

# Imagine Classical Academy



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



6464 Peterson Colorado Springs, CO 80923

## **March Board Meeting**

March 19, 2018 7:00pm

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.*

1. Call to Order – (7:05pm) Markus Bahnemann called the meeting to order
2. Roll Call – (7:05pm) Mike Phillipich, Chris Dempsey, Markus Bahnemann, Natasha Dempsey and Brandon Henry  
Also in attendance, Nancy Box, Monte Lang, Frank Fowler, Scott Hunter and Valerie OBrien
3. Pledge of Allegiance (7:06pm) Chris Dempsey led the pledge
4. Mission Statement (7:06pm) Markus Bahnemann read the mission statement
5. Approval of Board Meeting Agenda (7:06pm) Mike Phillipich motioned to approve the agenda as presented. Natasha seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0
6. Comments from the Public (7:07pm) Markus Bahnemann read the rules of public comments prior to opening the floor to the public. No public comment
7. Approval of Minutes (7:08pm) Markus Bahnemann moved to approve the minutes as presented, Natasha Dempsey seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0
  - a. February 26, 2018
  - b. March 5, 2018 Work Session
8. Swearing in of New Board Member - Mr. Brandon Henry (7:09pm) Chris Dempsey performed swearing in for Brandon Henry
9. Treasurer's/Business Manager's Report on Trend (7:09pm) – Mike Phillipich presented the Trend report, highlighting the current projected loss of \$10k.
10. Dashboard (Principal's Report) (7:12pm) Frank Fowler reported on STAR data showing the three Star test periods so far this school year. There is one more Star testing period remaining this school year. Our target for reading this year is 1.09, we are currently at 1.046. For math our goal is 1.05, we are currently at 1.044. We appear to be on track for math but not for reading. A lot of the growth in middle school last year can be tied to the work we did to prepare the students for CMAS testing, including implementing ALEKS. We have ALEKS on the wish list for next year as well. We are currently in a pilot for MobyMax and looking at pricing for ALEKS for next year. Saxon Math is very procedural, but it also spirals and repeats in future years, by adding ALEKS we add in the more standards based view of conceptualizing math, modeling and reasoning. Reading is a big concern, in middle school in particular. Many grades we are doing as well as previous years if not showing decent growth. 2<sup>nd</sup> grade is showing strong scores but is showing a drop in nonfiction reading. CKLA does not introduce nonfiction until the last unit. Goals going forward to add nonfiction earlier in the year. We currently have Scholastic News which will help, we just need to be more intentional with how we use it. Prior to CKLA we did a good job of 50/50 fiction to nonfiction. CKLA addresses the content we need and aligns with the standards, however has a slight gap in this area. We are evolving into adding supplementation to address small gaps and issues. Previous year we were pretty low in many areas on the PARC test. Last year we saw incredible growth last year so our proficiency grow (which counts for 60%) went up, middle school saw the largest growth. Strategies we have implemented include lots of PD, instructional coach, etc. There was significant discussion around the differences between CMAS and STAR as well as strategies being implemented that may have reduced STAR scores versus increasing CMAS scores.

