

## Independence Classical Academy Governing Board

### Emergency Meeting Minutes

December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2022 @ 5:30pm – School Cafeteria

2902 S. Jenkins Road Fort Pierce, FL

Meeting called to order at 5:30pm by Chairman Becton. Pledge and roll call to follow. In attendance: Chairman Clay Becton, Vice-Chair Art Cross, Board members Sandra Crouch, Lance Poole, & Cathy Townsend. Director of Operations Howard, Principal Gavin, Dean Chancey, & Registrar Levy. Parents Sobel, Tonghini, Brewster, & Frade, & Mrs. Boyle (former teacher)

Chairman Becton welcomed the guests in attendance and stood for the recitation of the pledge of allegiance. Chair Becton then reviewed that the notice requirements for the meeting was met and posted. Mr. Becton asked to have item 3d (bylaw changes) stricken from the agenda and moved to next meeting, as the information is not ready, and is still out for review. Mrs. Howard has asked the board to allow two items (marketing video & annual audit discussion) to be added to the agenda that do NOT require action, as they are for presentation/information only, that came to fruition after the meeting was noticed and agenda set. On a MTA by CT and a 2<sup>nd</sup> by AC, the agenda was modified.

Mrs. Boyle, former 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher, was present and addressed the board regarding her recent tenure at ICA. She asked that the letter she read be added to her personnel file, which will be done. Note: the board was given documentation of her history at ICA and video footage/concerns/etc..prior to the meeting in preparation that she would speak so both sides would be heard.

Mrs. Howard presented the following items for discussion, action, or presentation with the following outcomes:

- Discussion on the GPA requirement for athletics as follow-up from last meeting, as some policy clarification is sought by administrative team now that athletics are in full swing, and we begin to transition into competitive sports. On a motion by AC and 2<sup>nd</sup> by LP, the motion was carried unanimously, and the clarification is as follows: *ICA students will be expected to be Scholar-Athletes, and as such will be required to hold a 3.0 to try-out and play sports/join clubs at ICA. If a student falls below a 3.0 GPA during the year, student will be placed on probation (suspended from competitive play) to allow them to focus on their academics, until the GPA requirement is met. The decision to allow students to practice and/or workout with the team while on suspension will be at the sole discretion of the head coach and stated clearly as policy in the permission slips for each sport/activity. This policy extends to the Fishing and Marksmanship teams.*

- Discussion on issues with uniforms (supply chain issues, customer service, communications in general) was discussed and a determination that we need to seek a quality vendor for the long term. The board asked Mrs. Howard to place uniform policy on the agenda for next meeting to discuss changes moving into 23/24 to allow ample time for making a change, noticing parents, etc... Mrs. Howard will be seeking vendors in the interim.
- A discussion on Phase II (continuing conversations) was held and Mrs. Howard presented the board with a potential property more suited for our size upper school and programming, and Mrs. Townsend will inquire with the county to see if it is possible to subdivide or not and on a motion by LP and 2<sup>nd</sup> by AC, the board directed and authorized Mrs. Howard to begin the negotiations and investigation of purchasing this land for our upper school unanimously. We are also still looking at other backup properties until one is secured. Mr. & Mrs. Howard, Mrs. Green, and Chairman Becton will be touring some schools by other builders while we negotiate a land deal to be ready to enter permitting phase as soon as a deal is inked.
- Mrs. Howard presented the annual audit (mailed to board chair) to the team that took longer than expected due to a combination of factors as the hurricane hit the west coast where the auditor is located, and the grant reimbursements were difficult to reconcile. Mrs. Howard is changing the way the grants are recorded now to prevent that in the future.
- The marketing video from 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue that was being worked on the last couple of months is complete and it was presented to the board. This will be used on social media, digital marketing, website, promotions, presentations, etc...and the board was very happy with it. More videos will be rolled out soon.

No further comment from the public was heard. The board comment section included discussion on chairman CB looking for more frequent updates from the campus, all board members agreed. Mrs. Howard will work with the communications manager and assistant to develop a “newsletter” style communications that can go out at a minimum MONTHLY or more frequently if needed to summarize and educate the board on happenings at the school. All except the board chair prefer personal email (even though subject to public records) as it is easier to check on communications between school and board. CT asked the board to consider adding baseball to the athletic sports lineup as we have access to a volunteer coach, and CT will approach field usage agreements for us to review for a schedule. Parents will need to transport their own students as we do not yet have access to transportation, though we are fundraising for it. On a motion by CT and second by AC, all were in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

With no further business or public speakers, the next meeting reminder was given, and the meeting was adjourned at 6:36pm. SK 12/15/22