

Independence Classical Academy Governing Board
Board Meeting Minutes
November 13th, 2023 @ 5:00pm – School Cafeteria
2902 S. Jenkins Road Fort Pierce, FL

Meeting called to order at 5:06 by board chairman Clay Becton. In attendance were EDO Sandy Howard, Board members Clay Becton, Carlos Frade, Jr., Lance Poole, Cathy Townsend, and Jason Revels. Also in attendance were: EA Kacey Predix, Parent Liaison Brooke Holcomb, attendance clerk Irma Garcia, and Teachers Samantha Watson and Lachelle Downing, Kat Haley, Trisha Thomas (Fishing Club Chair), & Para Rachel Walter. Others in attendance were Joanna Lopes (Parent/PTO Rep) and (parents) Richard & Nicole Osborn, Kristin Hall

On a MTA by JR and 2nd by LP, AIF of accepting the agenda. There were public speakers on agenda item 5b, but parents agreed to wait until that section of the agenda to speak.

Director Howard provide the School Progress Report to include an update on facilities, bonding, employment matters, financials, enrollment, and the charter school site visit. Mr. Becton also added to the site visit update as he was present and felt good about what we have going at ICA.

Mrs. Lopes presented a brief PTO update on PTO events and the balance of \$3,457.12 in their account with our Annual Winterfest coming up in December! Mrs. Thomas presented a fishing club update to include treasurers report with a balance of \$31,013.65 and upcoming tournaments. On a motion by CF and a 2nd by JR, all reports were accepted by the board. Not an official report, but Mrs. Predix (CC head coach) reminded the board of our 2nd Annual ICA 5K for Education in February so it can be on the calendar.

The consent agenda was approved unanimously after a motion by JR and a 2nd by LP.

Board discussions were held on several issues. Regarding the Single Source of Truths and an official set of board policies, from which all employees, family, and other handbooks/policies will be derived from would be created by Director Howard to present to the board. The board agreed to include a set of dismissal policies that will statutorily allow for the dismissal of students who are not meeting the expectations of the academy. EDO will have policies drawn up, reviewed by our attorney, then presented to the board for review and discussion in January, and final adoption in February.

Continued from discussion at the November meeting, forms were sent to 8th grade families and 22 students replied with continuing with ICA in 9th grade. While not enough for a full cohort, it is close. 2 parents in attendance (Osborn & Hall) spoke to the importance of keeping these kids for the sole reason their parents put them here-the environment. Concerns over the safety of students, academic rigor, and social influences on other campuses was the main concern. For the board, they wanted to ensure when the expansion came into play, that it was done right-with full

opportunities for the students (sports, clubs, extracurriculars) and their families for the whole high school “experience.” Parents seemed to not want that, but in our experience the students do. It is hard to know with only 2 families present to voice their thoughts. Ultimately, board member CF called for a vote and made a motion to approve the expansion into HS with a cohort of 25 students in 24/25 with a 2nd by CT, dissenting votes came from JR, LP, & CB (voting to break the tie) and the decision was made NOT to move into HS for 24/25 while the 6-12 campus is built. EDO will notify parents and move forward with expansion plans taking that into consideration.

Board Governance workshop was discussed, and potential dates of Saturday 2/10 and Saturday 1/27 were approved. EDO will send to BH to get on the schedule.

With no further comments or concerns by the board, the meeting was adjourned at 6:48pm. The next meeting is set for December 13th, 2023

Minutes approved at a regularly scheduled board meeting on _____

Board Secretary:  _____

Date: 12-13-23 _____