

Imagine Classical Academy



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

6464 Peterson Colorado Springs, CO 80923



February Board Meeting

February 26, 2018 6:00pm

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 – (6:02pm)
2. Roll Call – (6:02pm) Mike Phillipich, Markus Bahnemann, Chris Dempsey, Natasha Dempsey, Monte Lange, Nancy Box, Frank Fowler, Scott Hunter, Valerie O'Brien
3. Pledge of Allegiance - (6:03pm) Led by Chris Dempsey
4. Mission Statement – (6:03pm) Markus Bahnemann
5. Approval of Board Meeting Agenda - (6:04pm) Markus Bahnemann moved to accept the agenda with the change to add paragraph B to approve the Feb 8 work session minutes. Natasha seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0
6. Comments from the Public - none
7. Approval of minutes
 - a. January 22, 2018 – (6:05pm)
 - b. Feb 8, 2018 work session - Markus Bahnemann motioned to approve both minutes as presented, Natasha seconded the motion, passed 4-0
8. Treasurer's/Business Manager's Report on Trend – (6:05pm) Valerie presented the trend report, highlighting the projected loss has improved significantly to -\$2,000 due to the MLO funds that were received in January to offset current salaries, rather than the Chromebooks we originally planned to purchase with the funds. Also noted that \$11,000 was received for Federal Impact Aid in January. PTO raised just over \$16,000 at the fun run for the new playground fence, which cost \$15,812. That money will be received in March.
9. Dashboard (Principal's Report) – (6:09pm) In lieu of a dashboard this month, Frank presented the presentation that was given to the D49 board. Presentation shows trends for PARC tests over the past 3 years. Slide 6 & 7 shows statistics about our schools performance on the state test. Goal for this year in reading is 1.09, at the time of this report we were at 1.08, as of now we are lower than that. The goal for math is 1.05 and Frank believes we are on track to meet that goal. Also discussed survey results from parent, staff and student surveys. Talked about celebrations at the school, 12 students represented our school at the Regional Science Fair over the weekend. This weekend at the Forensics Tournaments we had a number of students make it to finals that had not made it that far previously.
 - a. Action item to identify the cause of 2nd grade DIBELS decrease of 1 point - Frank was not sure of the cause; therefore Natasha mentioned in the future she would like a more concrete response when given an action item. Frank will research further before the next meeting.

10. Accountability Committee Report (School Accountability Committee (SAC) Rep if Available) – (6:21pm) No update from the committee. Frank mentioned that we have worked hard to have our MLO funds approved and have been reimbursed for all the funds at this point.
11. Regional Report (6:28pm)
 - a. Investment Vehicles – Nancy included a list of approved investment vehicles for public schools in her regional report presentation. Mike would like to investigate further and research how D49 invests their funds.
 - b. Monthly Status Report – Nancy reviewed the monthly status report with the board members. Most support was given for academics during January & February. Also significant support given with the OCR, which is rapidly coming close to a conclusion. Chris Dempsey would like this information to be summarized into a more broad description. Natasha would like to see further detail presented in the meeting session documents, with a broader summary for the verbal report back to the board. Mike commented that he would like to receive this document in the board packet prior to the meeting in the future. In light of the recent school shooting in Florida, Monte discussed potential walk out dates (March 14 & April 20) being organized for students, the legal team is working to prepare principals to keep the students safe and interact with parents as needed. The region is currently reviewing our safety plan however D49 is very good about working with each school on school safety policies. Frank mentioned that we did practice a lockdown drill in the fall as well as a lockout drill a few weeks ago and will be having another lockdown drill in the near future.
12. Reporting Procedures – (6:58pm) Chris Dempsey wanted to note that we are allowed only one notice of concern by the district in the coming school year under the terms of the one year charter renewal. Natasha noted that she would like to know the districts due process for handling concerns that are sent to the district. The school received information about a complaint today; Chris Dempsey will follow up with Andy Franko to find out what the desired outcome will be with this situation. The board reviewed the process for complaints. Parents should work with administration, if the situation needs to be escalated, Nancy Box would be next in line for notification. After that point the board would be the next step for reporting. The District should be the final escalation. This is outlined in the parent handbook. Natasha feels the amount of concerns that have popped up recently is concerning. She would like to understand the day to day handling of escalations, to see if there is a common theme or areas for improvement. Frank mentioned that it may be important to spend a work session going through how escalations are handled, how long students spend in an office and why that may happen. By doing this, the board members will be fully aware and informed and can better support administration when concerns are raised by parents. Chris will arrange a work session for this discussion.
13. Discussion Items
 - A. Budget – (7:26pm) Chris Dempsey noted that we will need to review and approval the 2018-2019 budget at the March 19 Board Meeting, which is due to D49 NLT April 15. Chris invited Michele Lucero to the meeting to discuss preschool tuition. Chris recapped the tuition fees for preschool in the area, noting that RMCA is \$725 per month for 5 full days a week. Michele pointed out that at RMCA they are getting everything brand new for that price. Taking the tuition to \$600 per month may be pushing it a little bit, but our reputation in the area is outstanding. We have a waitlist going into 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 school years. There was significant discussion around raising the tuition and how it will impact the waitlist, preschool families as well as the preschool budget. It was agreed to raise preschool tuition for 2018-2019 to \$600 per month.
 - B. Discussion Regarding AEP/SHF/Imagine 2/21 Meeting – (8:12pm) Chris Dempsey requested a date that AEP will return with a response from the meeting. In addition Chris would like March 9th to be a possible date for Imagine to provide a proposal of offerings. Monte would like a listing of offerings we would like to see in the proposal. Chris would like to see an offering of services we mainly use versus what is offered to the school.

