



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

**Board Meeting Minutes**  
**Monday January 25, 2021**  
**5:00 P.M**

**Meeting Call to Order: 5:11 pm**

**Role Call -**

**Present**

- **Brad Thompson**
- **Sherry Price**
- **Brandy Bogges**
- **Abbie Siegmund**
- **Hadassa Berger**

**Absent**

- **None**

**I. Staff and Student Celebrations:**

- A. Big shout out to our quarter two Golden Apple recipient Minnie Nielsen. She has been instrumental in the success of our online learning program.
- B. Megan Henry had three students placed in the MLK art contest. Emila Maddalon, Addison Horton, and Akelia Calkins-who received Best in Show.

**II. Public Comment:** Time-limited TBA – individuals may make public comment, 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. The board received a thank you note from DA Davidson for partnering with them for Independence Academy corporation's most recent building project.
- B. The board received a thank you note from the IACS staff for the cookies that the board sent to the staff earlier in November.

**III. Review and Possible approval of the November 30th Board Minutes.**

**Motion:** Abbie Siegmund

**Second:** Brad Thompson

Vote: 4-0

**IV. Review and possible approval of the November and December Financials.**

**Motion:** Brad Thompson

**Second:** Abbie Siegmund

**Vote:** 4-0

**V. Review of the changes to Independence Academy Charter School Governmental Funds**

A. Lisa Gonsalves explained to the board that IACS received more Mill Levy funds because of the increase in student population. Because of this influx, more money was added to three different line items within the budget.

**VI. Review of the Independence Academy Building project budget overview.**

A. Everything is going well with the project and the budget is looking on par with an estimated \$300,000.00 still to spend. Lisa needs to add more to the wish list!

**VII. Executive Director's Report.**

**A. Operations, Mrs. Gonsalves**

1. House Bill 20B-1001 projects state level PPR to increase next year with a 20 million dollar increase for education. This could mean an approximate \$400,000 influx for IACS PPR funds.
2. There is an anticipated federal funding increase of 5.4 billion dollars for education. To put that into perspective, that would be about 4 times as much as we received from the CARES funding. These funds will have restrictions but could also result in additional funding to help with the academic fallout of COvid over the past year and a half.
3. Legislation at the state level mostly impacts Charter approvals, but may expand grounds under which a charter may be revoked or renewed and may impact the charter's ability to appeal certain local decisions related to waivers of school district policies.
4. February 3, 2021 is the annual investment call.
5. Our office staff is basically on call every weekend due to COVID quarantines.
6. Independence Academy is looking into increasing Pre-K fees to \$550.00 full day and \$285.00 for half day. This increase is long overdue and very comparable to other similar programs offered within the district.
7. IACS is also considering a price increase for the before and after school club. The office will do some comparables and calculate an approximate amount to run the program monthly.

**B. Instruction/Assessment, Kati Bennett/ Lisa Gonsalves**

1. Restructuring plan for middle school : Team teaching is an academic experience where teachers work together to design and teach course materials not by using a monologue, but rather by exchanging/discussing ideas in front of learners. Courses will also use group learning techniques, socratic discussion, break out

groups, joint test taking, collaborative assignments, and team presentations. We will use the Colorado State standards, coupled with curriculums we've purchased to re-envision the way learning takes place in middle school. Teachers will have common plan time during the day and on Friday as a whole middle school team.

2. Kaitlin Burris presented on the new program that will be offered in middle school, The Rise Program. This will put IACS on the map in competing with other middle schools who offer academically robust programs.

**C. Facilities-Lisa Gonsalves**

1. The larger truck will get repairs to the carburetor.
2. Tom will be working with the middle school science class to establish a saltwater aquarium for future studies on ecosystems and as an added bonus as Lisa's emotional support fish.
3. The small tent located on the west side of the building broke, due to weather. The maintenance crew took it down and are storing it in the barn.
4. Lisa will be evaluating costs to decide which route would be most cost effective with the expansion of our building and the added cleaning necessity.

**D. Community Outreach**

1. The partnership with Grand Junction High School and EF Tours is off to a great start. The trip to Iceland filled up in less than ten minutes. IACS will be exploring fundraising opportunities as well as possible scholarship opportunities for students. Our goal is to develop this program into something sustainable and unique to Independence Academy.

**E. Culture**

1. IACS has developed an additional EAP program for teachers that allows them to see a counselor through Individual Matters (2 visits) for mental health issues, at no additional cost to them. This program is not contingent on whether or not they have opted into the district insurance and is readily available with a phone call. We plan to use the ESSER funds to cover this cost.

**F. Events Calendar**

1. Open House is March 5th from 12-6 in person (hopefully)-though we are developing a plan B in case COVID cases begin to rise again. This may include some sort of classroom video and virtual tour.

**VIII. Discussion and updates on the Building Project**

- A. None at this time

**IX. Family Council updates**

- A. None at this time

**X. Executive Session CRS Section 24-6-402-Moved into executive session at 6:43 pm.**

C.R.S. 24-6-402 (4)(f)- Student incident

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.

**Adjourned: 7:01 pm**

**Next Regular Meeting:**

- **Date:** Monday February 22, 2021
- **Location:** Independence Academy Charter School , 675 29 road, Grand Junction, CO. 81504