

Imagine Classical Academy

Board Minutes

Monday, September 25, 2017



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



6464 Peterson Road • Colorado Springs, CO 80923

Regular Meeting at 6:00pm 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 – (6:02pm) Mike Riggs call to order
- II. Roll Call – (6:00pm) Mike Riggs, Chris Dempsey, Markus Bahnemann present, Mike Phillipich delayed (arrived at 6:27pm). Also present Frank Fowler, Scott Hunter, Valerie O'Brien, Monte Lange and Nancy Box.
- III. Pledge of Allegiance – (6:02pm) led by Mike Riggs
- IV. Mission Statement – (6:03pm) read by Markus Bahnemann
- V. Approval of Board Meeting Agenda – (6:05pm) Chris Dempsey moved to approve the meeting agenda as presented, Markus Bahnemann seconded. Riggs will talk about the Imagine performance review later in the meeting. Motion passed 3-0.
- VI. Comments from the public – (6:04pm) None
- VII. Approval of minutes from August – (6:04pm) Chris Dempsey moved to approve the meeting minutes as published, Markus Bahnemann seconded. Motion passed 3-0.
- VIII. Treasurer's/Business Manager's Report on Trend – (6:07pm) Mike Phillipich was not present for the treasurer's report. The August trend report reflects a loss of approx. \$29k with a student count of 702.98 as of September 12, 2017. The count has continued to fluctuate but will be finalized on Monday, October 2nd. Since the August Trend was prepared we have been notified of a true up from the district of \$20k for SPED costs from last school year, so we are currently looking at a loss of \$49k.
- IX. Annual Data Review by Leadership Team – (6:07pm) Frank Fowler presented the annual data review. Primary literacy scores were reviewed in depth, highlighting significant growth increases for last school year. Benchmarks grew and goals for growth were achieved in reading. Math had growth however we came just shy of hitting the goal for the year. We are restructuring how teachers and aides are handling interventions and small group instruction with the reduction in staff. Trained 13 teachers in TRTW last year and 8 are going this year over fall break. We have found that MTSS/RTI was weak in the past, therefore we are focused on improving this program. Our counselor is now involved in this process to help strengthen the program. Lexia performance has been very strong. PARCC testing scores showed significant growth from the previous year.

Ranked 2nd in the district in growth performance. We would not expect that much growth in future years. Fourth grade PARCC scores are an area of concern, the other grades showed quite a bit more growth. Finished with an update on MLO funding requests.

- X. Regional Report – (6:42pm) Monte Lange and Nancy Box gave a brief update. Nancy discussed the combined Colorado schools professional development day in September. Math differentiation was discussed in depth during that training session. Prior to that date, the middle school math teachers met to work on differentiation as well. Rigor and TRTW was also discussed during the training. Nancy held a day long training for partners teachers. In addition RTI groups met to work on improving processes at each school. Monte updated the Board regarding Schoolhouse Finance. Last correspondence was concerning list of items that Imagine provides as part of the fees. Monte suggested a call between Schoolhouse and the Board to discuss further. Monte will work on arranging that conference call with Isabella. National Institute of School Leadership was piloted with six Imagine staff members last year. Monte is hoping to invite Frank and a leader from Firestone to attend this training next year.
- XI. Discussion Items
- A. Process for Principal Review (6:52pm) Nancy Box stated that we will be using the same review document as last year but would like to see the process be smoother this time around. Nancy will send a clean version of the standards for the board to document. Nancy will combine comments from Imagine and the Board into one document for review in Octobers Board meeting.
- B. Board candidate resumes/election – (6:55pm) The board has received interest from four perspective board candidates: Natasha Dempsey, Chuck Spillar (awaiting resume), Lisa Baker and Mary Cooley. The deadline will be extended through the end of this week (September 29th). Resumes/cover letters will be posted by Friday October 6th. Voting will begin on October 7th, closing on October 13th. Swearing in will be at the October board meeting. Chris will reach out to each candidate to outline the timeline of the election and clarify that they would be taking over the previous term of Brandon Henry which ends Oct 2018 and will be eligible to be voted in for another term.
- C. Board disclosure form – (7:08pm) Mike Riggs would like all board members to resign the Board Disclosure Form in October when the new board members are sworn in. Markus will seek clarification from the League to verify how often background checks should be done.
- D. Bullying policy – (7:13pm) There needs to be some revision and adoption of the updated bullying policy at the next board meeting. Firestone's Principal did significant research over the summer to revamp the bullying policy for both schools to reflect current mandatory state laws. The bullying policy will be an action item at the next meeting.
- E. Groundwater – (7:23pm) Concerning groundwater, Nancy finally received one bid back from R&R Ditching. It took approx. a month to receive the proposal. Of the couple of people the engineer suggested, one company was not interested, another did not have the proper insurance to complete the job. Today Nancy connected with the school landscaping company and will work with them to receive a bid for potential ground water repairs as well. As of now based on the first bid we are possibly looking at a range of \$20k-\$30k. The City completed repairs on Dublin Blvd recently; however those repairs did not seem to have any affect to our ground water issues. Our plan going forward is to continue to try to obtain another bid within a timely manner. Nancy will reach out to the contractor that submitted a bid for a timeline of the possible start for the project.
- F. Annual Performance Review – (7:33pm) Mike Riggs noted that we have a couple of days to respond to the APR. We received a 2.9 Improvement rating overall. Student achievement, mission specific academic goals and near-term measures categories were all rated as approaching. All other categories

were rated as meets. There was significant discussion concerning the contractual required enrollment number. Imagine will submit a school response by the due date of October 1st as required.

XII. Action Items

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

- A. Extension of Markus Bahnemann's term – (8:04pm) Mike Riggs outlined that the proposal was to extend Markus' term by a year, from October 2017 to October 2018. This would put it back to his original term prior to his voluntary curtailment at a previous meeting. Chris made a motion to discuss this action item, Mike P. seconded the motion. Markus currently holds a parent position however his youngest child is currently in 8th grade and his ability to hold a parent position will expire in May 2017. Originally Markus curtailed his term to end October 2017 because of his child's impending graduation from 8th grade. With continuity in mind, the board approved an alternate motion to extend Markus to June 30, 2018. Bahnemann abstained from voting, Dempsey, Phillipich and Riggs approved the vote.
- B. Reappointment of Chris Dempsey to full board term - (8:11pm) Mike Phillipich moved to reappoint Christ Dempsey to a full board term. Phillipich seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0 with Chris abstaining. October 2021
- C. Board Election – (8:11pm) Bahnemann motion to table this action item to a later meeting. Dempsey seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0. Action item was tabled.

XIII. Board member communication – (8:13pm)

- a. Dempsey discussed status of board training, email was sent to all board members with directions for completing training
- b. Dempsey discussed charter renewal interviews.

XIV. Other Business – (8:18pm) None.

XV. Adjournment – (8:18pm)

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.