



**Independence Academy**  
675 29 Rd Grand Junction, CO 81504  
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**Board Meeting Agenda**  
**September 29, 2025**  
**5:00 P.M-Commons Area**

**Brought to order: 5:05 pm**

**Present:**

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

**Absent:**

- **Burke Martin**

**I. Staff and Student Celebrations:**

- 8A Girls Won the Volleyball Championship
- Megan Henry received a D51 grant for an upcoming professional development she is attending.
- Megan Henry launched the 2027 trip to Iceland.
- Megan Henry hosted a fundraising event to help students make money for an upcoming travel with a community yard sale, and it was very successful.

**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 August 25, 2025, Board Minutes.**

**Motion:** Jane Pizem

**Second:** Lisa Sutherland

**Vote:** 4-0 vote passes

**IV. Approval of the August 2025 Financials.**

**Motion:** Thomas Gibson

**Second:** Lisa Sutherland

**Vote:** 4-0 vote passes

**V. The board of education of Independence Academy Charter School hereby approves the appropriation and use of \$200,000.00 in general funds rollover monies for capital improvements.**

**Motion:** Thomas Gibson

**Second:** Lisa Sutherland

**Vote:** 4-0 vote passes

**VI. Approval of using approved rollover monies to repair the roof on the H building in the amount of \$211,965.32.**

**Motion:** Lisa Sutherland

**Second:** Thomas Gibson

**Vote:** 4-0 vote passes

**VII. Elementary Principal Report**

**A. Instruction**

1. Elementary is in the process of vertically aligning K-5. This is an ongoing professional development that will be completed in the third quarter.
2. Teachers and paraprofessionals are gearing up to launch a new intervention model beginning in the second quarter.

**B. Culture**

1. Lots of student are trading in their first 5 spirit sticks for books
2. Field trips are underway
3. Quarter one challenge for elementary teachers.

**VIII. Middle School Principal Report**

**A. Instruction**

1. Audrey Shrader is collecting information from teachers on how they use tools within their classrooms and curricula.
2. Projects are up and going, and in middle school and there is an effort to get that out more and celebrate.

3. Chromebooks are becoming more of a problem with gaming and plagiarism, and Mrs. Shrader has asked teachers to take a few steps back and ensure that they are utilizing Chromebooks as a learning tool.

**B. Culture**

1. Create is getting its footing, and the new students from the district schools are starting to settle into the IACS culture and community.
2. Audrey Shrader shouted out that the Create teachers went over their class limit to accept a passionate student.
3. Fitzgerald got five new mountain bikes for his program.

**IX. Executive Director's Report.**

**A. Operations**

1. October count expected to be approximately 520 students for the 2025/2026 school year.
2. Lisa Gonsalves will leave for her first trip to Denver on October 1st and will return towards the end of October.
3. Lisa Sutherland asked if the fence could be moved back by the roundabout so students have a safer way to walk when they are walking home. Brad Thompson said he will take care of that immediately.

**B. Assessment -**

1. IACS is still in Performance for CMAS testing. The scores dropped overall, and Lisa Gonsalves thinks that there is a correlation between the testing schedule and the drop in scores.

**C. Community Outreach**

1. The Sheriff's Department is partnering with IACS for the middle school challenge day this year.
2. Fall Festival is October 24th

**D. Events Calendar**

1. The leadership summit with the League of Charters is happening on October 11th.

**E. Facilities Report**

1. We are currently replacing the toilets in the H, 14 to be exact.

**X. 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: 6:18 pm

