



## **Independence Academy**

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**Board Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday September 26, 2023**  
**5:00 P.M-Commons Area**

**Meeting called to order: 5:22 pm**

**Role Call:**

**Present:**

Sherry Price  
Hadassa Berger  
Brad Thompson  
Jermiah Fenske  
Brandy Savoni

**Absent:**

**I. Staff and Student Celebrations:**

- A. Megan Henry has secured over \$3,000.00 in grants for her classroom and she has extended this process to other teachers who have also received grant money for their different projects.
- B. Lisa Gonsalves was accepted to Harvard Academy for secondary education.

**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. Review and possible approval of the board meeting agenda.**

- A. Agenda Approved

**IV. Candidate interviews for parent board member vacancy**

- A. The board members introduced themselves to the candidates and expressed their passion for IACS and their role as board members.

B. Introduction of candidates

C. Group Interview Questions:

1. Brad: What makes you want to sit on the board?
2. Sherry: Tell me what skills and talents you could bring to the board?
3. Jeremiah: What do you see the role of this board in terms of administration, and what do you think you can contribute to the administration?
4. Hadassa: Our board has always maintained a unified voice and this has always been a strength of the board. Do you feel that you can find a way to always find common ground and maintain a unified voice? Can you separate your personal relationships and/or parent relationships with being an IACS board member? Secondly, does your schedule allow you time to be an involved member of the board?
5. Brandy: Longevity is important to the survival and consistency of the board. How long would you be willing to serve and would you be willing to serve past your students attending? What do you like about the culture?

D. Sherry opened up the questions to the candidates:

1. Thomas: Now that you've been on the board for a long time, is there anything you wish you would have known before you were elected to the board?
2. Burke: As a board member, do you revisit the vision and mission of the school and change the goals as you change and grow?
3. Adam: Because of the political landscape that school boards are becoming, how do you foresee navigating a partnership with D51 in the future?
4. Thomas: Does the school hold liability insurance for board members?
5. Thomas: What is the average amount of time you spend on board meetings and board associated items per month?

**V. Approval of the August 28, 2023 Board Minutes.**

**Motion:** Brad Thompason

**Second:** Jeremiah Fenske

**Vote:** 5-0 vote passes

**VI. Approval of the August 2023 financials**

**Motion:** Brandy Savoni

**Second:** Hadassa Berger

**Vote:** 5-0 vote passes

**VII. Approval of change to the academic calendar for teacher professional development on Thursday November 30th.**

**Motion:** Brad Thompson

**Second:** Hadassa Berger

**Vote:** 5-0 vote passes

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

**A. Operations**

1. The Charter is finally signed by the district and the next step is to engage the district in changes to the agreement.
2. The S&P call went well, IACS holds strong at a triple B- rating and IACS has been identified as a school who is defying other struggles that many charters are dealing with. The point being that our charter is in good health financially, academically, and culture.
3. The annual audit is finished and went well.

**B. Instruction/Assessment**

1. 12 teachers from IACS will be attending the national EL conference in Denver on November 30th. This is a great opportunity for our teachers.
2. CMAS scores were above state and district average and IACS is now back in "performance" which means we will qualify for a biennial submission of our UIP.

**C. Community Outreach**

1. Teachers have been applying and gaining grant money from the Opportunity Now Teachers Grant.

**D. Events Calendar**

1. Conferences 23-26th of October
2. Trout's eggs will arrive at the end of October
3. Choir performance on October 5th
4. Math Night this Thursday from 5-7 pm
5. Fall Festival is on October 20th from 4-7 pm
6. Book fair 23-26 of October

Moved into executive session: 7:14 pm

Moved back into regular session: 7:49 pm

**IX. Executive Session CRS Section 24-6-402 (4)(f) Review of board candidate.**

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: 7:50 pm