



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

**Board Meeting Minutes**  
**Monday April 25, 2022**  
**5:00 P.M-Commons Area**

**Meeting Call to Order: 5:12 pm**

**Role Call-**

**Present**

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

**Absent**

- None

**I. Staff and Student Celebrations:**

- A. The IACS Cheer Team would like to give a performance to the Board to show them all the hard work they have been doing.
- B. 4 Students were Published in the Colorado Creates book. This book is published and will be sold on Amazon.
- C. Mrs. Henry received another grant for the Cherry Creek Art Festival to purchase a local piece of art for our school. Three students and Mrs. Gonsalves will meet up in Aspen to choose the art piece worth \$500.00
- D. 18 Ribbons won at the Altrusa Art show - including Judges choice and Best in Show
- E. IACS has 3 finalist artists in the Bank of Colorado Calendar Contest
- F. IACS Choirs received a superior Rating at the choir competition last Thursday at CMU
- G. All IACS student who applied for STEM and Central were accepted (6)
- H. School wide trash pick is a huge success!

- 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 March 28, 2022 Board Minutes.**

**Motion:** Brad Thompson

**Second:** Hadassa Berger

**Vote:** 5-0 Vote Passes

**IV. Approval of the March Financials.**

**A. There is an anticipated \$300,000.00 in overage for the remainder of the fiscal year.**

**Motion:** Jeremiah Fenske

**Second:** Brandy Savoni

**Vote:** 5-0 Vote Passes

**V. Approval of funding for the Elementary Playground of under \$80,000.00 including installation.**

- A. The board reviewed the wish list the fourth and fifth grade students put together. The school has raised approximately \$5,200.00.
- B. The board asked for Mrs. Gonsalves to make a recommendation of which equipment is most appropriate for that age group and a potential price point that would be appropriate for the current budget.
- C. Hadassa shared her personal opinion that the school/ kids should raise more money to go towards the project.
- D. The board discussed the playground funding further, reviewed the wishlist further.
- E. Brandy inquired about how much this purchase would impact the current budget. It was concluded that the budget would not be negatively impacted by the purchase.
- F. Brandy recommended that in the future students come and present these ideas to the board to create and maintain student buy-in.

**Motion:** Hadassa Berger

**Second:** Brandy Savoni

**Vote:** 5-0 Vote passed

**VI. Approval of parking lot construction plans for the summer of 2022 for approximately \$500,000.00.**

- A. The board reviewed the prints that Brad brought and asked questions regarding the logistics of the plans.
- B. The board made a recommendation to add extra parking and additional sidewalks for walkers. They also recommended additional signage for the separate roads for middle and elementary school pickup and dropoff.

**Motion:** Brandy Savoni

**Second:** Hadassa Berger

**Vote:** 5-0 Vote passes

**VII. Discussion regarding leasing the fields located on the east side of the property for agriculture.**

- A. Jeremiah addressed the board and clarified that he put this project on pause until the parking lot plans were solidified and planned on. Now that this work will be done, negotiation can continue about leasing the land to farmers for growing.
- B. Lisa brought up some ideas about potentially putting a trout pond and a green house located near the barn. The board stated that they are open to these ideas if the school receives grant money for this project.

**VIII. Discussion about potential High School structure.**

- A. Lisa Gonsalves went through a presentation that outlined a potential model that IACS could launch to create a unique and intimate feel.
- B. The board gave Lisa permission to continue looking into a High School structure and commented that they really liked the structure proposed.

**IX. Continued discussion and review of the Executive Director Contract**

- A. The board will take the contract draft and review it over the next month and make final recommendations at the May Board Meeting.

**X. Executive Director's Report.**

**A. Operations**

- 1. Lisa Gonsalves met with Doug Shawcroft to rearrange ESSR III and infuse 702,000 in the 2022-2023 budget - almost all into payroll to free up additional funds elsewhere.
- 2. Retention 98% students - with a waitlist in every grade (40 kindergarten - 40 6th grade)

**B. Instruction/Assessment**

- 1. CMAS is over - just finishing up make-up tests and it was a very successful run - upon first look - IACS did meet the 95% requirement for participation - although IACS needs to continue to create opportunities for additional buy-in for middle schoolers. All opt outs were from middle school. This has prompted us to look more closely at the learning culture of our middle school structure and ways we can build in more encouragement for productive struggle.

**C. Community Outreach**

- 1. Robot Game day is this Thursday in conjunction with Alpine Bank - Students will be competing in a robot challenge where each group designed a robot, compiled a presentation, and solved a challenge using their robot - students will be receiving a grade in their core classes for their participation in this event. Alpine bank designed and built the course - and will be here judging the competition.
- 2. Lisa Gonsalves attended her first League of Charter Schools Board meeting - discussing legislation and how the schools feel about its impact and the positions the league should take on them. A few pieces of potential litigation discussed were:

HB22-1358 - Clean Water - water filling stations 1 per every 100 kids -  
opposed

HB1376 - Supportive Learning Environments - documentation of  
discipline and infractions of schools

SB22-204 - Prevention of Title 9 misconduct - Parent trainings Reporting  
requirements, student trainings - may remove the parent/student component

#### **D. Culture**

1. Teacher appreciation week is from May 2nd through the 6th - IACS is asking parents and students to write a short thank you note to their teacher - thank you notes are provided at the office. Full breakfast will be served on Friday, along with gift cards and goody bags.
2. If the family council would like to do something little for each day of the week M-Th that would be fun.

#### **E. Events Calendar**

1. Book fair is April 25-27th, in the library.
2. April 28 - Robot Game Day with Alpine Bank
3. May 12 - art and music show 4-7 - Early release at noon
4. May 17, - Pre K Continuation - 5:30 pm
5. May 20, - 8th grade continuation 10:00 am
6. Lots of field trips and presentations !

#### **F. Facilities Report**

1. New speed bumps were ordered and will be installed after the construction project is finished this summer.

### **XI. Family Council Updates**

- A. None at this time

### **XII. Executive Session CRS Section 24-6-402 (4)(f)-Staffing**

#### **A. Moved into executive session at 7:13 pm**

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: 7:21 pm**