

Independence Classical Academy Governing Board

Board Workshop Minutes

June 8th, 2022 @ 5pm – School Cafeteria
2902 S. Jenkins Road Fort Pierce, FL

Meeting called to order at 5:01pm by Vice-Chairman Cross (Chair Becton running late). Pledge and roll call to follow. In attendance: Clay Becton, Vice-Chair Art Cross, Board members Sandra Crouch & Lance Poole, Director of Operations Krischke, Principal Gavin, Brandi & Matt Cardin, Lisa Cunningham, Fran Levy (Registrar), Lisa Brantley, Jennifer Lee, Suzie DeWitt

Chairman Becton arrived a few minutes late and ran the meeting- the guests in attendance and introduced board to the guests.

Mrs. Krischke presented to the board with a proposed calendar of events from the club leaders for AG, FISHING, & PTO for consideration. A few dates and times are still to be determined but the months in which the activities are to occur will not be changed without board approval. On a MTA by SC and a 2nd by LP, the calendar of events was unanimously approved as presented. Fundraisers were briefly discussed with the need to ensure all clubs are following the standard operating procedures set forth last year and bring the details before the board and present results of fundraising efforts to the board at the next quarterly meeting. SK to instruct the club and committee leaders of this requirement.

Policy changes were submitted to the board by principal Gavin on attendance, discipline, pupil progression, internal controls, athletics, and dress code for the 22/23 school year.

Attendance policy was unanimously approved after a MTA by CT and 2nd by LP- motion carried with all in favor. Discussion on attendance and charter school funding will be included in the Open House sessions so people understand.

Discipline policy was discussed and approved as presented by all members being in favor after MTA by SC and a 2nd by CT. Discussion ensued on discipline policy, and the board decided to revamp the policy with stricter enforcement and upon hiring a discipline officer, ensuring swift but fair action in all cases to ensure consistency with the policy. MTA by SC and 2nd by AC. AIF and motion carried.

Regarding pupil progression, the board wants the principal to require students failing to meet academic standards attend mandatory tutoring “as directed by the plan” of said administrator and have parents sign off on the plan or withdrawn/retained. Administration and faculty will determine all tutoring requirements (length, subject, content, etc..). On a MTA by CT and 2nd by LP, all were in favor of new policy.

Discussion on creating scholar-athletes ensued after discussion on moving into the sports arena and keeping with our culture of excellence. Decision to require a minimum GPA to participate in athletics at ICA was held. SC suggests we remain at a 2.5 minimum as current policy states due to struggling students and so many kids still lagging from pandemic and coming in from other failed schooling situations. LP wants a 3.5 GPA to keep a standard of excellence in achieving, because as they move forward high schools and colleges will only want the best. Discussion on students with IEP's and exceptions, and there was a consideration for that to be made with individuals with special needs, just like there is in our charter contract for acceptance to the school in general. CT and LP both agreed a 3.0 should be our minimum, and what is the role and whose job is it to set those expectations with parents and students? How do we get them to meet the standards (i.e tutoring, monitoring of grades consistently by coaching staff, etc...). After further discussion and a MTA by CT and 2nd by LP it was decided unanimously that a minimum 3.0 GPA would be required to participate in athletics at ICA.

Internal Controls were presented as modified to meet requirements and delineate jobs more as we have grown. MTA by LP and after no questions, 2nd by SC and all were in favor.

Dress code changes were approved as presented with a change to violation consequences. 1st offense will be verbal warning and violation slip sent home; 2nd offense will be TWO mandatory lunch detentions and violation in skyward. 3rd violation is habitual and will require a Saturday work detail detention from 8am-Noon with parent required to attend. Administration will determine the Saturday date of detail. All other violations will follow the normal discipline violation steps. New changes were approved unanimously upon a MTA by CT and 2nd by AC.

DOO Krischke presented to the board the need for immediate fundraising goals. Throughout the year tough decisions were made, cuts were had, setback overcome to go from a \$400k+ deficit to just over \$130k, but the need to raise those funds were immediate to set us up over the summer for important projects and financial surplus moving into 22/23 and purchasing needs for increased enrollment of students and hiring of faculty/staff. The board was charged with raising \$25k each to help cure the deficit. Discussion on fundraising ideas were tabled because the 22/23 budget is cured and solid with great gains in 23/24, but there wasn't time for a fundraising plan at the junction.

Parent please were to be held on students up for forfeiture of their seats for failing to meet our attendance requirements in 21/22, some of which were already on academic and/or truancy probation from 20/21 school year. Board members asked the registrar to make available to them information on behavior and academics in addition to attendance, so Mrs. levy joined the board and provided requested information on each individual student. Parents spoke individually (many left to allow for privacy of parents but were not required to do so). to discuss their situations with the board for consideration. The following decisions were made regarding each student standing with ICA: HA was voted 4-0 in favor of keeping the administrative decision of seat forfeiture. This is the 2nd year of attendance struggles for HA and mom accepts full responsibility. SC recused herself from the vote because the student in question is a relative through marriage of her grandson. CC, who is otherwise not a behavioral or academic issue at

all, and parents have been enlightened on funding mechanism of our school and our struggles moving forward with truancy issues affecting our budget, BOTH parents pleaded and agreed to work together to ensure his attendance is impeccable moving forward. CC was voted 5-0 for appeal to be granted and will retain his seat at ICA for 22/23 with a truancy contract. DB, after much discussion and heartfelt plea by mom and a friend (also a parent at ICA), and there being many factors-ICA does not seem to be the right fit for DB because he is struggling academically, behaviorally, AND is truant- the vote was 5-0 for the decision to stand. EH case was heard, and mom appeared before the board. She left ICA in 20/21 for what they thought were reasons that turned out “not to be fair assumptions,” and decided to return this year. She seems to do fine socially and academically, but unfortunately mom was unable to reassure the board that EH would be able to keep up with the attendance policy but “wanted to try.” However, mom did not seem sure, and at this point in time, we simply can no longer afford to keep kids enrolled who we are not getting paid for moving forward. After much discussion, it was voted 5-0 to uphold the truancy forfeiture. Ms. Krischke was instructed to notify each parent of the board’s decision.

With no further business or speakers, the next meeting reminder was given, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:48pm. SK 06/23/22