

## **Independence Classical Academy Governing Board**

### **Board Meeting Minutes**

June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023 @ 5pm – School Cafeteria

2902 S. Jenkins Road Fort Pierce, FL

Meeting called to order at 5:00 by board chairman Clay Becton. In attendance were EA Kacey Predix, Consultant Marcia Cully, Mr. & Mrs. Brewster (parents) were also present. Approval of the April meeting minutes were approved unanimously on a MTS by LP and a 2<sup>nd</sup> by AC.

Academic consultant, Mrs. Cully addressed the board regarding her findings (report outline attached to minutes) on the academic standing of personnel and curriculum, offering her findings and recommendations to the board in preparation of the 23/24 school year. She recommended the board keep Mrs. Howard in charge of academics for the upcoming year instead of rushing the principalship process, training and finding the right successor for an academic lead, and utilizing referendum funding to incorporate bonuses to staff for picking up the administrative gaps so Director Howard can focus on continuity and fidelity to the Classical mission and vision. On a motion by CT and a 2<sup>nd</sup> by AC, the board unanimously agreed to move director Howard to remain in control of both the operational, administrative, and academic future of the school overseeing all major projects and compliance to the charter throughout 23/24, with Mrs. Cully continuing on in a consultative role, and assisting the future leadership for mentoring.

Mrs. Howard provided the board with an update on expansion, accreditation (holding pattern), enrollment (full capacity, officially waitlisted/lottery only school), and charter renewal timeline. Discussion/update only, no action needed.

Old Business: Mrs. Howard presented a second reading of the by-law revisions to the board, who adopted all statutorily required changes as presented (redlined by attorney SA) and discussed the voting/membership portion of the bylaws. The matter will now go back to the attorney for review and final revisions will be presented to the board at the September meeting. Discussion on paycheck hold for exiting employees until all school items are returned (computer, keys. Etc..) was held and the handbook, as edited by attorney SA, was unanimously approved after a MTA by AC and a 2<sup>nd</sup> by LP.

New Business: reorganization of the board was held and after brief discussion on current roles, the nominations and following results were approved:

*Chairman: Clay Becton nominated by CT and 2<sup>nd</sup> by LP, 4-0*

*Vice Chair: Arthur Cross nominated by CT and 2<sup>nd</sup> by LP, 4-0*

*Secretary: Lance Poole nominated by CT and 2<sup>nd</sup> by CF, 4-0*

*Treasurer: Carlos Frade, Jr. nominated by CT and 2<sup>nd</sup> by LP, 4-0*

Policy changes for grading to use averages so kids would not fail with one poor grade, aftercare discipline plan to be clarified as same line as during school clarification, and update to attendance policy to include district letters regarding truancy were all approved on a MTA by AC and 2<sup>nd</sup> by LP, AIF 4-0. Board meeting calendar. Discussion on availability and on a motion by CF and 2<sup>nd</sup> by LP, the following dates were chosen at 5pm in the cafeteria to hold regularly scheduled meetings: 9/13, 12/13, 3/13 (board elections), and 6/12. Mrs. Howard reminded the board that we are in a period of accreditation review, charter renewal, and campus/program expansion and that likely there would be workshops and emergency meetings called to address items between meetings, as needed. The need for a facilities committee was discussed to make decisions on behalf of the board between meetings to oversee project management. After discussion on potential stakeholders, the following individuals were chosen to serve on the committee by the board: Joshua Sugg (parent/contractor), Curtis Chancey (parent/county maintenance), Jason Revels (parent/contractor), Chris Bowen (parent/contractor), and Sandy Howard (EDO)-MTA facilities committee by CT, 2<sup>nd</sup> by CF AIF 4-0. LLC formation, as presented by the attorney draft by the governing board as parent company and single member LLC was presented to the board and discussed. On a MTA to by LP and a 2<sup>nd</sup> by AC, the board voted 4-0 to approve the articles of incorporation (with a first choice name Freedom Charters, LLC and 2<sup>nd</sup> choice Independence Charters, LLC to be given to the attorneys) and Operating Agreement. Director Howard will have the attorney complete a name search, and file with the state. The board was presented with the draft reimbursement resolution for the bond on expansion and campus purchase, which will allow for reimbursable expenditures during pre-construction like due diligence and site work to be reimbursed with bond funding. SRD contract was presented to the board as an issue moving into 23/24 due to terms and ICA being carved out of the SRD contract with the public schools along with one other school (Somerset Bethany). Director Howard was directed to attempt negotiations and get a resolution to keep our SRD, or move forward with the Guardian program, as she has already been searching for a certified officer. On a motion by CT and a 2<sup>nd</sup> by LP, the board voted unanimously to approve the following expenditures and prioritize capital improvement, tuition reimbursement, and bonuses for teachers for use of referendum dollars. ICA anticipates roughly \$320,000 in funding. \$160k being paid in July to be allocated towards playground down payment (\$30k), courtyard remodel (\$80k), bathroom renovations (\$15k), FF&E for library for literacy (\$30k), Landscaping FF&E (\$20k). The remaining \$160k will be allocated towards bonuses (recruitment & retention) for high-performing faculty and staff, and the establishment of a tuition reimbursement program (\$100k), and campus safety & security (\$45k). The allocations will be spread out as funding comes in, per the EDO.

Consent agenda: the following items were presented for approval: playground financing; contract renewal for School Financial Services (Renewal); Stipends to allocate to non-instructional staff to pick up duties (no greater than \$50,000), 2023/24 budget, salary schedule, and new positions; and new charter submissions for Okeechobee (K-5), and Fort Pierce (6-12). MTA by CT and 2<sup>nd</sup> by LP, AIF 4-0.

With no further business or speakers, the next meeting reminder was given for September 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at 5pm and the meeting was adjourned at 7:16pm. SJH 08.11.23