

Independence Charter School-CC

Minutes from BOT Meeting of Wednesday, November 8, 2017

Location: 1600 Lombard St., Philadelphia, PA

Time: 6:00 PM

Next meeting: Wednesday, December 13, 2017

Board Attendees:

Mike Barsanti	absent	<u>Mehreen Zaman</u>	present	Lara McCoy (parent)
Camilo Dominguez	present	Ex-officio		Elsie Stern (parent)
Maureen Eagen	present	Tom Scheid	present	
Tre Johnson	present			
Michelle Lamm	absent	Also attending		
Rosie McNamara	present	Ramzy Andrawos		
Jones		(staff)		
Harry Moseley	phone	Patricia Cirone (staff)		
		Odamis Fernandez-Sheinbaum		
Krista Pfeiffer	present	Mike Danyo (Santilli & Thomson)		
Rachel Salis	absent	Jenny Hoedeman-Eiteljorg (staff)		
Silverman		Kristen Long (staff)		
Virgil Sheppard	absent	Shavon Norris (staff)		
Jo Tionson Perez	present	Dave Peterson (staff)		
John Trieu	present	Kerry Routh (staff)		
Greg Turlington	present	Jillian Bird (parent)		

Who	What
Turlington	Greg called the meeting to order at 6:13 pm.
Turlington	<p>Approval of Minutes Greg asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the October 11, 2017 board meeting.</p> <p>Motion to Approve: Maureen Eagen 2nd: Mehreen Zaman Abstain: Tre Johnson and John Trieu Action: Passed (voice vote)</p>
Turlington	<p>Greg asked if there were any public comment – two parents had signed up for public comment. Greg then informed the public that Board policy states that the Board does not respond to comments during the meeting, but if follow-up is needed, it will be done later by either a board member or staff member.</p> <p>Jillian Bird commented that the proposal for a one-program model feels like an attempt to find an equality solution, which is not addressing the question of inequity. She went onto say that we will not be able to fill in the gaps just by offering one-program. She encourages the Task Force to look outside the box, and explore the social services offered in the City and to bring those into the school in a proactive way or somehow merge our energies to address the issues that are going on with our children. These issues will not be solved by unifying the programs. These students need extra and we need to find a way to provide those extras.</p>

