



## **Independence Academy**

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

**Board Meeting Minutes**  
**Monday August 30, 2021**  
**5:00 P.M-Commons Area**

**Meeting Call to Order:**

**Role Call : 5:06 pm**

### **Present**

- **Brad Thompson-Acting Board President for the meeting.**
- **Brandy Savoni**
- **Hadassa Berger**
- **Jeremiah Fenske**

### **Absent**

- **Sherry Price**

### **I. Staff and Student Celebrations:**

- A. Javier encouraged many of our students to participate in a guitar contest and they won many prizes and some first place awards. This was a city wide participation and Javier was very pleased with the outcome.**
- B. IACS gave out prizes for the Summer workbooks and gave out a lot of prizes for the students' hard work. IACS awarded students with everything from HoverBoards, to bicycles, telescopes, gift cards, and many other prizes.**
- C. Ellen Balzer was a Grant Recipient for a social emotional curriculum in which the students did some great projects.**

### **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 July 26, 2021 Board Minutes.**

**Motion:** Jeremiah Fenske

**Second:** Hadassa Berger

**Vote:** 4-0-Motion Passes

- IV. Approval of the July Financials -Lisa Gonsalves filled the board in on the current procedures for reimbursement of ESSER funds and how long they can anticipate to wait before they see these funds reflected on the financial statements. She also confirmed that the district is aware that they are currently three reimbursements behind.**

**Motion:** Hadassa Berger

**Second:** Brandy Savoni

**Vote:** 4-0 -Motion Passes

- V. Discussion on moving forward with the traffic construction project-**

**A. Lisa explained that the problem with pickup is not that it takes too long to pick up their child, that the problem is that parents show up way too early and do not want to park so it backs up on to 29 road. She informed them that each day the school times the pickup and from 4:00-4:15 90% of our population is dismissed and exited with just a few parents who pickup between 4:15-4:20.**

- 1. Jeremiah proposed a few different ideas to move vehicle congestion from the front of the school to around the school if they are just picking up a middle school student.**
- 2. Jeremiah proposed another idea to open up the south gate connected to the corporation land to allow parents who want to park access to the south parking lot. Brad explained that this option would not be safe nor best practice in keeping the corporation and school separate. He added that the road leading to the SOuth parking lot is not in good condition and would need a lot of work.**

**B. The board reviewed the proposed plans for altering the dropoff and pickup loop to accommodate more cars and a more efficient drop-off and pick-up routine. They discussed plans that could be put into place sooner, and plans that could be developed long term. They discussed ways to group students to ensure they are together when COVID restrictions lift.**

**C. The board will move forward with prices and processes to make improvements to the dropoff and pickup loop that can be made in the coming months. Brad will have a conversation with Rob about the potential improvements.**

- VI. Follow up discussion regarding land rental.**

- A. The board discussed a plan on how to maintain the house while it is vacant and maintain and winterize the property.**
- B. The board discussed what should be done about the storage area to the South of the house. They considered just throwing most of everything away or donating items.**
- C. A meeting is set from CSU with Jermeiah to discuss soil samples of the front fields and consider planting hay or alfalfa.**

**VII. Follow up discussion regarding policies and procedure for renting out facilities to community organizations.**

**A. No new information at this time**

**VIII. Executive Director's Report.**

**A. Operations**

1. Morning drop off has been extended-instead of 7:45 we now start at 7:30 - teachers agreed to come in early for a yearly stipend
2. COVID Protocols are still in flux and are different for elementary than middle school
3. The fifth grade class is currently under a mask mandate for 14 days
4. Construction will be closed out and marked done once the last Asset mgt bill is paid - that will be once the benches and trash cans are delivered.
5. Credit cards have been issued from JP Morgan/Chase and we have those in hand and are ready to use. We will be switching over bills to them as well so we can get the yearly rewards. District didn't meet the state average on any marks.

**B. Instruction/Assessment**

1. Our preliminary look at CMAS is very positive - it is evident our school sustained no learning loss and made gains in some areas - our science score is 30 points over the state average / 40 over the district - we went down a few point in middle school ELA but that I can chalk up to variance as we are still 10 points above the district and state average.

**C. Community Outreach**

1. Safeway donated a bunch of sanitizing wipes, hand sanitizer, and disposable masks to us.
2. We are reaching out to families we know who work with car sales to start pricing vans

**D. Culture**

1. Teachers are energized for the new school year

**E. Events Calendar**

1. School pictures on Sept 8
2. Eight grade field trip with lead and explore (water and wilderness) Sept 2.- going to rimrock adventures to go rafting and hiking for a project on hydrology

**F. Facilities Report**

1. Ron has gotten the Hvac on a monthly inspection calendar with Comfort air
2. Got Middle shade area
3. Split shift 2 on during the day and 2 coming in at 10 to 7 and a few hours on Friday.
4. Facilities feel like they have gotten a handle on the shuffling of furniture and things are more organized.

**IX. Family Council Updates**

- A. First Family council meeting on 9/1/21 at 6:00 pm to discuss alternative options to create community without encouraging large grouping and enabling contact tracing if necessary.**
- B. They had a discussion about cleaning out the barn and possibly hiring out for a company to clean out the barn if it is not being used.**
- C. Mrs. Gonsalves mentioned that she would be interested in creating some community involvement with golden tickets and monthly newsletter rewards to create more family involvement incentive.**

**Regular Session ended 6:31 pm**

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

**Ended Executive session at 7:04 pm**

**Next Regular Meeting:**

- Date: Monday September 27, 2021**
- Location: IACS Commons, 675 29 road, Grand Junction, CO. 81504**

**Adjourned: 7:05 pm**