



Independence Academy

675 29 Rd Grand Junction, CO 81504

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Board Meeting Minutes

Monday April 26, 2021

5:00 P.M-Commons Area

Meeting Call to Order: 5:08 pm

Role Call :

Present

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

Absent-None

I. Staff and Student Celebrations:

- Altrusa art celebrations: 27 ribbons including judges choices and best in show
- Margie - \$25,000 grant for Pre-K to Cover a new sanitizing Dishwasher , Ipads, Waterplay station, Professional Dev., and additional curriculum
- Lacey Weber was accepted to a STEAM conference at the Naval Academy in Annapolis
- New Hires Brian Carr, Vicky Rethinger, and Cameron Jones were introduced and will be joining IACS for the 2021/2022 school year.

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. None at this time

III. Review and Possible approval of the March 29th, 2021 Board Minutes

Motion: Abbie Siegmund

Second: Brad Thompson

Vote: 5-0-Vote passes

IV. Review and possible approval of the March, 2021 Financials

Motion: Brad Thompson

Second: Hadassa Berger

Vote: 5-0-Vote passes

V. Discussion and possible vote for online learning next year.

- A. Remote learning for next year will be more regulated and we have to decide if as a school we want to offer this next year as a yearly option (during a shutdown it is automatic)
- B. The board would like to wait and see what happens with COVID in the coming months and make a reasonable decision about online learning. This will be revisited during the summer months. The board would like to allow Lisa Gonsalves to keep an eye on the numbers and information and let them know if she anticipates needing to keep online learning for the 2021/2022 academic year.

VI. Executive Director's Report.

A. Operations

- 1. ESSR III allocation -948,300 - we can only use $\frac{2}{3}$ of it right now because that is what the state has - 632,200- 20% has to be used to combat learning loss - 189,600 - must be spent 9/30/23
- 2. Learning backpacks and Eureka summer camps - 100 spots at Eureka, every returning learner will receive a backpack with age appropriate reading material, a summer workbook, STEAM activities and supplies to do at home, and art activities. There will be prizes for students who return their completed workbook at the end of the summer.
- 3. Lisa Gonsalves is looking into what it would take for IACS to be included in the free lunch with Lunch lizard next school year. The summer lunch schedule will be put out to IACS families so students can access free lunches over the summer.
- 4. Current enrollment is 443 2021/2022
- 5. There will be a transition from offering Personal Days to Sick Days for 2021-2022 contracts per new HR laws stemming from COVID changes.
- 6. S&P phone call went well and should be receiving our new rating in the next few weeks
- 7. Our PPR rose for this year - from 7661.98 to 7714.85 starting in March till the end of the year - an additional 52.87 per student (22,364.01 more for the year)
- 8. PPR for next year will be going from 7,661.98 to 8,858 per student
- 9. Charter capital construction grant has been approved- this will give an additional \$99,000.00 that can be applied to the mortgage.
- 10. A measure being discussed is expanding public employees' right to collective bargaining through representation by a labor organization.

11. Another measure being discussed is rebuttable presumption in favor of a charter school authorizer decisions concerning a charter school -

B. Instruction/Assessment

1. 95.8% CMAS participation - Today was our last day of make- ups. This means we hit our UIP goal.

C. Community Outreach

1. Phoenix Fuel will be starting up next year with help from ESSR III funds to help families with food insecurity. This could act as something like the backpack program, but is more covert strategies when providing food to families. This is to combat the stigma of food insecurity and provide our families with the support they need. Sherry would like to be able to collect data from that as the program is developed, as she is something she is very invested in through Strive. Brandy also mentioned that she works closely with The Food Bank of the Rockies and would also like to partner with this program as it becomes developed.

D. Culture

1. Teacher appreciation week is next week and we have a variety of things going on to show appreciation for the IACS staff.

E. Events Calendar

1. Continuation May 21, 2021 - 10:00 am - outside-there will be cake. The students are super excited. Mr. Javier is putting together a guitar performance as well.
2. May 3, 2nd grade connected lakes field trip
3. May 4, Prek is going to the Garfield Nursery to get flowers for a mother's day project
4. May 6, 3rd grade Devils Kitchen hike
5. The school is working on putting together an 8th grade trip in Glenwood Canyon with a high ropes course and Zip lines. Lunch will be provided. There is a stipulation that students must "unplug" during that day.
6. The board discussed how they would like to proceed with interviews of candidates prior to the next board meeting. They are looking at possibly Monday May 10th-in person if possible, otherwise ZOOM will be offered.

VII. Facilities Report-Tom Madalone

- A. The irrigation system is up and running. Tom thanked the board for approving that installation. It has made things much easier.
- B. The flatbed truck was repaired and it is running well.
- C. An additional pump will be added to the residential side of the property ranging between \$400-\$500.

VIII. Discussion and updates on the Building Project

- A. The project is still under budget and on time. The owner's representative has done an amazing job with managing the project and because of this, the school has been able to get many of the wish list items.

B. Jane has done a great job integrating the classrooms into the components of the building project.

IX. Family Council updates-None at this time

Moved out of regular session at: 6:25 pm.

X. Executive Session- C.R.S Section 24-6-4024)(f)-Review of candidate applications/Personnel

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: 6:38 pm

Next Regular Meeting:

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