



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

**Board Meeting Minutes**  
**Monday July 31, 2023**  
**5:00 P.M-Commons Area**

**Meeting called to order: 5:20 pm**

**Role Call:**

**Present:**

Sherry Price  
Hadassa Berger  
Brad Thompson  
Jermiah Fenske  
Brandy Savoni

**Absent:**

**I. Staff and Student Celebrations:**

- 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. Parent Letter**

1. Sherry briefed the board on the circumstances of the parent request to refund her activity fee. After conversation the board did not vote to change the overall policy. They requested to look into possible donations for activity fees to cover the refunded funds.

**B. Staff Letter**

1. Beatrice B. Conway submitted a letter to the board about her positive experience working at IACS over the past 9 years, specifically noting Lisa Gonsalves as an exemplary Executive Director.

**III. Approval of the May 22, 2023 Board Minutes.**

**Motion:** Brad Thompson

**Second:** Hadassa Berger

**Vote:** 5-0 vote passes

**IV. Approval of the May, 2023 Financials.**

**Motion:** Brad Thompson

**Second:** Jeremiah Fenske

**Vote:** 5-0 vote passes

**V. Review and possible approval of the June, 2023 Financials.**

- A.** June's financials were not available- the board will review these financials during the August meeting.

**VI. Approval of the new charter contract between IACS and District 51.**

WHEREAS, Independence Academy Charter School ("IACS") is a Colorado nonprofit corporation and a public charter school authorized by Mesa County Valley School District No. 51 ("District") pursuant to the Constitution and the laws of the State of Colorado, particularly the Charter School Act, Article 30.5 of Title 22 of the Colorado Revised Statutes, as amended, and the terms and provisions of the charter contract between the District and IACS; and

WHEREAS, Pursuant to the Charter Schools Act ("Act"), §22-30-5-101 et seq., C.R.S. the District entered into a charter school contract with IACS dated July 1, 2008, and most recently a charter contract dated July 1, 2018 ("2018 Contract")

WHEREAS, the 2018 Charter Contract expired by its terms on June 30, 2023;

WHEREAS, IACS submitted a charter renewal application to the District seeking approval for IACS to continue operating as a District authorized charter school;

WHEREAS, the District Board approved the charter renewal application;

WHEREAS, the IACS Board of Directors have been presented a draft charter contract that will be effective from July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2028 ("2023 Charter") ; and

WHEREAS, the IACS Board desires to approve the 2023 Contract in its draft form and authorize the finalization and signing of the same.

NOW, BASED ON THE PROCEEDING RECITALS, BE IT RESOLVED: The IACS Board hereby approves the draft 2023 Contract as presented along with any changes approved by IACS's Executive Director and authorizes its Board President to sign the same.

**Motion:** Brad Thompson

**Second:** Hadassa Berger

**Vote:** 5-0 vote passes

The board of directors had a conversation around the possibility, benefits and downfalls of submitting a transfer of charter to CSI. They also requested that the Charter lawyer write up a list of concerns and possible amendments to the current charter contract.

**VII. Approval of the Independence Academy Complaints Policy and the Parent Code of Conduct.**

- A.** Sherry Price provided Lisa Gonsalves with feedback regarding the Parent Code of Conduct policy and requested clarification for inappropriate social media use. Sherry suggested that both policies be referenced to each other as defined by the policies.

**Motion:** Hadassa Berger

**Second:** Jeremiah Fenske

**Vote:** 5-0 vote passes

**VIII. Strategic planning for Independence Academy Board Turnover**

- A. Jeremiah Fenske and Brandy Savoni announced that they intend to resign from their parent positions and will submit a written resignation in the near future. They also communicated that they are willing to stay on the board until their positions are filled. Brad, Sherry, and Hadassa discussed each of their preferences for how much longer they would prefer to stay on the board and stated that after they filled the two recently vacant positions they will put together a strategic plan for slowly turning over the other board members.

**IX. School Board Member Oath of Office-Administered by Lisa Gonsalves**

- A. Completed and collected by Lisa to file with the county.

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

- A. Operations- The board asked Lisa to reflect on which major projects are priority for the school and bring them the ideas and how the projects will be financed.
  - 1. Pavillion for middle school loop
    - a) Once GJ planning approves the plans, construction should take 3-4 weeks. Estimated time for the city to approve the plans is estimated as 4-6 months.
  - 2. Update on auditorium
    - a) The auditorium project is now projected to cost upwards of ten million dollars. Without grants and corporate sponsors this project is currently out of reach.
  - 3. Highschool possibilities
    - a) District 51 has not agreed to give IACS permission to add a highschool and must be paused while the board decides how to prioritize the next capitol construction projects.
  - 4. Discussion about Corporation house use
    - a) The board discussed different options for utilizing the corporation owned house including remodeling, turning into staff housing, building tiny homes, 4H....
- B. Culture
  - 1. Lisa invited board members to the staff lunch at the school on Monday August 7th in order for staff to know who the board members are and to get to one another better.
- C. Events Calendar
  - 1. Back to School night is August 10th 4-7
  - 2. First day of school is AUGust 14th
- D. Facilities Report
  - 1. Lisa anticipates that this year will be a large purchasing year for maintenance due to the need for new and improved equipment.

**XI. 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: 7:42 pm