



Independence Academy
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Board Meeting Minutes
August 25, 2025
5:00 P.M-Commons Area

Brought to order: 5:10 pm

Present:

- **Brad Thompson**
- **Lisa Sutherland**
- **Thomas Gibson**
- **Burke Martin**

Absent:

- **Jane Pizem**

I. Staff and Student Celebrations:

A. Megan Henry and students present the Cherry Creek Art

1. Mrs. Henry invited Brite and Aurora to present the art that was selected through a grant at the Cherry Creek Art Festival this summer to add to the IACS permanent art collection.

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 the 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 July 21, 2025, Board Minutes.

Motion: Thomas Gibson

Second: Burke Martin

Vote: 4-0 vote passes

IV. Approval of the June 2025 Financials.

A. In June there was a true-up from the district in the amount of approximately \$34,000.00.

B. Lisa Gonsalves pointed out a rollover at the end of the fiscal year of approximately \$300,000.00.

Motion: Burke Martin

Second: Lisa Sutherland

Vote: 4-0 vote passes

V. Approval of July 2025 Financials.

A. Thomas Gibson inquired about whether the investment transfer had been completed yet. Lisa Gonsalves explained that the district changed their payment schedule from 12 months to 9 months, so since larger chunks of money are being transferred out monthly, Becky Polniak will start by transferring smaller amounts monthly to the investment account, while still monitoring state and federal changes to educational funds.

Motion: Thomas Gibson

Second: Lisa Sutherland

Vote: 4-0 vote passes

VI. Elementary Principal Report

A. Instruction

1. Elementary is wrapping up BOY assessment, running into a few issues with the assessment platform, but the district is working with us to get these fixed.
2. Elementary will focus on aligning their primary and supplementary curricula with Colorado State standards to complete a comprehensive year at a glance that is vertically aligned.

B. Culture

1. All staff are taking part in the Myers-Briggs personality assessment. We are using this to guide our professional communication with one another.

VII. Middle School Principal Report

A. Instruction

1. The Create program is getting off the ground and Mrs. Shrader reports that many students are helping all of the new students settle into the IACS culture.
2. Elective classes are growing! Shawn Fitzgerald is working with a local partnership bike company to grow the mountain bike program.

B. Culture

1. Parent pickup is becoming more efficient with a clear time of 4:10 last Thursday.

VIII. Executive Director's Report.

A. Operations

1. The in-person part of the audit is completed, and the remainder of the audit is in process of being completed. Everything looked good, and there were no major questions or concerns.
2. The Capitol construction project is going well and is on schedule. The anticipated finishing date is mid-December.

B. Assessment

1. CMAS scores have come out and are still embargoed. The overall takeaway is that IACS will maintain its performance status and above the state and district average in almost every grade level. We are still struggling with making adequate growth year over year, which is hard to achieve. Our general rating is high performing, low growth.

C. Events Calendar

1. Family Movie Night is September 12th
2. Fall Festival is October 24th.

D. Facilities Report

1. The water bill issue was remedied by addressing a leak in the barn area. Currently, the water to the barn is turned off and will stay off until they can find the exact point of the water leak.

IX. 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: 5:58 pm