

Independence Classical Academy Governing Board

August 26th, 2020 6:00pm

2902 S Jenkins Road Fort Pierce, FL

MEETING MINUTES

In attendance

Board Members: Sandra Crouch, Cathy Townsend, Debbie Kicliter-Kelley & Clay Becton

Others: Principal Courtney Purnell, School Administrator Sandy Krischke, Administrative Assistant Kelly Green, Board applicant Glenda Macon (Inlet Fisheries)

The meeting was called to order at 6:00pm by Board President, Clay Becton. Minutes were approved on a motion by Cathy Townsend and a 2nd by Debbie Kicliter-Kelley. Approved 4-0. Glenda was introduced and discussion on Fort Pierce background, community interest and education was had. Glenda is interested on serving on the board and helping in whatever capacity possible. Her resume was sent to the board members prior to the meeting for review.

Administrator's Report: A review of the final walk-through (attended by Clay Becton) with Southcrest was provided and a punch out list of exceptions was discussed. There are technology issues remaining that are being worked through by H-Wire who will be on campus after hours next week. Krischke will stay on site Wed-Fri and all-day Saturday to supervise the work being done and ensure PA system, phones, and internet connectivity are sufficient as we move forward. Looking for approval to order more cafeteria tables (will be paid for by uniform sales) as we are on overflow. We will need to adjust lunch service schedule, but this will alleviate some issues. Motion by Crouch and 2nd by Townsend, motion approved after discussion 4-0. Update on finances and a gentle reminder to board that we still need infusion of funds to supplement our reduced FTE allocations. Update from board was Crouch & Becton to head the Fundraising Committee and seek a team to procure corporate and nonprofit contributions. Krischke reported that FPUA wanted a \$50k deposit over an estimated \$20k monthly bill, but discussion on St. Anastasia (2 story old building) is not that high, and the other identical building like ours is not that high. Could use help with FPUA board to discuss negotiation of this, as it will affect our bottom line. Mrs. Macon added that she would be happy to make a call to assist if possible, with mayor Hudson (who has been an ardent supporter of the school). Discussion from Dr. Purnell ensued on start-up issues. Principal feels in her discussion with district and accreditation team that there is an issue with Krischke not having an Ed Leadership certification, and that all "administrators" are required to have this certification. It was brought to light that Krischke feels the hang-up is on the word "administrator" in that most public schools consider deans, AP, and Principals as administrators. Chairman Becton asked about the statute and pulled it up that Dr. Purnell cited and the clarification was on the word

administrator and what it meant in terms of faculty leading. Krischke clarified that she felt the entire statute was irrelevant since certification for charter school administrators are not the same and the statute being cited was k-20 and not applicable and exempt in most cases by charters. Krischke suggested we clarify (which will help moving into the 2021 school year anyway as recommended by the district and state) the role as more of a business role and change the title to Director of Operations or Executive Director, or something along those lines. After discussion, it was motioned by Sandra Crouch and 2nd by Cathy Townsend that the change in title from School Administrator to Executive Director of Operations was made effective immediately and passed 4-0. Dr. Purnell updated the board on curriculum stating many items were on backorder and unable to be obtained. Teachers have been printing and have access to curriculum digitally. Math order is in and complete, and core Knowledge was going to cost \$50k to print and \$77k to purchase hard copies. Krischke added that over \$4k was spent on copies alone, and that not being able to capitalize the expense, she recommended we find the funds and for an extra \$25k it would not last a year with students and be able to be used again-and with computers coming in a couple weeks, what would they teach without the access to computers. Dr. Purnell stated the teachers were using their own computers and comfortable with that for now. The board discussed and on a motion by Sandra Crouch and a 2nd by Cathy Townsend, it was decided that the curriculum should be ordered for the year, and the fundraising committee would be tasked with finding funds. Mr. Becton insisted that the curriculum is what will set us apart and it was a priority. All agreed. Dr. Purnell to place orders via PO to Krischke. Discussion on benefits ensued as to affordability and lack of participation, and that without meeting threshold, we would need to move in another direction. Mr. Becton would provide information from two vendors to Dr. Purnell to seek quotes from.

Old Business: SRO update. Krischke toured the region leaders from SLCSO at the school and discussed needs, and Cathy Townsend was able to secure an SRO for ICA at essentially zero cost from Sheriff Mascara. They agreed to accepting only our Safe Schools funding as payment for the year for a full time SRD to meet the state mandate. This will save the school roughly \$75k annually. We are very thankful. Krischke to send a thank you on formal letterhead. Clay and Courtney are still working Rotary and Kiwanis, no luck to date.

New Business – Debbie Kelley brought up the Covid-19 policy and her concerns over our having made a mistake. It was discussed at length and on a suggestion by Krischke that since we were looking to gauge the overall feel of opening, why don't we include a Covid/mask mandate question in our survey and if we got a high enough percentage of concerned/unhappy parents, we could revisit the policy, but acting on something without data might not be wise. It was agreed and on a motion by Debbie and 2nd by Sandra that if 50% or more wanted masks mandated we would revisit the policy at the next meeting. Debbie stated this would be it from her. Motion passed 4-0 and Krischke was directed to create a survey for parents and teachers on the start-up of school to include a question about the mask mandate and report back to the board the results.

Board Comment: Glenda was introduced and sat through the meeting, offering support. It was asked by Sandra Crouch that the board consider her and vote on her membership. Mr. Becton agreed to call for a vote and it was motioned by Sandra Crouch and 2nd by Cathy Townsend and unanimously approved Glenda as our 5th board member.

With no further questions or comments from the public, or comments from the board, the next meeting was scheduled for September 16th at 6:00pm in the cafeteria.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:42pm

Sk

SW