

Imagine Classical Academy Board Meeting Minutes



Where students are classically trained, culturally literate, and globally prepared.

6464 Peterson Road • Colorado Springs, CO 80923

Monday, March 21, 2016

6:00pm Room 209



The mission of the Imagine Classical Academy at Indigo Ranch is to positively shape the hearts and minds of our students by providing them with an academically rigorous and content rich curriculum, a learning environment of high expectations for student achievement in which character is modeled and promoted within a collaborative community based on trusting relationships.

The Board shall use the Mission, the Motto and the Six Measures of Excellence (Shared Values, Parent Choice, Academic Growth, Character Education, Economic Sustainability, and School Development) as the filter for all decision making.

- I. Call to Order: 6:01 PM
- II. Pledge of Allegiance 6:01 PM Led by Michael Riggs
- III. Mission Statement 6:01 PM Read by Chris Dempsey
- IV. Roll Call 6:02 PM Board members present: Chris Dempsey, Brandon Henry, Michael Riggs, Markus Bahnemann Also in attendance: Hockett family, Frank Fowler, Scott Hunter, Cheryl Dempsey, Gracee Liggett, Valerie O'Brien, Monte Lange, Nancy Box and Amy Esquibel
- V. Approval of minutes from Feb. 22, 2016 - 6:02 PM Markus Bahnemann moved to approve as presented, Brandon Henry seconded. Motion passed 4-0.
- VI. Approval of Board Meeting Agenda - 6:02 PM Chris Dempsey moved to approve as presented, Markus Bahnemann seconded. Motion passed 4-0.
- VII. Spotlight – Shared Value recognition – 6:03 PM Jordan Hockett for was recognized as winner of the ICA Spelling Bee and competing at the Colorado State level and Gavin McKnight for winning the ICA National Geography Bee
- VIII. Comments from public - 6:07 PM None
- IX. Treasurer's/Business Manager's Report on Trend – 6:07 PM Valerie O'Brien
 - ICA received \$51,000 of Read Act funds; this means we are currently \$12,000 over budget for the year
- X. Parent Choice Report – 6:08 PM Gracee Liggett
 - Family literacy Night was "Where the Wild Things Are" / Great turnout with 88 kids and 77 adults. Honors Art did the decorations.
 - Jump Rope for Heart raised \$6800
 - Pirates of Penzance is rehearsing for April 22nd show
 - 2nd grade Immigration day (25 parent volunteers)
 - 5th grade Renaissance Day
 - German Fasching Day Parade
 - Kinder Roundup Mar 22nd
 - Google Expeditions coming to us for virtual field trips (special 20min presentation)
- XI. Principal's Report and Dashboard – 6:20 PM Frank Fowler
 - Currently in process of last round of shared values survey for staff

- UIP was presented to SAC
- Scott meeting with module 4
- Economic Sustainability is 97% average daily attendance, shows truancy letters that have been sent
- Read Act Funds
- MLO was reviewed with DAC and approved for \$140,000 / which will also support our budget (CKLA \$67,000) as well as compensation.
- Increases in salary will be implemented by school administration. The board will agree unless increases are more than the budget can support, then board will have a say. A 1.5% increase for 2016-2017 is anticipated for all staff.
- A freezer for lunch room needs to be purchased. Michael Riggs says since we have a contracted food services co, are we contractually in need to provide that? If D49 is our provider, can we hold off with purchase until we decide? Frank says that we need to keep D49 food services employees so we must get this because the employees have to go to Vista Ridge to get food for the day. We are unable to store more than 1 day of food. Who holds the contract for food services? We haven't seen it but believe it is the board that holds the contract. Monte suggests that we set it up for the school to own freezer after purchase. Does having the freezer change inspection requirements and will acquisition force ICA to meet different (higher) state and county thresh holds? Look into portable freezers as an option. Staff can't use the kitchen for events due to health inspection requirements. Getting the freezer would put us on the delivery route for food services daily. D49 looks at wellness program for food. Next year we will look into some other options for kitchen.
- Frank Fowler, Sheila Youngblood and Marcia Billingsley attended the UCCS job fair.
- We hired a counselor and are blown away at what this will bring to the school (PT for this year and potentially FT for next year). Counselor will teach about bullying.
- Regarding the parking lot ground water issues, an Engineer came out as well as an Insurance representative. Our Insurance policy doesn't show water table issues in the policy. A geotechnical Engineer is coming to see it as well as a Civil Engineer from Insurance Co. Will keep the board posted as to what their responses are. Elder construction is concerned and looking into this further. Several tar cracks are leaking. Building is safe but basketball court and parking lot are still a concern.
- 5th grade was accepted back to Star base next year.
- Joe Littlefield and Christine Nguyen will go to tech training over the summer.
- 20 kids per grade currently on the waitlist / kindergarten has 250 on the waitlist.
- 5th grade moving to MS, transitions out due to sports and extra -curricular.
- Can we find out from previous 8th graders how well they have been prepared for high school? We have been in contact with Vista Ridge and their counselors. Our students are at a higher level and have options to be placed into correct classes. Can we send a questionnaire to parents of previous 8th graders? (Ask Marcia to help).
- PARRC is going so much better and smoother with the chrome books this year.
- Dashboard... Starr testing percentage in Jan 2016 went up, showing that our school is doing better. MS is lower in Reading and Math.
- Behavior referrals in Feb. No trends but a few are kid specific.
- When child hits 10 absences, a greater level of engagement with law enforcement regarding truancy. Parents / student fill out contracts if they get to this point.

