



Independence Academy
675 29 Rd Grand Junction, CO 81504
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Board Meeting Minutes
October 27, 2025
5:00 P.M-Commons Area

Brought to order: 5:03 pm

Present:

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

Absent:

I. Staff and Student Celebrations:

- A. Kati Bennett shouted out the admin and leadership team for covering her while she was out sick
- B. Mrs. Harris and students presented to the Phoenix Family about sponsoring a Veterans Day breakfast, which was approved for November 11th.
- C. Middle had its first spirit week. They are finding unique ways to celebrate and give back to our community.
- D. The Student Council will be hosting a clothing drive in the coming months.
- E. Fall Fest was a lot of fun and well attended.
- F. The trout eggs have been delivered the Soar team is working on getting them going.

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 September 29, 2025, Board Minutes.

Motion: Thomas Gibson

Second: Lisa Sutherland

Vote: 5-0 vote passes

IV. Approval of the September 2025 Financials.

- A. Lisa informed the board that the final count for October was 519 students, which was higher than what was budgeted for, and will add an additional \$200,00.00 to the physical budget.

Motion: Burke Martin

Second: Jane Pizem

Vote: 5-0 vote passes

V. Elementary Principal Report

A. Instruction

1. We are about 3 weeks into our new intervention process, and teachers are really liking it so far

B. Culture

1. Culture is going well, and teachers and students are looking forward to the upcoming break.

VI. Middle School Principal Report

A. Instruction

1. Build Day is on Thursday, and they are really looking forward to the community partnership.
2. Lisa and Audrey are meeting with all teams to gather information on what is working well with their program and what needs to be changed to optimize its effectiveness.
3. A student teacher will be joining the Create program beginning November 3rd, with a focus on math.

B. Culture

1. Looking into sending the Create team to a conference that will help them grow as a program.

VII. Executive Director's Report.

A. Assessment -

1. UIP has been written and submitted to the district for review.

B. Events Calendar

1. The holiday store is coming up in December for students

C. Facilities Report -

1. New toilets are completely installed in the H, and they are working well.

VIII. 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.

The board reviewed some visual representations of the new Gym to review some final decisions on lines for different sports.

Adjourned: 5:47 pm