

Imagine Classical Academy

Board Minutes

Monday, August 14, 2017



Where students are classically trained, culturally literate, and globally prepared.



6464 Peterson Road • Colorado Springs, CO 80923

Regular Meeting in Room 209

The mission of the Imagine Classical Academy at Indigo Ranch is to positively shape the hearts and minds of our students by providing them with an academically rigorous and content rich curriculum, a learning environment of high expectations for student achievement in which character is modeled and promoted within a collaborative community based on trusting relationships.

The Board shall use the Mission, the Motto and the Six Measures of Excellence (Shared Values, Parent Choice, Academic Growth, Character Education, Economic Sustainability, and School Development) as the filter for all decision making.

- I. Call to Order – (6:00pm) Mike Riggs
- II. Roll Call – (6:00pm) Mike Riggs, Chris Dempsey, Markus Bahnemann present, Mike Phillipich delayed. Also present Frank Fowler, Scott Hunter, Valerie O'Brien, Amy Esquibel, Monte Lange and Nancy Box.
- III. Pledge of Allegiance – (6:01pm) led by Chris Dempsey
- IV. Mission Statement – (6:01pm) read by Markus Bahnemann
- V. Approval of Board Meeting Agenda – (6:01pm) Chris Dempsey moved to approve as published, Markus Bahnemann seconded. Motion passed 3-0.
- VI. Comments from the public – (6:02pm) None
- VII. Approval of minutes from May – (6:02pm) Chris Dempsey moved to approve as published, Markus Bahnemann seconded. Motion passed 3-0.
- VIII. D49 Charter Renewal timeline – (6:02pm) Andy Franko from D49 and Nancy Lund addressed the board, explaining the Charter Renewal timeline. They discussed that there are two sections that need to be completed, the first being the executive summary due Sep 1 and the second section due Dec 2. The Dec 2 date is a hard date as it feeds into D49 Board of Education meeting and action dates. Mr Franko clearly laid out the steps required, their sequence, and key dates. Discussion ensued regarding the process being very similar to the last charter renewal. Monte Lange and Nancy Box of Imagine are aware of the timeline and process and have drafts of most items needed in plenty of time to produce a quality product in plenty of time for the board to review. Mike Phillipich arrived (6:14pm).

- IX. Treasurer's/Business Manager's Report on Trend – (6:29pm) Mike Phillipich presented the treasurer's report. Enrollment is lower than expected and will impact the budget. Of note was a higher than expected cost for substitute teachers last year. The final roof payment was made. The board will need to do a supplemental budget to close out last year properly.
- X. Principal's Report – (6:36pm) Frank Fowler presented the principal's report. He is using a new format. Of note is ICA's Primary Literacy Results as published by D49. ICA did very well, showing significant gains. The PARCC results for 2017 are due to be released publicly later in August.
- XI. Regional Report – (7:16pm) Monte Lange and Nancy Box gave a brief update with more to be shared later in the work session.
- XII. Discussion Items
- A. Post for Board opening (according to By-laws) (7:18pm) With the resignation of Brandon Henry, the board has a vacancy. His position was a community member position. The board set Sep 15 as a deadline for potential candidates to submit inputs, decide who will be on the ballot by Sep 25, hold the election Sep 26 - Oct 3, with swearing-in to take place at the Oct 23 board meeting.
- B. Board meeting dates for 2017-2018 – (7:43pm) The board discussed proposed meeting dates for 2017-2018, ensuring we have 10 meetings as required by the Bylaws.
- C. Standing Ground Water – (7:46pm) Monte Lange updated the board on the ground water issue. Imagine has the hydrologist report, and Mr. Lange has contacted several companies for bids. The City of Colorado Springs has problems with ground water on Dublin Blvd at the NW edge of the school property and may be doing some work on that in the near future. Discussion ensued that if the work by the city occurs soon, we should wait to see the impact of that before we proceed as this may cause a change to the situation.
- XIII. Action Items
- These are items that are for Board Approval by vote, which may require Board discussion.*
- A. Acceptance of Brandon Henry's resignation – (7:52pm) Mike Riggs read Brandon Henry's letter of resignation as a board member. Mike Phillipich moved to accept the resignation, Chris Dempsey seconded. Motion passed 4-0.
- B. Postponement of Annual Data review to September to allow for released PARCC data (7:53pm) Mike Phillipich moved to accept the postponement, Chris Dempsey seconded. Motion passed 4-0.
- C. Approval of Parent Handbook – (7:53pm) Chris Dempsey moved to approve the Parent Handbook as presented. Discussion took place regarding minor dress code details. Chris Dempsey amended his motion to approve the Parent Handbook giving Principal Fowler discretion to make minor changes as necessary and authority to enforce the dress code based on his judgment on the details of a given situation. Mike Phillipich seconded. Motion passed 4-0.
- XIV. Board member communication – (8:11pm)
- XV. Other Business – (8:16pm) None.
- XVI. Adjournment to Work Session – (8:16pm)

