

Independence Classical Academy Governing Board

Board Meeting Minutes

October 25th, 2023 @ 5:00pm – 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, 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. Others in attendance were Jessica Russell (Parent/PTO Chair) and Taylor Lampman (parent). Jessica Brewster (parent) also arrived later in the meeting.

On a MTA by CT and 2nd by LP, AIF of accepting the agenda. There was no public comment regarding the agenda, but new hire Lachelle Downing (5th grade) addressed the board to thank them for allowing her an opportunity to work in such a great environment. She sees the kids have some real learning gaps and she is convinced this is the right place and curriculum to close them. She spoke about where she has been and where she wants to go, and this is it for her. For the first time in a long time, she is enjoying her job again, is motivated to come to work, and again has fallen in love with teaching.

Guest speaker Christine Mentis, from Building Hope, who Mrs. Howard reached out to after the Leadership & Governance Conference in Jacksonville a while back to discuss Board training workshop options. The board and BH representative, who was thanked for attending and thanked the teacher who just spoke-because that is what the charter school movement is all about, discussed improvements to the governance structure, understanding the laws affecting charter schools, streamlining board meetings, and other opportunities to strengthen the position of the institution under their guise. Much was discussed about board recruitment and training. Calendars will be discussed, and EDO will continue the conversation to get a workshop scheduled after the holidays. BH is already working with ICA on a strategic plan that will be brought to the board, as well as our fiduciary contract for bond transaction & expansion.

Director Howard presenting the School Progress Report (attached). The consent agenda, after Mrs. Townsend recused herself from the vote due to not having had time to review the packet, on a MTA by LP and a 2nd by JR, was approved unanimously 3-0.

Board discussions were held on the proposed new calendar of meetings. CT suggested every other month, and while LP was okay with that as well, most were in agreement with the chair that the amount of items before the board (ie. Growth, expansion, marketing, bond transaction, construction, accreditation reviews, charter renewal, etc...) that monthly would be best, at least for 23/24 and 24/25, that at any point the board could reconvene to modify the schedule. On a motion by JR to accept the calendar as is, a 2nd by CF, all were in favor of the new schedule.

Two potential sponsorships were discussed, with additional information by Mrs. Holcomb provided to the board regarding the KP Cattle Extravaganza and the SLC Fair opportunities. It was determined, after much discussion, on a motion by LP to give the school authority to use \$3,000 for sponsoring local events at the discretion of the EDO, motion passed 3-1 with CT opposed, feeling only \$2,500 should be spent.

An expansion into HS for 24-25 was discussed by EDO and the board, as has been every year. Is this the right move? The discussion ensued regarding expansion opportunities, timeline, costs, and construction possibilities. After much discussion, it was determined that EDO would put out letters of intent to remain at ICA for 9th grade if we offered it in 24-25, to determine if there is even enough interest to warrant it without going outside of our own matriculating students. Those forms will be due prior to the next board meeting, and together with expansion possibilities more solidified, the board can make a more educated decision on moving forward.

With no further business or speakers, the next meeting reminder was given for November 15th, 2023 at 5pm and the meeting was adjourned at 6:26pm. SJH 11.04.23

Minutes approved at a regularly scheduled board meeting on _____

Board Secretary:  _____

Date: _____