



Independence Academy
675 29 Rd Grand Junction, CO 81504
Phone: (970) 254-6850 Fax: (970) 241-2064

Board Meeting Minutes
Monday November 1, 2021
5:00 P.M-Commons Area

Meeting Call to Order:

Role Call : 5:09 pm

Present

- **Sherry Price**
- **Brad Thompson**
- **Brandy Savoni**
- **Hadassa Berger**
- **Jeremiah Fenske**

I. Staff and Student Celebrations:

- A. Mrs. Gonsalves announced the hatching of the trout eggs and the success so far with this science unit. The board would like for Mrs. Gonsalves to put PSA out when exciting events like this happen to keep our community apprised of these events. Sherry said she will put Ilsa in contact with a man named Mike Green who can give her more information on how to navigate this
- B. Because of the weather a lot of field trips were cancelled but we did have a group of kids who were able to join at an Art Fair at CMU and they had a really good time.
- C. Boys basketball season is wrapping up and the girls basketball season was a good learning experience for all
- D. Girls Volleyball starts on November 15th.
- E. **Javier Delossantos** has gotten a group of students together to perform at the Hope West Fundraiser on the 21 and 22 of November.
- F. Pam Donoher won the Golden Apple award for quarter 1.

II. Public Comment: Time-limited TBA – individuals may make public comments, limited to items on the agenda, and two (2) minutes. The Governing Board asks that each member complete a public comment card, available in the front office, prior to commencement of the meeting. Public

comment cards should be given to the Executive Director who will then deliver them to the Governing Board President.

A. None at this time

III. Approval of the September 27, 2021 Board Minutes.

Motion: Brad Thompson

Second: Jeremiah Fenske

Vote: 5-0 motion passes

IV. Approval of the September Financials.

A. The 2021 audit has been completed and shows a 2.1 million increase in funds because of the bond funds we hadn't spent from June 30, 2021. We are more realistically looking at a roll over of \$235, 518.00 plus an additional ESSER funds of \$215, 319.45 totalling \$450, 837.45.

B. ESSER funds reimbursement are still behind by \$45, 000.00.

C. Hadassa inquired about the district reaching out to inform IACS of how the ESSER money, which was withheld from our school, will be allocated and benefit our student population. Lisa Gonsalves stated that Dianna Sirko agreed to have a meeting with her about how the funds will be spent. Lisa let the board know that she is trying to be patient and that she has her communication with the district timed, so that if she does not hear from them every couple weeks she continues to reach out to inquire about the subject and will continue to do so.

D. Because there was a stakeholder in the audience, Sherry requested that Lisa give an overview of ESSER funds and their allocation.

Motion: Jeremiah Fenske

Second: Brad Thompson

Vote: 5-0 Motion Passes

V. Conversation of increase of employee benefits.

E. Mrs. Gonsalves let the board know that employee benefits will increase again from 583.00 to 746.24 per employee per person starting Jan. 1 the district has started deducting a portion, 34.98, from each employee's paycheck to help fund this increase. Lisa is looking into other benefit plans as we can not sustain increases.

F. The board asked Lisa to do more research on alternative health benefits, contracts with the district, payroll connections and deadlines.

VI. Executive Director's Report.

A. Operations

1. The OCR complaint has been dismissed and all of the oCR issues have been resolved.

2. We are waiting on \$47, 385.18 in ESSER reimbursement not including November-which will be submitted on the 15th.

3. Becky and Lisa attended the League of Charter Conference in October and made some additional connections with charter service providers and other charter leaders.
4. CDE will not allow us to buy 15 passenger vans so our options are mini buses for \$65,000.00 a piece or a new bus at \$110,000.00 and we could put the 10,000.00 into repairing the old bus and have two buses. There are also some ideas about certifying a few staff members with their CDL to have in house bus drivers.
5. Work has started on the 5 year strategic plan- a survey was sent out to employees and Lisa is compiling the information from that survey. Lisa would like the board's input moving forward.

B. Instruction/Assessment

1. We have been doing a lot of data digs this year and have noticed a trend with incoming students new to IACS. On average they are coming to us with a large gap of learning loss assumingly due to COVID. Even with the large learning loss most students have made a huge amount of growth in only 9 weeks-this in part because of the focused interventions we have been able to put into place because of our interventionist.

C. Events Calendar

1. The first Middle school play is coming up on November 10th.
2. Lego league will be competing on November 13th
3. 5 staff members will be attending the Nation GT conference mid November
4. The Middle school dance was rescheduled for November 16th.

D. Facilities Report

1. There is some washing away that is creating some drainage issues. This will be remedied by replacing the rock.

VII. Family Council Updates

- A. Trunk or Treat was well received with a good turnout out of families and community members.
- B. Christmas and Thanksgiving festivities are in the works and will be discussed at the upcoming family council meeting.

VIII. Executive Session CRS Section 24-6-402 (4)(f)

C.R.S. 24-6-402 (4) The members of a local public body subject to this part 4, upon the announcement by the local public body to the public of the topic for discussion in the executive session, including specific citation to the provision of this subsection (4) authorizing the body to meet in an executive session and identification of the particular matter to be discussed in as much detail as possible without compromising the purpose for which the executive session is authorized, and the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the quorum present, after such announcement,

may hold an executive session only at a regular or special meeting and for the sole purpose of considering any of the following matters; except that no adoption of any proposed policy, position, resolution, rule, regulation, or formal action, except the review, approval, and amendment of the minutes of an executive session recorded pursuant to subparagraph (II) of paragraph (d.5) of subsection (2) of this section, shall occur at any executive session that is not open to the public.

Next Regular Meeting:

- **Date:** Monday November 29, 2021 @ 5:00 pm
- **Location:** IACS Commons, 675 29 road, Grand Junction, CO. 81504

Adjourned: 6:38 pm