

**Independence Charter School
Board of Trustees Meeting
June 08, 2005, 7:00 PM**

Board Members Present: Sandra Aidar, Becky Baehr, Jon Baram, Michelle Campbell, Eric Cramer, Susan Gobreski, Sean Hennessy, Rosina Miller, Pam Prell, Ingrid Schafroth, Gary Shepherd, David Webber

Board Members Absent: Christine Chisholm

Others Present: Jurate Krokys, CEO; Randi Ostrow, Foundations; Jamel Henderson, WINGS coordinator; Anna Evans, Teacher representative; Lisa Nelson-Haynes, Board nominee; Sean Gallagher, Vice Principal; Meredith Barkley, Special Education Coordinator; Cassandra Carpenter, PTA Liason; Chief of Staff at Foundations

I. Call to Order

President Rebecca Baehr called the meeting to order at 7:17pm.

II. Reading and Review of Minutes

The minutes from the last Board meeting were circulated. The minutes were approved.

III. Public Comment Period

None

IV. CEO Report

Discussion

We do have space on the 4th floor for the 7th graders. We have two large rooms and one office available. There are questions about whether or not the 7th graders will be able to use the stairwells or the elevators to travel between floors. We are trying to work out a plan about using different stairwells for CHAD and ICS transportation.

V. Treasurer's report / Finance Committee Report

Be it resolved that the ICS board of trustees approves the spending of \$104,021.41.

Sean Hennessy moves to approve the spending.

Eric Cramer seconds this motion.

Roll Call Vote

Sandra Aidar-- aye

Becky Baehr-- aye

Jon Baram-- aye

Michelle Campbell-- aye

Eric Cramer-- aye

Susan Gobreski-- aye

Sean Hennessy-- aye

Rosina Miller--aye

Pam Prell-- aye

Ingrid Schafroth-- aye

Gary Shepherd--aye

David Webber-- aye

Motion Carries.

VI. Updates

A. Special presentation: Jamel Henderson, WINGS at ICS

Two packets were distributed giving a brief description of the WINGS after school program. Jamel Henderson is the after school coordinator and the coordinator for Bright Sky reading program.

The after school program run between 3:30 and 6:00 pm. 3:30 – 4:00 the students receive a snack and use the restrooms. 4:00 – 5:30 the students participate in an “option”. There is a 45-minute homework option where the student is not allowed to leave until all homework is completed and checked. The student is then, at the completion of their homework, escorted to their option. 5:30 – 6:00 the student is placed back into their classroom for fun while they await parent pick up.

There is a \$25.00 registration fee (as opposed to \$50.00 last year). There is a \$15/day fee to cover supplies and staffing.

Bright Sky allows students the opportunity to have one-on-one reading help. Every Wednesday the students participate in a book discussion club at the Free Library. Principal Jurate states that Jamel has created an environment where volunteers continue to return. Philadelphia Cares is bringing volunteers to train at ICS for programs in other schools. Jamel has presented to the Board of Philadelphia Cares regarding the program and how it is run at Independence Charter School. Students are identified by the reading specialist and classroom teachers.

B. Teacher representative report: Anna Evans, Veronica Kim

Thank you to the Board of Trustees for being so receptive to the teacher presentation regarding the early dismissal plan. Michelle Campbell asks if there are particular requests regarding in-service dates. Anna Evans will pass this question along to the teachers.

C. PTA Report

None

D. Committee Report

1. Diversity

Dr. B. Mickey addressed the committee before the Board meeting today. There was a first meeting where a purpose statement was drafted. The members are David, Michelle, Gary, Claudia and Krista. The question is asked: How is the diversity committee going to work with the Human Resources Committee? Does a member of the committee need to be on every other committee to make sure that the issue of diversity is addressed across the committees? The committee asks for the chairs of every committee to tell them how they can be most useful. There were universities identified that we will be reaching out to for future teachers such as Temple and Rutgers. There are also community organizations that we will be reaching out to such as El Congreso. A regular meeting date will be decided at the next committee gathering. The committee is looking for parent (general and immersion) and community participation.