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	<p>Elsie Stern a parent, former ICS board member and a member of the Language Task Force commented that bringing this proposal to the Board has been a long time coming. She continued to say that ICS' two programs although unintentionally, but all the same, have been the place where we don't walk the walk that we talk. She went onto say that her family is in this school because of its deep commitment to social justice and to equal opportunity around education. Although the structure that is in place, by the best of intentions, is creating both inequality and inequity. She endorses the Task Force's recommendation to move to a one-program model, which includes keeping the second language acquisition.</p> <p>Greg thanked everyone for the comments and contributions around the one-program model. Greg then stated that the agenda would be rearranged and asked Mike Danyo for the financial report.</p>
Danyo	<p>Financial Report Mike reported the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State budget has been passed • Receiving Federal funds as of October - Title I, Title II and Title IV have started to come in for the 2017-2018 fiscal year. • District is paying at a higher rate than budgeted - \$80,000 better than budgeted. • Due to new accounting system at District, we have not yet been paid for all special ed students - 116 students enrolled have only been paid for 106. This will be corrected. • Regular salaries – salary increase after approval of budget. • Special Education Professional Service – invoices from prior year received after accounts payable cut off. • Tutoring Benefits – 21st Century benefits are over budget. General fund will cover the difference. • Building Salaries – summer help. Funds budgeted in administration for additional summer help. • Central Technology supplies – budget line completely spent. Re-class funds from Central Technology Equipment budget • Expenses under budget \$36,000. The expense lines are the same as previous months and will be adjusted in the next set of financials. • Cash is \$5,935,577 – 205 days of cash on hand as of 9/30/2017. • Due from ICS West - \$86,349 year zero's management agreement and reimbursements. Payment to be made soon. • General Fund Revenue over expenses current - \$437,585 under projected budget by \$116,276. <p>2017 Disbursements Be it resolved that the Independence Charter School Board of Trustees hereby approve disbursements from the month of September 2017 in the amount of \$296,151.18</p> <p>Motion to Approve: John Trieu 2nd: Rosie McNamara Jones Action: Passed unanimously (voice vote)</p>
Scheid	<p>CEO Report Tom reported the following: Tom changed the order of his report to address the one-program model proposal</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="451 275 1484 407">• One-Program Model – Tom introduced the resolution to the board to change to a one-program model for Spanish language instruction for the 2019-2020 school year for all incoming Kindergarten students. Tom then turned the floor over to Principal Kristen. <p data-bbox="402 443 1484 947">Kristen stated that in lieu of the standard principal’s report, she wanted to discuss the task force’s recommendation and to field any outstanding questions that the board may have regarding the task force’s recommendation. Kristen went onto say that ICS community members, as well as those who have examined ICS (Middle States evaluators, Temple researchers, charter renewal evaluators, grantors, etc.) have commented on the differences in the programs over the years, often citing them as problematic. Although we have tried to address the divide in multiple ways, none has proven effective enough to address the concerns that are raised. A task force was formed and it reviewed data, read articles, read books, and had hours upon hours of conversation weighing the pros and cons of our present model. A one-program model seemed the most appropriate response to our challenges. One of the things that makes ICS special is that it is and always has been a reflective organization. We’ve reflected and we’ve seen that there are inequities in our school. We work daily to address these inequities, but we need to do more. This recommendation is one step along the long road to addressing the inequity within ICS.</p> <p data-bbox="402 982 1398 1045">A lengthy question and answer session followed. Below is a recap of some of the questions.</p> <p data-bbox="402 1081 1414 1144">Camilo Dominguez asked what the challenges and cost would be to move to a one-program model.</p> <p data-bbox="402 1180 1463 1348">Kristen responded that the when Task Force tried to look at what the challenges may be, they concluded that they don’t know what they don’t know, but what they know right now is that the divide in the two programs is causing a lot of problems. A lot of time and attention will go in to the next phase and the Task Force knows there will be challenges as they work on what the one-program model will look like.</p> <p data-bbox="402 1383 1382 1446">Mehreen Zaman asked if the Task Force has a method to review the program at different points to see if it has made an impact on the inequity.</p> <p data-bbox="402 1482 1463 1587">Kristen responded that waiting to implement the change until 2019-2020 school year, allows us to think long-term and put measures in place to see if Spanish language acquisition makes a difference on the inequity.</p> <p data-bbox="402 1623 1458 1686">John Trieu asked what questions did the Task Force ask themselves and what metrics did you use to come to your conclusions.</p> <p data-bbox="402 1722 1484 1885">Kristen responded that since the most significant changes will happen in K-3, they looked at the data from the DRAs and EDLs for these students, which are the assessments given to students for reading, Spanish and English. They also looked at the PSSAs for achievement data. The Task Force used the results of the Middle States Process and Strategic Plan report for their guiding questions.</p>

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	<p>Mehreen Zaman asked if the one-program model would affect the education or curriculum of the current student body. Kristen responded that there is no plan to change the curriculum of the current student body, but if something were learned that would help the current students, it would be applied.</p> <p>Tre Johnson commented that it would be very important on how this change is rolled out so that we do not negatively influence the interest the public has in ICS.</p> <p>Camilo Dominquez stated that although the Task Force does not believe the change of program will affect who applies to ICS, it would be important to track who is applying to ensure we do not lose students that are more disadvantaged.</p> <p>Kristen responded that one thing we can look at is ICS West, which is in a neighborhood that has a higher percentage of students that are economically disadvantaged. ICS West only offers a bilingual program and they have a waiting list. Kristen went on to say second language acquisition is a clear indicator of academic success and data supporting this finding will be shared with the public as the new program is rolled out.</p> <p>Resolution One-Program Model Be it resolved that the Independence Charter School Board of Trustees hereby approve to move to a one-program model with a focus on Spanish language acquisition in school year 2019-2020 for incoming Kindergarten students as recommended by the Language Task Force.</p> <p>Motion to Approve: Krista Pfeiffer 2nd: Rosie Maureen Eagen Action: Passed unanimously (voice vote)</p> <p>Tom thanked Kristen and the Language Task Force for all their work.</p>
Scheid	<p>CEO Report Continued</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• IT Technology Planning<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ A third party vendor was engaged to do a review of our current IT infrastructure. This includes both ICS and ICS West. This is a first for ICS.➤ After the 3-month review is completed, the vendor's deliverable is a short-term and long-term IT infrastructure plan. <p>Maureen Eagen asked if there is any particular problem or concern. Tom responded that we recently migrated to a new student data management system, which caused us to look at our infrastructure and our ability to respond to needs.</p> <p>Krista Pfeiffer asked how the vendor was selected and whether there is long or short-term work that is needed, how is the job awarded, or will an RFP be submitted. Tom explained that he looked at four different vendors and the other vendors wanted a long-term contract, but he was not ready to make that commitment. He went on to say this is a minimal contract and he just wanted to inform the Board that the review is taking</p>

