



Independence Academy

675 29 Rd Grand Junction, CO 81504

Phone: (970) 254-6850 Fax: (970) 241-2064

Board Meeting Minutes

Monday October 24, 2022

5:00 P.M-Commons Area

Meeting called to order: 5:08 pm

Role Call:

Present:

Brad Thompson

Brandy Savoni

Jeremiah Fenske

Hadassa Berger

Absent:

Sherry Price

I. Staff and Student Celebrations:

- A. Art and music teachers just returned from the Artober festival at CMU and it was a huge success.
- B. Fourth grade went on a field trip to meet the Mayor as part of learning about the judicial system.
- C. Phoenix Spirit tickets and caring cards are working well and continue to build extrinsic motivation and positive reinforcement for middle school students.

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 26, 2022 Board Minutes.

Motion: Brandy Savoni

Second: Jeremiah Fenske

Vote: 4-0 vote passes

IV. Approval of the September 2022 Financials.

Motion: Hadassa Berger

Second: Brandy Savoni

Vote: 4-0 vote passes

V. Approval of additional investment into the Colorado Trust account up to 4 million dollars.

- A. Lisa apprised the board of Kate's recommendation to leave approximately 1.5 million in the primary account and invest the rest in the Colorado Trust account which is basically a high yield savings account which could yield approximately \$30,000.00 a year in interest.
- B. The board would like Lisa to check into the Colorado Trust to see if there are restrictions on how much can be transferred at one time.
- C. They also would like Lisa to check into the FDIC insured amount through the current bank.

Motion: Jeremiah Fenske

Second: Hadassa Berger

Vote: 4-0 vote passes

VI. Vote of adoption of FAMILI (Family and Medical Leave Insurance)

- A. Questions the board asked was clarification on what it covers, how much the school would pay, and if the funds would follow the employees. Lisa responded with an explanation of the benefits, the .49% the school would be responsible for per employee who opts in. District 51 decided to opt out of this program. If IACS decided to opt out they cannot opt back in for 8 years, and it is unknown if the benefits would follow an employee to another job.
- B. The board stated that even if they were willing to vote on additional insurance for the staff, they believe that there is a better program to invest that kind of money into and that there are not enough details in this insurance to allow them to make an educated decision on if this is the best use of tax dollars.

Motion: none

Second: none

Vote: 0-4 Vote denied

VII. Update and discussion about the purchase of school buses.

- A. The bus purchases were canceled because the company could not get the chassis for the buses.
- B. A discussion was launched about next steps in securing vehicles for the school.
- C. Lisa will send Brandy the specs on purchasing large passenger vans and Brandy will reach out to a personal connection to see what we can do.
- D. The board would like Lisa to look into the cost of vans vs mini buses and make a decision at a later date.

- E. The board also requested that the office work on gaining the reimbursement of the deposit for the buses.

VIII. Update and discussion about shade structure replacement in the middle school pickup area.

- A. Brad will talk with Rob about the concept of the word “permanent” in the specs for the fire department, and building permit and would it suffice to buy a new one with the appropriate documentation that could be taken down each summer.

IX. Executive Director’s Report.

A. Operations

- 1. The process of the Charter renewal has started. The board needs to complete a narrative about their functionality and growth. Jeremiah inquired about whether or not it would be in the schools best interest to inquire with the state about the process of moving to a state affiliated charter school. The board discussed their knowledge of what that would mean and asked Lisa to get more information.

B. Community Outreach

- 1. Build day on October 27th for middle school challenge in partnership with asset management

C. Events Calendar

- 1. Fall Festival On October 28th
- 2. Alice and Wonderland on November 1st at IACS

D. Facilities Report

- 1. Brad asked if it would benefit the school to remove the remaining stalls from the barn and cement in the floors. Kati Bennett let him know that each of those stalls will be designated to a different use; Phoenix Family, Middle School Challenges, and extra school furniture. This way we will have a designated spot for items and it will keep the school from holding on to too much stuff.

X. 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.

Adjourned: 6:40 pm