2. Technology

We are preparing a budget to be presented at the next Board meeting for the 2005-2006 school year. The technology committee will take a look at the wiring of the 4th floor. Jon Baram suggests that the committee be dissolved. Eric Tippenhauer and Ramzy Andrawos are doing a wonderful job putting all of the needs together. Jon suggests that the Community Relations committee be in charge of the website. Pamela Prell suggests that the curriculum committee take up the challenge of making sure that technology is always addressed in the classroom.

Be it resolved that the ICS BOT dissolve the technology committee.

Jon Baram moves to adopt the resolution.

Rosina Miller seconds the motion.

Discussion

Who will then address technology issues, such as making sure that NTA's and part time staff have a location to check their e-mail daily? Susan Gobreski feels that more will get done if the committee is dissolved and its duties are distributed among other committees.

Unanimous to adopt.

3. Development

The Board Challenge should be foremost in everyone's mind. Monday, June 13th at 7:00pm, Eric is going to help with fundraising for the Board. There are some interviews scheduled for the development position. Michelle Campbell and David Webber went to a minority and fundraising workshop. Michelle and David will e-mail the Board with a report. Lisa Haynes talks about her experience in fundraising, in particular, fundraising at grandparent's day.

4. Facilities

The Thomas Durham building had six applicants and we are the only school that applied. The process is still proceeding. Sandra Aidar suggests that we really begin to get our political connections together. The committee has also looked at a warehouse at 15th and Washington that was about 53,000 sq. feet. The cost is 4.3 million and it is expected that the cost of renovation would be much less than the Durham building. There is also a building at 8th and Parrish that is

outside our “set” boundaries. Would we be willing to look into this if the District gave us the building? The school (Pinkus) located at 4th and Race is 130,000 sq. feet and is for lease, not for sale.

Note that most other charter schools own their building and facilities.

5. Community Relations

Penny Drive for Washington Square Park? This would be a good community education tool and a nice gesture to the park. David Webber completed the survey for the Daily News. David has been working with Michael Prell on updating the website. Michelle Campbell asks if people will be able to make a donation to the school via the website?

6. Discipline

There was an expulsion hearing scheduled for tonight, however, the parent has opted to withdraw their student. Michelle Campbell spoke with the Chair for Education of the NAACP about the family who cited us for discriminating against their student due to race. The Chair was in agreement about the way ICS and the administration dealt with the situation. Michelle would like the committee to take a more proactive role in discipline, rather than meeting only for expulsions.

7. Curriculum

The committee has decided to put the International Baccalaureate Program “on hold” while they continue to research. Donna Sharer, parent of three students, is a social studies coach for the Philadelphia School District and will be helping to develop a 7th and 8th grade curriculum. The curriculum will focus on students doing primary research (Atwater Kent Museum and Germantown Historical Society). Ms. Sharer is also willing to loan ICS equipment to do oral histories with students and their families. Lisa Haynes reminds us that NPR has an oral history program and that we could look into WHY. The math curriculum is undecided.

Discussion

There is discussion about transitioning of the Gifted Program into the school-wide enrichment program. Instead of pulling the gifted students out of class, teachers would be required to meet the requirements of the gifted IEP in the classroom. This would mean that enrichment would be met through the entire curriculum. The belief is that this model fits into the full inclusion model better. Students won’t miss out on regular classroom curriculum and immersion students won’t miss out on Spanish. Gifted identification will continue. There would be the option of a separate gifted program offered during enrichment times (early dismissal). Susan Gobreski asks to move this discussion until the next Board meeting.

8. Human Resources

See Resolutions.

9. Executive

There will be a transition of Board of Trustees’ Officers at the end of the meeting. There will also be the nomination of a new Board of Trustees member.

VII. Resolutions

A. Old Business

B. New Business

1. 2005-2006 ICS Calendar

Be it resolved that the ICS Board of Trustees approves and accepts the Calendar for the 2005-2006 school year (see attachment).

Sean Hennessey moves to delegate the approval of the 2005-2006 ICS Calendar to the Curriculum and Executive Committees.