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	<p>place in the event future work is necessary.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Substitute Services<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ ICS still faces a shortage of substitutes, which is a trend throughout the Philadelphia area.➤ On-site interviews have not yielded good results.➤ Another vendor is being presented to supply day-to-day substitutes. <p>Charter School Services, LLC Substitute Services Be it resolved, that the Independence Charter School Board of Trustees hereby approve the substitute teacher placement services of Charter School Services, LLC, as presented.</p> <p>Motion to Approve: Tre Johnson 2nd: Rosie McNamara-Jones Action: Passed unanimously (voice vote)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• December Appeal<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Communication and Development Committee is continuing the work from last year with a multi-tiered outreach.➤ The release is scheduled for November 21.➤ The appeal will help support current programming for all students.• PTA Fall festival was held Saturday, October 21.• MS Math Carnival was held Wednesday, October 25.• This year's Silent Auction is scheduled for Saturday, April 21, 2018.• Springboard Contract Renewal – two years<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Springboard manages our summer literacy programs. Primarily for K-4 students.➤ Along with supports during the school year, the program has proved to be very successful in improving literacy levels as well as engaging parents in their children's learning.➤ A two-year contract is primarily paid through the 21st Century grant (80% grant 20% general budget). This has been the case for the last three years.➤ Data point: 3rd grade PSSA Reading scores improved from 63.44% (15-16) to 69.47% (16-17) <p>Springboard Collaborative Contract Be it resolved that the Independence Charter School Board of Trustees hereby agree to contract with Springboard Collaborative for 2017-2018 and 2018-2019 school years. Cost not to exceed \$68,000 for each year of the contract.</p> <p>Motion to Approve: John Trieu 2nd: Tre Johnson Action: Passed unanimously (voice vote)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Superintendent's Academy 2017-19<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ CEO Tom attended the first meeting on October 29-31.➤ Sixty school leaders attended. Eighteen of the sixty were from charter schools.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Secretary Pedro Rivera introductions laid the plan for the next two years. ➤ The focus is to improve Pennsylvania’s schools in three ways: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Systems development 2. Equity 3. Improving student achievement • Amended Gift Solicitation and Acceptance Policy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Revised policy to add more details in several areas including the acceptance of securities (publically and closely held) and real property. ➤ Resolution authorizes Santilli & Thomson to set an account to receive securities. <p>Amended Gift Solicitation and Acceptance Policy Be it resolved that the Independence Charter School Board of Trustees hereby accept the amended Gift Solicitation and Acceptance Policy as presented and authorize Santilli & Thomson to set up an account to receive securities.</p> <p>Motion to Approve: Tre Johnson 2nd: John Trieu Action: Passed unanimously (voice vote)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Electric Utility Contract <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Move back to a former vendor (Sprague Electric) ➤ 36-month contract (fixed rate) ➤ \$12,000 costs savings ➤ ICS’ Energy Star rating has improved from 86% in 2013 to 91% in 2017. <p>Electric Utility Contract Be it resolved that the Independence Charter School Board of Trustees hereby approve a 36-month contract with Sprague Energy for electric utility services.</p> <p>Motion to Approve: Maureen Eagen 2nd: Tre Johnson Action: Passed unanimously (voice vote)</p>
Turlington	<p>Adjournment Motion to Adjourn: Krista Pfeiffer 2nd: Maureen Eagen Action: Passed unanimously (voice vote) Greg adjourned the meeting at 7:37 pm</p>

Respectfully submitted by: Patricia Cirone