

Independence Classical Academy Governing Board

Regular Meeting Minutes

April 12th, 2023 @ 5pm – School Cafeteria

2902 S. Jenkins Road Fort Pierce, FL

Meeting called to order at 5:00pm by Chairman Becton. Pledge and roll call to follow. In attendance: Clay Becton, Vice-Chair Art Cross, Board members Sandra Crouch, Lance Poole, & Cathy Townsend. Director of Operations Howard, Dean Chancey, Executive Assistant Kacey Predix, Communications Manager Brooke Holcomb, & Guests (Jessica Brewster, Loanna Lopes, Carlos Frade, Trisha Thomas, Sharon DeFlorio, Taylor Lampman, and Alexis Ploetz)

On a motion by SC and 2nd by AC, minutes from the February 2023 meeting were approved unanimously.

The Building Hope Team was on campus after a tour and property search in the area to present to the board an update on the expansion projects (current facility to increase enrollment capacity, as well as construction of the upper campus). An introduction to the members of the team and company was presented as well as a timeline presented; board members were able to ask questions, in which a discussion on the use of local contractors, areas of preference for location of new upper campus, and other concerns were readily addressed by BH. On a motion by AC and 2nd by CT, it was unanimously decided that the EDO has authorization to procure property for ICA in connection with BH up to the point of development, and no further action is required at this time. Mrs. Howard will bring anything further or new action items requiring board approval back to the board in an emergency meeting if anything is needed before our June meeting.

Mrs. Howard presented projections to the board regarding expected referendum dollars that will be provided in July, then again in late fall of 2023, then carry each year, based on unweighted FTE. Given the expected allocations, Mrs. Howard was seeking a directive from the board to incorporate the spending of those funds outside of our FY24 budget to include, but not be limited to 1) performance bonus (supplemental pay) to highly effective teachers and staff, 2) courtyard renovation of artificial turf and completion of the K-2 playground. Any other funds will be required to be approved by the board.

Mrs. Howard presented several policies to the board that were reviewed by the attorney and redlined for changes to ensure compatibility and compliance with current laws. The following policies were reviewed, discussed, and approved as presented: Employee handbook with 90 day probationary period, and the Conflict of Interest & Anti-Nepotism Policy. The bylaws and admissions policy will be heard at the next board meeting, in which the attorney will be present in person or via zoom to be sure all of the questions can be answered by the board. A workshop

will be scheduled by EDO Howard to be held immediately prior to the board meeting for that item.

Board elections were held the week prior to Spring Break, and results were counted and sealed by three members in good standing of our ad-hoc committees. The following results were read at the board meeting, reflecting 53 eligible families voting on new members. With 2 seats up for election and 3 eligible people running, including incumbents Sandra Crouch & Art Cross, it was determined that the one with the most votes were challenger Carlos Frade, Jr. and Arthur Cross. Therefore, Sandra Crouch will no longer be serving for ICA. Mr. Frade will take his seat at the board table at our June organizational meeting. Mrs. Crouch was thanked for her years of service to the board!

Mrs. Howard provided an update on the FDoE OCR complaint and informed that an answer was filed and they would be notified of any further action needed or taken on the complaint.

Operations report was given by EDO Howard with updates on food services RFP (timeline provided to the board members), enrollment, accreditation (now complete after nothing had been submitted on final requirements-Mrs. Howard thanked everyone, but especially Mrs. predix for her assistance in the project), Marketing event “Tip-A-Teacher” night at 2nd Street, principal search committee-now being deems an Academic Dean, and discussion on additional donation rom Allen family and TCA news report on sticking to our guns about out curriculum and policies.

Clubs reported on PTO, AG, and FISHING to let the board know balances of accounts, activities, and news. Ag gave rave reviews on fair participation and blue ribbon winners, they have a balance of over \$6k in their account and looking to grow the program. PTO has just under \$5k in their account and is looking forward to teacher appreciation week coming up in May and assisting teachers with their wish lists. Fishing just wrapped up their last tournament and has an award banquet coming up for annual winners. They have over \$26k in their account and looking to help streamline things for next school year as the program is so big with almost 100 registered students!

No comments or questions from the public were noted. Mrs. Townsend asked if we could move club reports to the beginning of the meeting in case they wanted to go home after giving the report-especially on nights with a lot of action items or discussion/presentations. On a motion by SC and 2nd by AC, all members in favor of amending the agenda as we move forward.

With no further business or speakers, the next meeting reminder was given for June 14th, 2023, at 5pm where results of the food services RFP will be presented, the board will reorganize for the upcoming year, upcoming calendar year items will be presented, and final policy decisions will be made. SJH 04.14.23