Susan Gobreski seconds the motion.

Unanimous to adopt the new motion.

2. Board expenses

The ICS BOT supports the professional development of its individual trustees in order to enhance their contribution to the ICS mission. Each board member is eligible for reimbursement of up to \$100.00 annually to attend conferences. In addition, the BOT will allocate, when appropriate, funds for training of the entire Board as a whole, and

BOT committees are expected to submit projected BOT expenses as budget requests, including expenses for attendance at conferences, as part of the budget process (usually on/about March of the previous year). The BOT may, from time to time and on a case-by-case basis, approve additional expenses for individual trustee participation in conferences.

In order to be eligible for reimbursement, participation in the conference must be directly related to the trustee's committee work, and ICS must be able to reasonably expect to realize a direct benefit as a result of the participation.

Requests for reimbursement, participation in the conference must be directly related to the trustee's committee work, and ICS must be able to reasonably in advance of being incurred to allow for this evaluation.

Susan Gobreski moves to adopt the resolution.

David Webber seconds the motion.

Unanimous to adopt.

3. Curriculum:

Social Studies for the Middle Years

Be it resolved that the ICS BOT approves the Middle Years Social Studies curriculum which consists of the following:

- a. the utilization of authentic documents in its approach to the study of migration and immigration in the United States
- b. the utilization of the Oxford University Press A History of Us series
- c. the utilization of cross-thematic language arts and social studies readings in the study of immigration and migration.
- d. that ICS explores the use of service learning as a vehicle for learning in the social studies and language arts areas.

Reading for the Middle Years

Be it resolved that the ICS BOT approves the Middle Years Language Arts curriculum to consist of the following:

- a. the use of literature that compliments the social studies curriculum as well as a selection of the 7th and 8th grade standards based recommended materials in the areas of non-fiction, fiction, poetry and other genre.
- b. the use of targeted skill-based small group teaching for students who continue to demonstrate struggling in the areas of comprehension and decoding.
- c. the use of the Collins Education Writing Program to support writing development.

Pamela Prell moves to adopt the resolution.

Rosina Miller seconds the motion.

Unanimous to adopt.

4. Personnel:

Be it resolved that the BOT of Independence Charter School offer full-time positions as stated below, to the following individuals under the terms and conditions specified by the CEO and the ICS contract:

Kerri Tobin – 7th grade Teacher

Yerodin Lucas – Special Education Teacher

Leonore Kreidie – Spanish Immersion Teacher

Amy Leigh – Reading Teacher

Susan Gobreski moves to adopt the resolution.

Rosina Miller seconds the motion.

Discussion

There are still a few positions to fill:

Science Teacher (demo lesson is scheduled for tomorrow)

NTA

5th grade Language Arts Teacher

Development Director (interview tomorrow at 10:45 am)

Spanish immersion Teacher (2 candidates)

Unanimous to adopt.

X.

Election of Officers

Rebecca Baehr nominates Lisa Haynes to the Founder's Seat for a three-year term (replacing Jon Baram, whose term expires at the end of this meeting).

Gary Shepherd seconds the nomination.
Unanimous to accept the nomination.
Lisa Haynes is sworn in at 9:55pm.

Rosina Miller and Ingrid Schafroth are both re-elected to 3-year terms on the Board of Trustees.

The Executive Committee nominates:
Susan Gobreski – President
Michelle Campbell – Vice President
Sean Hennessey – Treasurer
Rosina Miller – Secretary
Gary Shepherd seconds the nominations.
Unanimous to accept these nominations.

Rosina Miller moves to give Jon Baram Founder Status for his dedicated service on the Board of Trustees.

Gary Shepherd seconds this motion.
Unanimous to approve.

Susan Gobreski would like to thank Rebecca Baehr for her dedicated service as President on the Board of Trustees. Susan Gobreski moves that Rebecca Baehr be a member of the Executive Committee as past president.

Rosina Miller seconds the motion and thanks.
Unanimous to approve.

XII. Adjournment

Susan Gobreski moves to adjourn.
Sean Hennessy seconds the motion
Meeting adjourns at 10:30pm.