

## Independence Classical Academy Governing Board

### Board Meeting Minutes

January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2024 @ 5:00pm – School Cafeteria  
2902 S. Jenkins Road Fort Pierce, FL

Meeting called to order at 5:00pm by Chairman Becton. In attendance were Clay Becton, Lance Poole, Carlos Frade, Jason Revels, & Cathy Townsend. Also in attendance was EDO Sandy Howard, Jeffery Russell, Trisha Thomas, Kacey Predix, Samantha Watson, Rachel Walter, Brooke Holcomb, Jaelyn Combs, Kelly Green, & Sherry Scerbo. Also in attendance were parents: Joe Bell, David Howard, Jennifer Lee, Tara Lee, Jessica Russell, Connie Fernandez, Heidi Busbin, Taylor White, Barbara Watson, Destiny DiFransisco, Stephanie Myers, & Shaunesi Maxwell

On a MTA by CF and 2<sup>nd</sup> by LP, the agenda was approved.

Public Comment: Jennifer Lee, Barbara Watson, & Heidi Busbin all addressed the board with their desire to keep their kids at ICA and implored them to consider keeping a cohort of students here to grow our high school. Ms. Busbin pointed out that even something small with a few programs was better than sending them to a large campus where they will be lost in the shuffle. Mrs. Watson told the board she pulled her son from Fairlawn in 5<sup>th</sup> grade to ensure he had a seat for our middle/high. Ms. Lee reminded the board that if we are going to do it, this is the group to start with, that they will lead the way and set great examples. After a brief discussion, Mrs. Townsend requested the item be placed back on the agenda for February. Mr. Becton stated that after development options and space as well as programming are considered, it would need to be a board decision to overturn the prior decision. Mrs. DiFransisco, Myers, and Maxwell spoke about concerns regarding parent chaperones on the 8<sup>th</sup> grade Gradventure trip, concerns over the dress code and length of shorts, cameras in classrooms, as well as staff interaction with the kids over the shorts, and finally the certifications of teachers. Mrs. Howard will provide the list of teacher certifications, and get a meeting together to discuss dress code issues and Gradventure to ensure all questions are answered. Mrs. Howard did address the cameras in the classroom and reasons why they protect both teachers and students.

School progress report was given the board regarding expansion bonding, as well as employment update for hiring needs, including the movement of Mr. Russell into leadership (org chart change in consent agenda) for 24/25. Fishing report given by Mrs. Thomas for next tournament at Harbor Point on 2/8. Current balance of club is \$31,346.98 with plans to take a charter trip coming up. PTO report showed Winterfest made \$11,062.00 with some going to school, PTO, and back to teachers. PTO is hosting Valentine shirt day and flower sales to go towards offsetting academic field trip costs.

Consent agenda was passed unanimously on a MTA by JR and 2<sup>nd</sup> by LP.

Discussion on baseball was held with parent concerns, schools being played and rostering of ONLY ICA kids. Mr. Poole spoke to the board about ensuring all concerns were addressed and would host a meeting ASAP with the coach to answer all questions on fees, schedule, and roster before continuing. Update to be given at next meeting.

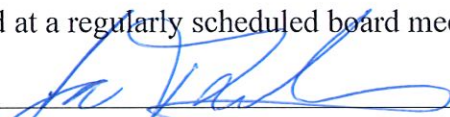
Discussion on board training for January 27<sup>th</sup> at 8am with Building Hope. Breakfast at 7:30am followed by training on sunshine law, meeting productivity, and financial obligations, as well as strategic planning process.

ICA dismissal policy was presented to the board, upon review by attorney, and approved unanimously after a MTA by JR and 2<sup>nd</sup> by CF. Policy will take effect 24/25 school year.

Calendar of events was provided to the board.

With no further comments or concerns by the board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:06pm. The next meeting is set for February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2024.

Minutes approved at a regularly scheduled board meeting on Feb 21, 2024

Board Secretary: 

Date: 2-21-24