

Independence Classical Academy Governing Board

Board Meeting Minutes

September 13th, 2023 @ 5pm – School Cafeteria

2902 S. Jenkins Road Fort Pierce, FL

Meeting called to order at 5:00 by board chairman Clay Becton. In attendance were EDO Sandy Howard, Board members Clay Becton, Carlos Frade, Jr., Lance Poole, Jason Revels Absent was Cathy Townsend. Also, in attendance were: EA Kacey Predix, Student Life/Communications Coordinator & Parent Liaison Brooke Holcomb, Parents Taylor Lampman & Jessica Russell (PTO President), ICA Attorney Melissa Gross-Arnold.

Agenda was unanimously approved on a MTA by JR and 2nd by CF with an amendment to add Student Life Report as item 4c. Approval of the August 2023 meeting minutes were approved unanimously on a MTA by LP and a 2nd by CF with amendment to add Brooke Holcomb (Parent Liaison in attendance). EDO to make correction and get signature at next meeting.

The board discussed bonding details and bylaws upon presentation of facts with the attorney Melissa Gross-Arnold, who attended the meeting to field potential board questions. Guidance and recommendations for the discussion and vote later in the meeting were held. Attorney will stay to note changes for submission to the state.

Mrs. Howard presented an operations report and introduced the new format to the board-with an update on financials, enrollment, facilities, employment, and PMI results to date were given. Financial report was not available as they typically come out on the 17th for submission to the district on the 20th, but Mrs. Howard is working with SFS to get the reports done earlier to be available for the board meetings, and to include YTD expenditures shown as percentage of annual budget. EDO will forward the financials when available to the board members for review. Mrs. Holcombe presented to the board updates on student life and campus events/activities, including Orange Shirt Day, school pictures, and newsletter. Requested 3 members come for pictures on the 19th, as well as get one to submit a write-up for the Board section of the newsletter. Mr. Revels will submit for October. Reports were accepted unanimously on a MTA by LP and 2nd by JR.

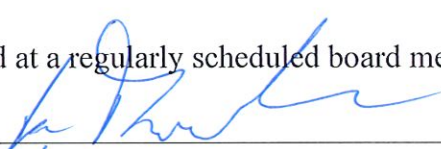
Consent agenda was approved 4-0 on a MTA by CF and 2nd by JR.

Board discussion/Action included:

- A decision to select a GC for the expansion of ICA campus to hold 145 more students as we sit at maximum capacity. After fielding several questions and a discussion on timeline and construction was held, it was approved 4-0 to accept the EDO recommendation that Jacquin & Sons Construction be selected as GC for the project after a MTA by JR and 2nd by LP.

- A discussion on bylaw revisions after several meetings of attorney revisions to meet statutory compliance and bring in line with current language. Questions on terms, the practices of other charter schools in the state, pros and cons of inside vs. outside membership, as well as size of the board were all asked of the attorney and great discussion was had. Final Motion for amendment was made by JR and 2nd by CF, and all were in favor of the motion to make the following changes: 1) board to be no less than 5 but no more than 7 members, with 2/3 of the membership being parents of ICA students, 2) remove voting in of members by the families and instead elected by the board to allow for steady assurances of mission & vision being upheld, 3) terms will be staggered terms of 3 years, limited to 2 terms with a separation of 1 year before returning to service and directors in their final term may, at the discretion of the board, vote to extend the term by one additional year in case no replacements are available or it is during a time where continued service is beneficial to the school, and 4) remove requirement of board members being residents of St. Lucie which is beneficial for potential growth into neighboring counties. EDO will forward minutes to attorney for final revision to be submitted to the state.

Good of the Order-Mrs. Howard wanted to personally thank the board members for pitching in to cover the costs of the shirts for Orange Day. Board Chairman brought up the potential need to discuss a return to monthly meetings as we face great times of growth, and as future special meetings will be needed, it can create a stronger routine. To be added to the next agenda. With no further business or speakers, the next meeting reminder was given for December 13th, 2023 at 5pm and the meeting was adjourned at 7:15pm. SJH 09.18.23

Minutes approved at a regularly scheduled board meeting on 10/25/23
Board Secretary: 
Date: 10/25/23