



Independence Academy

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Board Meeting Minutes

Monday August 28, 2023

5:00 P.M-Commons Area

Meeting called to order: 5:08

Role Call:

Present:

Sherry Price

Hadassa Berger

Brad Thompson

Jermiah Fenske

Brandy Savoni

Absent:

I. Staff and Student Celebrations:

- A. Ava Gabelson and Kylee Mclaughlin came to the board meeting to share their experience of shopping in Cherry Creek for a unique piece of art which was funded through the Cherry Creek art fundraiser.
- B. Megan Henry received another grant Colorado Creates Mico Grant that has supplied her classroom with really nice drawing pens.
- C. Megan Henry just received another 1,000 grant through the Colorado Department of education which will supply her classroom with sketch books for the next two to three years.

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. Approval of the July 31, 2023 Board Minutes.

- A. The board asked for the minutes to reflect that the board did not vote to change the policy of refunding fees, but instead found a donor to cover the fees.**

Motion: Hadassa Berger

Second: Jeremiah Fenske

Vote: 5-0 vote passes

V. Approval of the June 2023 financials

Motion: Brad Thompson

Second: Jeremiah Fenske

Vote: 5-0 vote passes

VI. Approval of the July, 2023 financials

Motion: Hadassa Berger

Second: Brad Thompson

Vote: 5-0 vote passes

VII. Discussion about the Independence Academy charter agreement with District 51.

- A. Mrs. Gonsalves informed the board that at this point there is not anything to discuss because our lawyer is still working on getting them to review the final stages of the agreement.**

VIII. Executive Director's Report.

A. Operations

1. IACS is purchasing a vending machine for books that will be placed in the library. The machine should arrive by the end of next month and will go towards supporting our positive reinforcement programs for elementary and middle school students.
2. There will be a drink vending machine that will be put in the teachers lounge and in the hallway in the middle school building. Coke partners with schools and the school gets a part of the proceeds each year. Mrs. Gonsalves is hoping to use the proceeds to set up a travelers fund to help students with educational travel.

3. Jeremiah suggested that Lisa talk with the press about the reason why people may be choosing charter over district schools as a way to put a positive spin on this idea in the media that charters are stealing students from the district.
4. We are looking into getting a basketball court poured for the middle school area with some potential foursquare area as well.
5. There will also be some additional electives offered in the spring semester that will tie into IACS travel opportunities. Brandy offered to get representatives from those countries meet with these classes and give them insight into those specific countries. This may be a good opportunity for the travel stipends.

B. Instruction/Assessment

1. IACS fared well on CMAS scores and outperformed district 51 and the state of Colorado in almost every category. Sherry Price suggested that be another point we bring up to the media as additional support for charters.

C. Community Outreach

1. Still working with community partners on grants for auditoriums.

D. Culture

1. There was a Phoenix Family Baseball night earlier this month which had a great turnout with a good mix of staff and families. There were approximately 75 people who attended.

E. Events Calendar

1. In September there will be a family movie night
2. In October we will host the fall festival with a potential date of the 20th.

F. Facilities Report

1. Brad would like to check into a business that can take over the landscaping, weed control, and general maintenance of the land. The board would like multiple bids on the projects.

Moved out of regular session at: 6:09 pm

MOved back into regular session at: 6:28 pm

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

- A. The board acknowledges receipt of the applications of potential candidates and they will continue to accept applications up until September 25th of potential candidates. The board will interview candidates on September 26th during the next regular board meeting.

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: 6:34 pm