

**Board Meeting Minutes**  
**December 15, 2025 @ 10:00am**  
**230 W. Monroe**

## **Agenda**

1. Public Comment – Laura Jozwiak
2. Who We Serve – Melissa Zaikos
3. Learnings from Charter School Growth Fund Postsecondary Convening – Ryan Everett
4. Setting our North Star - Melissa Zaikos
5. Open Items – Laura Jozwiak

## **Attendance**

BOD members in attendance: David Epstein, Jim Frank, Laura Jozwiak, Nancy Jimenez, Jim Palos

BOD members absent: Greg Jones, Justin Manly, Harriet Meyer, Josh Tolman

Staff in attendance: Melissa Zaikos, Ami Gandhi, Ryan Everett, Daena Adams, Tim Ligue, Rose Traubert, Michelle Trojan

### **I. Opening + Public Comment - Led by Laura Jozwiak**

The meeting was called to order by Laura Jozwiak. Began at 10:00 am. No guests or public comments.

### **II. Who We Serve - Led by Melissa Zaikos**

Melissa Zaikos led a discussion on the current and future student population. The discussion focused on how Intrinsic's recruitment strategy reflects the academic rigor that students and families are seeking. One topic of discussion was the value of promoting the Honors Program. Further discussion covered leveraging family engagement for recruitment/support, how to differentiate support and opportunities for students with varying levels of academic needs, and the school's opportunity to materially impact students' trajectories.

### **III. Learnings from Charter School Growth Fund Postsecondary Convening - Led by Ryan Everett**

#### **Key Observations in Intrinsic Data**

- Students with a high GPA (3.5+) show very high success rates in postsecondary education. HS GPA data is a useful predictor for success at specific colleges, particularly Dominican University and the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC).
- More than half of Intrinsic alumni attend the same 15 colleges. This concentration offers a strong opportunity to develop targeted partnerships and improve student support at these institutions, leveraging the Intrinsic Scholarship.

#### **CSGF Convening Takeaways**

- It is more effective for Intrinsic to develop trusted external partners for Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs rather than investing heavily in internal programs that would benefit only a small subset of students.

- Traditional "Match & Fit" models are insufficient. Stronger data show that a student's major and career choice are more critical to their professional future and earning potential than the specific college they attend.
- The increasing influence of Artificial Intelligence is redefining how schools must support and guide students in their postsecondary planning.

#### **IV. Setting Our North Star - Melissa Zaikos**

Melissa spoke about the importance of setting a metric to help to guide future planning and decision-making. The committee discussed the importance of a guiding mission statement to help set the priorities and future direction of Intrinsic Schools. Defining postsecondary success is a critical component, especially in relation to a student's career success and postsecondary pathway selection and completion.

#### **Open Items and Closing**

Laura Jozwiak asked if there were any new items. None were brought before the board. Meeting adjourned at 1:32 PM.