



Independence Academy

675 29 Rd Grand Junction, CO 81504

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Work Session Agenda

Monday May 10, 2021

5:00 P.M-Commons Area

Meeting Call to Order: 5:00 pm

Role Call :

Present

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

Absent-None

- I. The board met and interviewed each candidate for the upcoming vacancy position.
 - A. Sherry went over the duties and responsibilities of being a Board Member. She emphasised not getting involved with parent and or student conflict. The board speaks as one voice, united after discussions.
 - B. Mrs. Amber Snow asked the Board an overall question for each member to answer,
 1. What are they looking for in a new member?
 - a) Brad - volunteer hours expected.
 - b) Sherry- Parent/ business oriented
 - c) Abbie and Hadassa- They want someone to fit and follow the vision/mission of Independence Academy.
- II. Each applicant was asked to share their current involvement and students who attend IACS
 - A. Chris Birdsong- family is involved in the school: Wife works in the front office, and has a current fourth grader who attends IACS.
 - B. Fenske- Currently has a Pre-K student and a 6th grader who attend IACS
 - C. Snow- 4 kids here , been here 6 years
 - D. Reynolds- two here, 3 are grandchildren. Split family. Lots of family here at IACS. Wants to make a difference
 - E. Norman- Currently has children in 5th and 7th grade at IACS
- III. Next, each board member asked the applicants one question.

- A. Abbie Siegmunds Question: Are you available Monday evenings? Why now apply to be on the board ?
1. Birdsong was on a previous Board so this was a good time to start a new
 2. Fenske- new role at work June 1st. He was On-Call most of this career. His Availability has opened up a bit.
 3. Snow- Didn't see it before Edlio - she would have applied before
 4. Reynolds- Was unaware there were available parent openings before this.
 5. Norman- Thought they were looking for a community representative with legal background for their previous vacancy. I didn't fit that role that Mike held. He does fit the parent volunteer member vacancy.

- B. Hadassa Question- What would you bring to the dynamics of the Board?

1. Birdsong- help contribute to the vision
2. Fenske- He is a facilitator - foster parent, coach. He likes the enjoyment of helping push the vision.
3. Snow- Lack of love in education in general, she wants to offer support and learn new things.
4. Reynolds- He is a "ask why guy." He wants a purpose for what we are doing. He stands up for what parents are saying. Listen to feedback and steer in that direction.

Norman- He really likes that our school is so high on tech and into the Arts. He finds it very important. He wants to bring more technology knowledge. Continue the good work that the current Board has done.

- IV. Brad Question-There is a conflict with your student in their classroom, how would you resolve it?

- A. Snow- Respect the boundaries, represent IACS no matter who you are speaking with.
- B. Reynolds- bump into events and represent IACS. Offer support to teachers.
- C. Norman- Go through the proper channels. Doesn't want privilege. Likes to keep separate family/board member
- D. Birdsong- It isn't about the individual problem it is about the group. He likes the separation of board/ Personal
- E. Fenske- He does well at removing emotion and isn't easily excitable.

- V. Brandy- How have you been involved in the school before, if not, why?

- A. Reynolds- recently moved to GJ. He would like to be on the D51 Board but has too much and doesn't have the time commitment. He wants more diversity of thoughts. Wants to make a difference in the school system.
- B. Norman- Didn't know of any committees. He does volunteer when he isn't working. He would like to volunteer more.
- C. Birdsong- GOTR will be his first volunteer experience. He was coaching hockey previously and new to IACS.
- D. Fenske- He has been able to talk with the students about safety but his current career was taking up too much of his time
- E. Snow- Volunteered in classrooms and has helped put the tent up.

- VI. Sherry - What would be one thing that you would like to change or impact our future?

- A. Norman- convey long term vision to parents. So much is spent on the start up. Help parents know where we are headed. May help with Grant Money and fundraising. Keep people excited.
 - B. Reynolds- Build a culture to keep staff, Administration and so on. Develop staff. Career day for students
 - C. Snow- would like to see more structured (required) volunteer hours from families. Allowing parents a window into what is the day to day.
 - D. Fenske- loves that kids are an individual with their own interest. I Want to build on that. More building/tech for small students.
 - E. Birdsong- more understanding with the community - Marketing our school.
- VII. Amber Snow announced that she was Rescinding her application. She stated that she feels the other candidates each bring such strong contributions. The board thanked her for her time.
- VIII. Brad didn't ask the candidates a direct question but he did reiterate the fact that board members must have thick skin. There will be many times when parents and stakeholders are upset with the decisions that are made, but it is important to represent IACS as one unit.
- IX. Lisa- Standardized testing is a big part of rating our school and has federal monies attached to them. What are your thoughts on Standardized testing?
- A. Fenske- He believes we can do both hands on and tests, it doesn't need to be either/ or it is both.
 - B. Reynolds- use hands on to teach what would be on a test. Make the problem real life.
 - C. Norman- "fail fast" plan, study, do, act. Data driven
 - D. Birdsong- he understands the rock and hard place that standard tests cause.
- X. The Board of Director ended the session with a talk about the importance of longevity and commitment to the IACS mission and Vision.
- XI. The board will hold a second round of questions on May 24th. They will have a new candidate by the end of May

Moved into Executive Session at 6:20

XII. Executive Session- C.R.S Section 24-6-4024)(f)-Personal

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: 7:00 pm

Next Regular Meeting:

- **Date:** Monday May 24, 2021
- **Location:** Independence Academy Charter School , 675 29 road, Grand Junction, CO. 81504