

**Imagine Classical Academy
Board Minutes
Monday, October 23, 2017**



Where students are classically trained, culturally literate, and globally prepared.
6464 Peterson Road • Colorado Springs, CO 80923



**Executive Session at 6:00pm in Room 209
Regular Meeting at 7:30pm 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 – (6:04pm)
- II. Roll Call – (6:04pm) Markus Bahnemann, Michael Phillipich, Michael Riggs, Chris Dempsey, Frank Fowler, Brandon Dahl, Nancy Box and Monte Lange
- III. Pledge of Allegiance – (6:04pm)
- IV. Mission Statement – (6:05pm) Markus Bahnemann read the mission statement
- V. Approval of Board Meeting Agenda – (6:05pm) Michael Phillipich motioned for approval of the agenda, Chris seconded the motion, motion passed 4-0
- VI. Vote to adjourn to Executive Session – (6:06pm) Chris Dempsey motioned to adjourn to executive session, Markus seconded the motion, motion passed 4-0

Executive Session

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)
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- VII. Vote to adjourn from Executive Session – (7:45pm)

Regular Meeting – 7:45 pm

- VIII. Board disclosure forms signed by all members – (7:45pm) Copies were provided to each board member
- IX. Comments from the public – (7:46pm) No comments from the public
- X. Approval of minutes from September 25, 2017 and October 11, 2017 – (7:47pm) Chris Dempsey motioned to approve the prior meeting minutes as presented, Markus Bahnemann seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0
- XI. Treasurer's/Business Manager's Report on Trend – (7:47pm) Michael Phillipich reviewed the September Trend Report and noted that the student count was lower than expected at 698 FTE, which reduced our expected loss for the year. There were no further questions.

XII. Regional Report - Nancy Box, Monte Lange & Frank Fowler – (7:51pm) Frank reviewed the dashboard report, highlighting the table showing the APR report for district schools. The school performance framework from the state looked at growth versus achievement. The goal is to continue to grow in proficiency. Also noted there was one suspension for the first quarter of the school year. Monte noted that the draft audit is showing a loss of \$167,000 for the 2016-2017 school year. He is concerned about that going into the charter renewal. During the previous charter renewal there was a start up grant and loss mitigation, however those were removed once that renewal was completed. Nancy discussed the requested ground water update. She is still waiting for response from another company to bid the project but at this point she has only received one bid. That company did confirm to her that they can start the job quickly once necessary materials are received. The existing board members and Monte gave a brief background of the groundwater issue and key players involved up to this point to the new board member, Natasha Dempsey. Chris Dempsey requested that Monte set up a follow up with the engineering firm. Mike Riggs requested that Chris work with Monte to expedite the process rather than wait for updates at each monthly meeting.

XIII. Discussion Items

- A. Playground Project – (8:28pm) Frank Fowler gave a quick update to the playground project. After further clarification it was noted that Frank's original estimate of going over by \$100k on the project is probably an exaggeration. He believes that the original contract amount of \$232k is accurate. The only place we may go over is on the fence, which was removed from the original project. The cost for the fence will be additional, which the PTO has committed to assist us with on a fundraiser in the spring. At this point, the work has started on the playground with the existing play structure has been removed and transported to the new location. It was mentioned that we may be able to use the new concrete slab as additional parking. Michael Riggs recommended we get certification on the concrete prior to allowing the parking. Frank also mentioned there is a small area at the entrance of the new playground that will need some minor landscaping to avoid the kids walking in mud. Michael Phillipich requested that PTO be consulted about volunteers to come out for an afternoon and spend a few hours landscaping the area.
- B. CDE Modules – (8:46pm) Chris Dempsey has completed the CDE Modules and requested his certificate in June. He is still waiting to receive it at this point. Chris reminded the other board members to continue working to complete the modules.
- C. Board Systems Work Session Date – (8:47pm) Natasha will complete her fingerprinting on Friday October 27th so that she can be sworn in and attend the next work session. Chris Dempsey requested a work session on November 10th at 8am. Nancy will call in for that meeting during the portion that involves the executive session. The next work session after is tentatively scheduled for November 27th at 6pm.
- D. APR/Foothills Accreditation Documents – (9:05pm) Mike Riggs provided a background on district performance measurement tools known as the APR and Foothills Accreditation Documents, as well as a walk thru of both recent reports. Frank Fowler and Markus Bahnemann attended the district board meeting and stated that the district plans to review the Foothills Accreditation Tool and rating criteria after hearing the concerns of the charter schools within the district. There are concerns that the rating criteria are wildly subjective depending on the zone in the district. There may be a response at the next District board meeting on November 9th.
- E. New Board Member Process – (9:18pm) – Markus discussed revision of the forms and process for new members. He stated that many of the forms should be updated. He will provide Natasha with a board binder that includes by laws, policy manual and other important documents.
- F. Amended Budget for FY17 – (9:22pm) Valerie noted that there is a loss of \$167K for the 2016-2017 Amended Budget. Monte and Brandon discussed the possibility of Imagine providing a contribution of \$167K, however were unsure if this would be possible due to Imagine removing the loss mitigation program during the prior charter renewal.

XIV. Action Items

These are items that are for Board Approval by vote, which may require Board discussion.

- A. I-JICDE Bullying Policy (Previously policy 5.6) – (9:25pm) Frank Fowler noted that there were no additional changes to the bullying policy as previously presented. Chris Dempsey made a motion to approve policy 5.6 as presented. Michael Phillipich seconded. All voted to approve.
- B. Playground Project Agreement Letter – (9:26pm) Markus motioned to draft a playground project agreement letter to the district stating that the Board/School will cover overages up to \$30k with stipulation that there will not be any changes to the contract (change orders to Imagine) as it stands. Chris seconded the motion. No further discussion. All voted yes.

C. Resolution to approve the FY17 Amended Budget and appropriate the funds as specified – (9:28pm)
Phillipich motioned to approve the budget and appropriate the funds as specified with the possibility of the income change with an acceptance of a \$167K from Imagine. Dempsey seconded. Motion passed 4-0

XV. Board member communication – (9:29pm) None

XVI. Other Business – (9:29pm) None

XVII. Adjournment – (9:29pm) Mr. Riggs motioned to adjourn the meeting

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.