



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

Board Meeting Agenda
March 30, 2026
5:00 P.M-Commons Area

Brought to order: 5:02 pm

Present:

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

I. Staff and Student Celebrations:

- A. Marci Yoseph shared the experience of raising trout, releasing trout, and the wonderful letters students wrote to their trout before they released them.
- B. 49 People traveled to Greece and had a safe and successful trip, even though 40 travelers missed their connecting flight.
- C. Megan received a PD grant for \$1,600.00 for a week-long workshop at Anderson Ranch in Snowmass.
- D. The yearbook and planner winners were announced. There were a ton of amazing entries.
- E. On 3/31 Mr. Klaiber will be taking Create students to The Art Center for a series of fast-paced art workshops.

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 February 2026 Board Minutes.

Motion: Thomas Gibson

Second: Lisa Sutherland

Vote: 5-0 vote passes

IV. Approval of the February 2026 Financials.

Motion: Burke Martin

Second: Jane Pizem

Vote: 5-0 vote passes

V. The board of education of Independence Academy Charter School hereby approves the appropriation and use of \$155,000.00 in general funds rollover monies for capital improvements of adding an additional driving lane.

- A. Brad Thompson shared feedback from current parents about pickup loop improvements. This would add one additional lane so that there is a designated middle school and elementary lane, and two lanes for major entrance and exit. Brad Thompson presented bids for this project at approximately \$150,000.00. This would include all drainage, landscaping, and all paving and preparation.
- B. Thomas Gibson raised safety concerns about releasing middle school students in the last hour. Administration explained that students have a very specific walking path for every other hour during the day, but when school lets out, students leave in different ways depending on when and where their parents pick them up, and that is not something we can control.

Motion: Lisa Sutherland

Second: Thomas Gibson

Vote: 4/0 Jane Pizem (abstained, to prevent conflict of interest)

VI. Approval of funds to finish the landscaping for the event center.

- A. The board of education of Independence Academy Charter School is accepting bid proposals from TNT Construction for \$54,500 - landscaping
- B. Accepting bid proposal Taylor Fence - security fencing - \$17,314
- C. Accepting bid proposal TNT Construction for - Gutter - \$7,400

Motion: Jane Pizem

Second: Buke Martin

Vote:4/0 Brad Thompson (Abstains- to avoid conflict of interest)

VII. The board of education of Independence Academy Charter School hereby approves the re-appropriation and use of approximately \$220,000.00 in general funds to purchase an LED board for the auditorium.

Motion: Burke Martin

Second: Lisa Sutherland

Vote: 4/0 Jane Pizem (abstained, to prevent conflict of interest)

VIII. Elementary Principal Report

- Instruction
 - Grades are gearing up for CMAS testing and supporting students with testing
 - Lisa Sutherland asked if any students had opted out. Shrader answered none yet and explained a little bit of why parents might want to opt their students out.

IX. Middle School Principal Report

- Instruction
 - Middle school gearing up for CMAS testing
- Culture
 - Mrs. Burris had her baby, and teachers are taking the initiative in middle school and taking care of each other.
 - Middle school staff issues and staff are keeping it together and doing a good job pulling together.
 - Burke Martin mentioned that his son, in 8th grade, is noticing all the other teachers rallying around Mr. Post's classroom to help support him while we find a long-term sub for Mr. Evans for the remainder of the year.

X. Executive Director's Report.

- Operations -
 - Insurance providers switch to a possible to save about \$150,000 a year
 - The league has asked Lisa Gonsalves to speak on Senate Bill 26-145 on 4/6 about charter schools being engaged with school districts on bond measures.
- Assessment -
 - CMAS starts April 6th
- Community Outreach
 - Harvest View church rental in conversations with Lisa Gonsalves about renting the auditorium every Sunday for half days.
 - Change for Change update has earned approximately 3,500.00 and the school will be matching that money for donation
 - Influential Women wrote an article about Lisa Gonsalves

- Events Calendar
 - Leah Skelton hosted the honors choir last Thursday and the space worked out well and may become a yearly event.
- Facilities Report
 - We haven't heard from CSI regarding intercoms in the event center, but Lisa Gonsalves is having a hard time getting in contact with CSI.
 - AV Experts did not position the projector correctly, and now it hits the teaser.
 - There are H-Vac issues in the modular that maintenance is attending to.
 - Brad Thompson shared different bids on landscaping for the event center.

Moved into executive session: 6:24 pm

Executive Session CRS Section 24-6-402 (4)(f)

Staffing up date Evans

Adjourned: 6:50 pm