Work Session Agenda

- I. Part one Narrative for charter renewal – (8:17pm) Monte Lange and Nancy Box presented the initial draft of the Executive Summary due to D49. The board reviewed and discussed, providing inputs and minor changes and corrections. Mr Lange and Ms Box also discussed the overall process and time line for charter renewal with the board.
- II. Adjournment – (9:10pm)

PARTICIPATION IN MEETINGS:

Board meetings are generally a time for the Board to hear from the Principal, other senior administration representatives, and those who are scheduled to make presentations on selected topics. Colorado law prohibits the Board from discussing public business other than during public meetings or executive sessions (see below). Therefore, these public sessions are working sessions of the Board that are intended to provide interaction between Board members and administration in an effort to reach decisions on a wide variety of issues. With rare exception, these meetings are not the best place for initial discussion to take place. New initiatives or proposals should typically be discussed first with administration and a formal proposal prepared for presentation at a time when the item can be scheduled on the agenda. Nevertheless, there are times when the Board is discussing a proposal that certain individuals attending the meeting can provide valuable insight, expertise and perspective to assist the Board in making wise and well-informed decisions. Generally, those involved in bringing forth an idea, and those most active in the process of researching and presenting a proposal, will be the ones most likely to be called upon for input during the Board's discussion. In addition, senior administration officials and representatives from other active task forces will be relied upon for their perspective concerning a particular proposal and the impact it will have on various constituencies.

OPEN FORUM/COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:

During each meeting, the Board sets aside a period of time when anyone who wishes to do so may make a brief statement or mini-presentation to the Board on a non-agenda item. The Board will take these comments and suggestions under consideration, but will typically not have adequate time in the schedule or enough information to be able to make a decision or respond during the meeting. The Board may choose to refer such items to the administration for research and the possible future preparation of a recommended course of action to be considered at a later meeting. Open meeting forum is not a time to discuss students, staff, or parents by name.

OTHER VENUES FOR IDEAS AND SUGGESTIONS:

New ideas and suggestions are often best handled by contacting the administration. In addition, there are a number of other venues where interested individuals are encouraged to bring forth ideas and suggestions. These include, but are not limited to, Student Character Council; Parents Teachers Organizations (PTOs), Town Hall Meetings, Principal's Coffees, regularly scheduled parent meetings, and various Task Forces. Proposals which are brought forth through groups such as these, in close cooperation with the administration, are typically organized in a manner that make them easier for the Board to properly consider them and make well-informed decisions.

EXECUTIVE SESSIONS:

While the law requires that most Board meetings be open to the public, the Board may meet in a private, "executive" session to consider the following types of matters: (i) purchase or sale of real estate; (ii) conferences with an attorney for the purpose of receiving legal advice; (iii) matters required to be kept confidential by federal or state laws or regulations; (iv) specialized details of security arrangements or investigations; (v) determination of positions relative to contract negotiations; (vi) personnel matters; (vii) consideration of documents protected by the Open Records Act; and (viii) discussion of most individual student matters.