XII. Regional Report – 7:10 PM Nancy Box/Monte Lange

- Monte spoke about Gracee Liggett's process for teacher of the year.
- Tried to set up a meeting with Mr. Franko for today but could not meet so will reschedule.
- Board training will occur in May or during the summer.

XIII. Consent Items - 7:15 PM

These are items that are for information or for vote, but do not require further discussion by the Board or staff at this time. In the event that new information is available since the publication of the agenda, prior to approval of the consent agenda as presented, the board or staff may remove any consent agenda item(s) to the Discussion Agenda.

- A. Treasurer's Report - Brandon Henry moved to approve the treasurer's report as presented, Chris Dempsey seconded . Motion passed 4-0.

XIV. Action Items - 7:20 PM

These are items that are for Board Approval by vote, which may require Board discussion.

- A. 2016-2017 Calendar - Markus Bahnemann moved to adopt the calendar as presented, aligning ICA to D49's 1st week of Spring Break. Chris Dempsey seconded. Motion passed 4-0.
- B. Student fees 2016-2017 - Chris Dempsey moved to accept student fees as presented: \$65.00 for all Elementary and \$56.00 for MS + cost for additional overnight trip. Budget will match for student fees as well. Shirts will be a separate cost and purchased only if needed. Markus Bahnemann seconded. Motion passed 4-0.
- C. Preliminary Budget – Chris Dempsey moved to approve the preliminary budget. Brandon Henry seconded. Motion passed 4-0.
- D. Unified Improvement Plan (UIP) – Markus Bahnemann moved to accept the UIP as presented. Brandon Henry seconded. Motion passed 4-0.

XV. Discussion Items - 7:45 PM

These are items that are for Board discussion, but do not require Board Approval by vote at this time.

- A. Board terms –Terms for board members: 2018 for Riggs, 2017 for Bahnemann. We will work Brandon Henry and Chris Dempsey into the terms. Minutes will be located and sent to Frank Fowler to distribute to all for discussion. Bylaws state longest term is 4yrs and are staggered (updated 2014). Will review and discuss. **(discussion item for next meeting for concise info)**
- B. Strategic Planning – will be a recurring discussion item as we wait for Michael Phillipich to be seated. Will make this a possible major agenda item for annual board meeting.

XVI. Board member communication – 7:55 PM Congrats to Gracee again. Her video and packet is due to Monte by Apr. 7. A phone interview will take place and will make announcement by end of year.

XVII. Other Business - 8:01 PM None

XVIII. Adjournment – 8:01 PM

PARTICIPATION IN MEETINGS:

Board meetings are generally a time for the Board to hear from the Principal, other senior administration representatives, and those who are scheduled to make presentations on selected topics. Colorado law prohibits the Board from discussing public business other than during public meetings or executive sessions (see below). Therefore, these public sessions are working sessions of the Board that are intended to provide interaction between Board members and administration in an effort to reach decisions on a wide variety of issues. With rare exception, these meetings are not the best place for initial discussion to take place. New initiatives or proposals should typically be discussed first with administration and a formal proposal prepared for presentation at a time when the item can be scheduled on the agenda. Nevertheless, there are times when the Board is discussing a proposal that certain individuals attending the meeting can provide valuable insight, expertise and perspective to assist the Board in making wise and well-informed decisions. Generally, those involved in bringing forth an idea, and those most active in the process of researching and presenting a proposal, will be the ones most likely to be called upon for input during the Board's discussion. In addition, senior administration officials and representatives from other active task forces will be relied upon for their perspective concerning a particular proposal and the impact it will have on various constituencies.

OPEN FORUM:

During each meeting, the Board sets aside a period of time when anyone who wishes to do so may make a brief statement or mini-presentation to the Board. The Board will take these comments and suggestions under consideration, but will typically not have adequate time in the schedule or enough information to be able to make a decision or respond during the meeting. The Board may choose to refer such items to the administration for research and the possible future preparation of a recommended course of action to be considered at a later meeting.

OTHER VENUES FOR IDEAS AND SUGGESTIONS:

New ideas and suggestions are often best handled by contacting the administration. In addition, there are a number of other venues where interested individuals are encouraged to bring forth ideas and suggestions. These include, but are not limited to, Student Character Council; Parents Teachers Organizations (PTOs), Town Hall Meetings, Principal's Coffees, regularly scheduled parent meetings, and various Task Forces. Proposals which are brought forth through groups such as these, in close cooperation with the administration, are typically organized in a manner that make them easier for the Board to properly consider them and make well-informed decisions.

EXECUTIVE SESSIONS:

While the law requires that most Board meetings be open to the public, the Board may meet in a private, "executive" session to consider the following types of matters: (i) purchase or sale of real estate; (ii) conferences with an attorney for the purpose of receiving legal advice; (iii) matters required to be kept confidential by federal or state laws or regulations; (iv) specialized details of security arrangements or investigations; (v) determination of positions relative to contract negotiations; (vi) personnel matters; (vii) consideration of documents protected by the Open Records Act; and (viii) discussion of most individual student matters.