

Independence Academy Charter School
Regular Work Session Meeting Minutes: May 18, 2020

CALL TO ORDER

- Sherry Price called a Regular Work Session to order at 5:10 pm.

Present:

President: Sherry Price

Member: Brad Thompson

Member: Abbie Siegmund

Absent:

Member: Hadassa Berger

Public comment

- None at this time

Staff and Student celebrations

- Golden Apple award was nominated by students and was awarded to Liz Dahl
- The teacher of the year was voted Eryn Rider
- Staff Member of the year was voted Tom Malone

Regular Business

- The Board of Directors reviewed and approved Regular Meeting Minutes from April, 2020.

Motion: Brad Thompson

Second: Abbie Siegmund

Vote: 3-0

- The Board of Directors reviewed and approved Financials for April, 2020.

Motion: Abbie Siegmund

Second: Brad Thompson

Vote: 3-0

- The Board reviewed and approved the S&P Bond Rating in the amount of \$26,500.00

Motion: Brad Thompson

Second: Abbie Siegmund

Vote: 3-0

- The Board reviewed and approved the curriculum purchase KnowAtom in the amount of \$13,853.09

Motion: Brad Thompson

Second: Abbie Siegmund

Vote: 3-0

- Discussion about the 2020/2021 Contingency Budgets and PPR
 - Directors Report:
 - \$895.8 Million dollar General Fund Deficit expected at the fiscal year end 2019-2020 (June)
 - Includes the use of the 7.25% statutory reserve
 - Expecting additional general fund deductions in 2020-2021, projecting to \$3.3 billion or 25.3% short fall of state revenue.
 - This projection doesn't account for any additional shortfalls resulting from inflation, or growth in caseloads (other programs) or additional lock downs or widespread closures
 - Unemployment expected to reach \$1.6 billion (19/20) 205 billion (20-21) causing this fund to become insolvent by Jan,2021
 - Income and sales tax account for 95% of the general fund revenue - and this revenue is falling short.
 - 2019-2020 was expected to receive 629 million - this has been reduced by \$51 million
 - 2020-2021 is expected to be reduced by \$143 million from the March 2019 prediction - the current prediction is about 545 million which is a drop of 13.4% in SEF funding (State Education Fund, or constitutionally mandated funding)
 - Cuts are comparable to 2015-2016 revenue levels
 - In 2019-2020 Education received a one time 40.3 million dollar general fund transfer we will not see in 20-21 making the overall drop in funds about (18.5%) drop in funding.
 - For prospective out SEF was \$461 million in 08-09 and dropped as low as \$329 million in 09-10 - this fund took three years to recover without any other incidences or occurrences.
 - 10% reduction preliminary contingency plan breakdown is the dark blue option - this could be higher moving into the purple range or 12%
 - We are not expecting hard numbers until after our state government meets and decides cuts, those numbers will be coming around the second week of June but before June 15.
 - The board discussed anticipating the higher end of budget cuts in order to be cautiously optimistic, between 10%-15%.

- The board discussed that the current CDC regulations are so strict that a hybrid approach to school in the fall would not be a reasonable response. At this point the most reasonable options are to go back to traditional in-person learning or to continue distance learning in the fall.
- Administration will work on ways to brand our school during the pandemic to provide support to parents and continue high quality learning. Some ideas are teaching rotations, flexible hours that work around parent schedules, pre taped lessons to enable flexible learning. Possibly offer both in person learning and distance learning at the parents request.
 - Shifting job descriptions and responsibilities based on student needs
 - Offer an IACS help desk
 - Offer a homeschool
- The board discussed possible pay freezes this year if the budget cuts are between 12-15%.

Report from Family Council

- Delivered yard signs and gift cards to all employees for Teacher Appreciation.
- As previously stated the annual art show and silent auction was cancelled due to Covid 19 closures.

Executive Director's Report

- Operations:
 - IACS will put out another survey to collect data on form stakeholders on their preference for learning returning in August.
 - IACS completed their purchase of Chromebooks. IACS is also looking into rocketbooks to enhance distance learning.
 - IACS is considering the purchase of fire tablets for Pre-K through 2nd grade to help with hybrid learning. This would be a good tool to use regardless of learning conditions.
- Facilities:
 - Maintenance continues to follow guidelines, caring for the grounds and beginning to deep clean the building for the summer.
 - We are in the midst of returning student belongings, art work.... This will continue the rest of the week.
 - IACS is collecting Laptops, library books and instruments and quartining all items for two weeks before sanitizing and putting things away.
- Curriculum:
 - The UIP is completed and submitted for the 2019/2020 school year

- IACS identified 6 more learners as gifted and talented. Katie Brown is enrolling in a program that will make her the only certified GT teacher in the Grand Valley.
- Community:
 - Change for change raised over \$5,000.00 for Search and Rescue canines. Far beyond what we have raised in past years.
 - 8th grade continuation has been postponed until July 24th in hopes to have an in person celebration.

Adjourned 6:21 pm.

Next Meeting: Regular Meeting June 29, 2020 at 5pm via zoom meeting