



## **Independence Academy**

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

**Board Meeting Minutes**  
**Monday March 7, 2022**  
**5:00 P.M-Commons Area**

**Meeting Call to Order: 5:10 pm**

**Role Call :**

**Present**

- **Sherry Price**
- **Brad Thompson**
- **Brandy Savoni**
- **Hadassa Berger**
- **Jeremiah Fenske**

**I. Staff and Student Celebrations:**

- A. Great turn out for the library art show-almost 100 people
- B. Ellen Balzer received a grant from D51 for additional art supplies and professional development
- C. 8th grade students of the quarter for Bank of the West were Riley OHara and Ronan Norman

**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.

**III. Review and Possible approval of the January 31, 2022 Board Minutes.**

**Motion:** Brad Thompson

**Second:** Jeremiah Fenske

**Vote:** 5-0-Vote passes

**IV. Review and possible approval of the January Financials.**

- A. Brad asked a clarifying question about the total amount being distributed for ESSER III- Lisa responded with approximately \$700,000.00 total.
- B. Lisa also clarified that reimbursements from ESSER III spending are about 3 months behind.
- C. Hadassa asked about Bus purchases. Lisa let them know that the mini buses have been purchased but the purchase will not be on the budget until after July 1, 2022

**Motion:** Hadassa Berger

**Second:** Brandy Savoni

**Vote:** 5-0- Vote passes

**V. Review and possible approval of the 2022/2023 academic calendar.**

**Motion:** Jeremiah Fenske

**Second:** Brand Thompson

**Vote:** 5-0-Vote passes

**VI. Review and possible approval of updated pay scale/benefits.**

- A. Brad inquired about how PPR falls into the raise decision. Lisa explained that she did not take into consideration any PPR increase and only shifted money from what the school will be saving in benefits to payroll. He was ensuring sustainability.

**Motion:** Brandy Savoni

**Second:** Hadassa Berger

**Vote:** 5-0-Vote Passes

**VII. Discussion about the Executive Director Contract**

- A. Lisa informed the board that if they are interested in hiring a different Executive Director that they need to start the process of recruiting applicants. The board let Lisa know that they have no interest in finding another Executive Director.
- B. They would like to start negotiations on a 5 year contract for her renewal.
- C. The board would like Dustin Sparks to look over the Executive Director contract to ensure everything looks legal.
- D. The board would also like Dustin to review our current contract with the district before IACS renewal 2023.

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

**A. Operations**

- 1. We should be seeing a mid year increase of approximately \$111,000 - thanks to HB22-1186 2021 school finance act - which they have to distribute for budget stabilization - 68 million for the state
- 2. Min of 6% increase to PPR next year according to Legislation

3. SB 22-127 we should see a 40% increase in Special education funding up to 1,750 per student upping the amount of 15,088
4. Update on league conference
  - a) Lisa Gonsalves received a board seat on the Charter Leader Advisory Board
  - b) Lisa made a connection with a lady at the federal level about the handling of ESSR funds
5. Investment call went well /thanked us for our preparedness and professionalism

**B. Instruction/Assessment**

1. IACS is gearing up for CMAS April 11-24th.

**C. Community Outreach**

1. Change for Change will go to the IACS school community to purchase a new upper elementary playground. The middle school students will also receive a portion of the funds raised for outside equipment.
2. Open house went well - lots of students on the waiting list
3. Lottery will be the week after spring break April 1, 2022
4. Andrea Haitz, the District 51 school board president is visiting IACS Thursday March 10, 2022 at 2:00 pm.

**D. Culture**

1. Our intent to return for staff is looking positive with only one staff member not returning at this point.

**E. Events Calendar**

1. The Iceland tour leaves on March 18th
2. An in person guitar concert is set for Thursday March 10, 2022 at 5:30 pm

**IX. Family Council Updates**

- A. Family council will be hosting a QR code scavenger hunt around Easter

Moved into Executive Session: 6:16 pm

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

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: 6:39 pm**