- C. Town Halls – (8:30pm)
 - a. Board currently agreed upon Monday March 5, 2018 for the Board to present to the Parents and Staff on Who We Are, What We Do etc. Monte offered a corporate Imagine PR employee to help craft the message the Board is trying to convey. After significant discussion, it was decided to hold a working session on Monday the 5th from 5-7pm to plan the Town Hall presentation.

 - D. Board Training
 - a. Modules (8:43pm) – Natasha agreed that we are still on board with 90 days to complete training modules for new board members.
 - b. Quarterly Board Self-Assessment – (8:44pm) Markus, Nancy and CLCS will work to have an assessment format for the March 19th meeting

 - E. ESP Evaluation
 - a. Status (8:45pm) – Markus will work with Monte to get a proposed evaluation format together by May 2018 so that the board can complete the ESP evaluation at the August 2018 board meeting

 - F. Bylaws
 - a. Revisions to Bylaws (8:46pm) – Natasha is holding on the revision of bylaws. She suggested moving forward with the open board seat election prior to revising the bylaws.

 - G. Board Policy Manual (Section 2.5) (8:48pm) -
 - a. 1st reading of Board Policy Manual (Section 2.5) – Chris Dempsey read the suggested changes to the Board Policy Manual. Various changes were made after the reading, to include term limits, as well as requirements to fill vacancy. The suggested changes will be made and a 2nd reading of the Board Policy Manual (Section 2.5) will be at the March 19th Board Meeting

 - H. Water Mitigation (9:13pm)
 - a. Status of site visit for new issues to add to exterior issues – Nancy has been talking with the Imagine site developer
 - i. Date - TBD
 - ii. Current cost for exterior issues
 - 1. Broken down into 2 bids
 - D. The Dublin Blvd
 - E. Preschool to parking lot
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- I. Open Board Seat – (9:22pm) Natasha Dempsey feels we should move forward with the election for the open board seat, rather than wait for the amendment of the bylaws.
 - a. Pertains to 14, E, a, b and 14 F, a, b
 - b. Dates
 - i. Inform Community 27 Feb
 - ii. Letters of Interest, Resumes and Video submit by 6 Mar
 - iii. Voting Open 12 Mar
 - iv. Voting Close 16 Mar
 - c. New 4 Year Term - new term will be for 4 years rather than finish Mike Riggs' term ending Oct 2018
 - d. Voting Platforms - Chris Dempsey is exploring options. Some platforms may have a nominal cost.

J. Preschool Operating Status (9:32 pm)

- a. Status of Meeting with District 49: meeting to be scheduled during the week of 5 Mar
- b. Three (3) Options to Consider: Still TBD, pending outcome of D49 meeting

14. Vote to Adjourn to Executive Session (9:32 pm) - Mike Phillipich moved to adjourn, Markus Bahnemann seconded. Motion passed 4-0

Executive Session (9:34 pm)

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

15. Vote to Adjourn from Executive Session (10:26 pm) - Markus Bahnemann moved to adjourn, Chris Dempsey seconded. Motion passed 4-0

16. Action Items (10:27 pm) *(Items that are for Board Approval by vote, which may require Board discussion.)*

- a. Any Items Discussed in Executive Session Requiring a Vote - Mike Phillipich moved to adopt the resolution as presented, Natasha Dempsey seconded, motion passed 4-0
- b. Bylaws - No action
- c. Preschool Tuition - Markus Bahnemann moved to raise preschool tuition from \$550 to \$600 per month per student for the 2018-2019 school year, Mike Phillipich seconded, motion passed 4-0

17. Board Member Communication (10:29 pm) - None

18. Other Business (10:29 pm) – None

19. Adjournment (10:30 pm) - Chris Dempsey adjourned.

20. Informal Board Self-Assessment (After Meeting Five (5) Minutes) - Item deleted due to late hour.

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.