- a. 2nd grade DIBELS – (7:11pm) Gracee Liggett reported that 2<sup>nd</sup> grade started the year with 3 teachers, with 33 students in a classroom. One aide was let go, aide was hired back. After count day we hired Mrs. Lee, taking on new students as well as moving students from other classrooms. Some of those students came in to the school with lower reading scores.
11. Accountability Committee Report (7:44pm) – No report. There will be a meeting in April. Mike Phillipich commented that the SAC is an important resource for ideas and suggestions on how we spend money. It is important to have the SAC discuss the wish list as well at the next meeting.
  12. Regional Report (7:46pm)
    - a. Monthly Status Report – Nancy Box reported on the monthly status report, commenting on different areas of support that the campus received from Imagine over the past month. The OCR was finalized during this month with very minimal findings. There has been significant amount of time spent supporting parents.
  13. Discussion Items
    - A. Budget
      - a. 2018 - 2019 School Year (7:52pm) – Mike Phillipich highlighted significant changes for the budget this year. Noted that we will remain with the current enrollment goal of 700 FTE to take a conservative stance based on the previous year loss of students. Discussed that the indirect management fee was reduced from 12% to 9.5%. PPR funding amount is still up in the air but estimated number was provided by the district. Mike Phillipich commented that \$180K is provided as capital construction funds, in the past. Also noted that the preschool agenda has been broken out separately, this is new for this year.
    - B. Bylaws
      - a. Revisions to Bylaws (8:00pm) – Natasha Dempsey has not made any significant changes other than administrative changes. Cannot move forward until the preschool operation has been decided.
    - C. Board Policy Manual
      - a. 2nd reading of Board Policy Manual (Section 2.5) (8:01pm) Chris Dempsey completed the 2<sup>nd</sup> reading of the Board Policy Manual. Significant discussion concerning numbering format to match the district format.
    - D. Water Mitigation
      - a. Passive Underdrain (North and possibly East side) & Boring – (8:15pm) The school will use its reserve to pay up front but would like a credit back the same fiscal school year. The intention is to start with the first part which is the passive underdrain, and move forward from there depending on the findings. Mike Phillipich requested that there be a plan created by the next meeting so that we can move forward with the repair.
    - E. Preschool Operating Status - (8:21pm) Natasha provided a brief overview on the background of the preschool operating status issue. She was happy to see that the budget is showing the preschool operates in the black. One option moving forward is to organize as an LLC, under this option we could allocate a lower amount for rent which would provide added benefit to the preschool bottom line. Second option would be to set up the preschool as a non-profit. This would create more administrative issues, which would create more effort and hassle with no real additional benefit to the preschool. Finally the public option would be to incorporate the preschool within the public charter. This would create some limitation with free preschool for IEPs and other regulatory burden that we do not currently have to meet. Recommendation of outside counsel as well as Natasha's would be to go the LLC route. It appears this option will address all issues that the district raised during the charter renewal as well as minimize the changes from how we are already currently operating.
    - F. Board Positions (8:27pm) Chris Dempsey noted that the board would like to add a communications position rather than have an at large position. Brandon Henry noted that we would need a description of what this position would do, but all members are in agreement that this position would be a good change.
      - a. President
      - b. Vice President
      - c. Secretary
      - d. Treasurer
      - e. Communications

14. Vote to Adjourn to Executive Session (8:31pm) - Mike Phillipich motioned to adjourn to executive session, Natasha seconded the motion. Passed 5-0

### **Executive Session (8:35pm)**

Personnel matters (individual employees or groups of employees but not Board members; this provision also does not apply to discussions of personnel policies not personal to particular employees), CRS 24-6- 402(4)(f)(I & II)

Negotiation strategy and instructing negotiators, i.e., contract negotiations, CRS 24-6-402(4)(e))

15. Vote to Adjourn from Executive Session (10:30 pm) Mike Phillipich moved to adjourn from executive session, Brandon Henry seconded. Motion passed 5-0
16. Action Items (*Items that are for Board Approval by vote, which may require Board discussion.*)
  - a. Any Items Discussed in Executive Session Requiring a Vote (10:31 pm) Brandon Henry moved to approve both items discussed in executive session. Natasha Dempsey seconded. Motion passed 5-0.
  - b. 2018-2019 Initial Budget (10:33 pm) Mike Phillipich moved to approve the draft budget as presented. Brandon Henry seconded the motion. Passed 5-0.
  - c. Board Policy Manual (Section 2.5) (10:34 pm) Brandon Henry moved to approve the Board Policy Manual section 2.5 as read with version control corrections. Natasha Dempsey seconded the motion passed 5-0.
  - d. Water Mitigation 10:35pm Item tabled. Mike Phillipich asked Monte to provide the board with a timeline of proposed actions on water mitigation over the next 6 months.
  - e. Preschool Natasha Dempsey moved to approve the operating model for the preschool as an LLC as presented pending approval from D49. Mike Phillipich seconded. Motion passed 4-0 with Brandon Henry abstaining due to familiarity with the issue
  - f. Board Positions (10:37pm) Markus motions to elect the following individuals to the specified positions. Brandon Henry seconds.
    - Board President: Chris Dempsey
    - Board Vice President: Mike Phillipich
    - Board Treasurer: Mike Phillipich
    - Board Secretary: Markus Bahnemann
    - Board Communications Director: Brandon Henry
    - Board Member at Large: Natasha Dempsey
17. Board Member Communication
  - a. Policy Manual (10:42 pm) The board will work with the administration to advertise for a member of the school community interested in serving as a technical writer to assist in converting the current board manual to a format consistent with the D49 regarding formatting.
  - b. Relevant Waivers (10:45 pm) Markus Bahnemann will work with Nancy Box to identify non-automatic waivers for contract renewal with D49 and find documentation from the previous charter renewal.
    - i. Readiness Reporting
    - ii. Teacher Licensure
18. Other Business (10:48pm) None
19. Adjournment (10:48pm) Chris Dempsey adjourned the meeting
20. Informal Board Self-Assessment

The board discussed the following informal self-assessment issues:

- Board meetings are too long. The board recognizes this, but it is working through a great number of issues.
- We need to improve document version control on google docs.

### **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.*