the Contract on October 27, 2020, Board Member William Hawkins contacted the DLGF via email on or about November 24, 2020 to ask the DLGF to grant a Petition for Review of Proposed Controlled Project that was filed by a community member. Board Member William Hawkins did not discuss this communication with the Board of School Trustees. Mr. Hawkins acted independently as an individual on an official matter. Mr. Hawkins failed to graciously conform to the principle of "majority rule" by going against a Board Approved Project and Contract. Mr. Hawkins also failed to meet his responsibilities to his community by failing to be open, ethical, and above-board basis.
4. On or about December 1, 2020, Board Member William Hawkins shared a confidential internal email from Superintendent Mark Laughner to a community member. Mr. Hawkins violated his responsibilities to his community by discussing and sharing confidential business of the Board to a community member.
5. Despite participating in at least eight meetings, conducted in person or virtually, over the previous sixteen months, to discuss this project and contract, Mr. Hawkins alleged in the November 24, 2020 email to the DLGF that, "the public and I as a board member were not provided...details to enable a transparent discussion on the merits [of] each project." In fact, Mr. Hawkins was a member of the committee who met with the company to discuss the projects, reviewed the proposed contract, had an outside attorney review the contract (without informing the Board), and requested revisions to the Contract, which were made per his request. At no time did Mr. Hawkins request additional information or express any concern about the terms of the Contract or Project. Mr. Hawkins failed to maintain desirable relations with the Superintendent when he claimed that he was not provided details about the Project.
6. Board Member William Hawkins has made personal attacks on the intelligence and competence toward District Administrators in public Board Meetings and email. Mr. Hawkins failed to maintain desirable relations with the Superintendent and his staff when he made these personal attacks.
7. Board Member William Hawkins has made questionable posts and comments on social media that have been previously discussed with him by fellow school board members and Superintendent. Mr. Hawkins failed to honor the high responsibility which his membership demands by representing at all times the entire school community.

**WHEREAS**, this misconduct has necessitated action by this Board of School Trustees to assure that Board members are bound to their ethical duties and responsibilities and to avoid the appearance to our constituents, school employees and the general public that Board Member William Hawkins has special authority and power as an individual Board Member.

**WHEREAS**, a majority of the Board of School Trustees believes that a public censure of William Hawkins is necessary in order to emphasize the Board of School Trustees' desire for professional and ethical conduct at all times.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AND ORDERED** that the Board of Trustees for the Greater Clark County School Corporation hereby **PUBLICLY CENSURES** William Hawkins for unethical and unprofessional conduct in his position as a Board Member.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED AND ORDERED** that:

1. The Board of Trustees for the Greater Clark County School Corporation hereby gives notice to all of its constituents and to the general public that Board Member William Hawkins, acting individually and outside of public Board Meetings, does not have any legal authority or power to act on behalf of the Board of Trustees for the Greater Clark County School Corporation, and his opinions or statements are not necessarily that of the Board of Trustees unless specified during a duly-called and public meeting of the Board of Trustees.
2. The Board of Trustees hereby requests that Board Member William Hawkins conduct himself and conform his future behavior in accordance with the Board Policies and Bylaws and Indiana School Board Association Code of Ethics.
3. The Board of Trustees hereby demands that Board Member William Hawkins shall refrain from discussing confidential business of the Board with others and shall not share confidential business documents of the Board with others.
4. The Board of Trustees hereby demands that Board Member William Hawkins refrain from all personal attacks on the integrity, intelligence and competence of School District administrators and employees and that all of his future communications with the Superintendent, school administrators, employees and staff be professional in language, tone and demeanor. Board Member Bill Hawkins shall treat fellow Board Members and District staff with dignity and respect at all times.

Adopted and approved this 8<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2020.

**AYES**

**NAYES**

_____	Bottorff-Perkins	_____
_____	Buckwalter	_____
_____	Clayton	_____
_____	Fitzpatrick	_____
_____	Gilkey	_____
_____	Hawkins	_____
_____	Hutchinson	_____