

**Independence Charter School
Board of Trustees Meeting
August 24, 2005, 7:00 PM**

Board Members Present: Becky Baehr, Christine Chisholm, Susan Gobreski, Lisa Haynes-Nelson, Rosina Miller, David Webber

Board Members Absent: Sandra Aidar, Michelle Campbell, Eric Cramer, Sean Hennessy, Pam Prell, Ingrid Schaffroth

Others Present: Jurate Krokys, CEO; Sean Gallagher, Vice Principal; Ramzy Andrawos, Director of Operations; Gerry Santilli, Business Manager; Blake Smith, parent.

I. Call to Order

President Susan Gobreski called the meeting to order at 7:07pm.

II. Reading and Review of Minutes

The minutes from the last Board meeting were circulated. The minutes were approved with one change, that Susan Gobreski was President of the BOT for the meeting.

Susan Gobreski moves to adopt the minutes.

Becky seconds the motion.

Discussion

None

Unanimous to adopt.

III. Public Comment Period

Discussion

None

IV. CEO Report: We will find alternative for Dance/Movement classes. Steve Poppert will accommodate us with whatever is needed to make D/M room safe and up to code (with fire exits, etc.). Still looking to hire a few lunchroom aids. New teachers have reported (Monday), all teachers back tomorrow. NCLB reports completed in the last month. 21st Century Grant also written and submitted. We made AYP for 04-05, even with increased requirements. Our students scored 55% in Reading, 67.5% in Math. Biggest jump came between Below Basic and Advanced/Proficient categories, which is quite important for points toward AYP.

Discussion

David mentioned the Inquirer coverage lumping all charters together, while Private Managers (Edison, etc.) were separated. Susan suggested a press release to detail our gains in student scores. Lisa suggested contracting with a mutual clipping service. Susan mentioned that Google has an alert system. Susan noted that we pay significantly more than other schools for teacher in-service weeks at the end of August, making our overall compensation package for teachers very comparable to other schools.

V. Treasurer's / Finance Report

Be it resolved that the Independence Charter School Board of Trustees approves the spending of \$98,262.96 for the month of June and \$98,160.14 for the month of July.

Rosina moves to adopt the treasurer's report and disbursements.

Becky seconds the motion.

Unanimous to adopt.

VI. Updates

A. Teacher representative report

None

B. PTA Report

None

C. Committee Reports Susan reiterated the request that all committees have a regular, recurring monthly meeting day/date set by September.

1. Curriculum

There has not been a Curr. Comm. meeting since last BOT meeting. Christine will be chairing the Curr. Comm.

2. Community Relations

Working on identifying new BOT members. David will collect bios and arrange tours for prospective candidates. Rosina reiterated suggestion that non-Immersion parents be targeted for parent seats on BOT.

3. Development

None

4. Facilities

Susan and Kristin Nocco met with School District business people to discuss ICS getting first shot at Durham School. One District rep. reported that the directive was to “sell to the highest bidder”. We will need to present our case to the SRC, price will be 5 million. Rosina reports that a very rough estimate shows that we can afford a \$10 million project, depending on our total enrollment. Two sites are most within our parameters right now – 4th and Race, and 8th and Arch. Both are lease only, but owners are willing to work with charter schools. Susan suggested that the board needs to clarify the long-term goals for the Facilities initiative.

5. Human Resources

Two meetings since last BOT. All teaching positions are filled. Waiting to hear from last NTA candidate. One long-term sub to cover for Veronica while on maternity leave. Jurate has a suggestion for compensation of long-term subs. Jurate and Sean G will create forms to accommodate teacher observations. Coordinator positions have all been filled, they carry a \$1000 bonus. In process of hiring a development candidate. Next meeting date is 9/16/05, 9am at ICS.

The HR committee also notes that the following individuals are no longer employed by ICS: Kristel Solomon, Jean Lans, Paulina Hayden, Davelba Sanchez-Duska, Eve Manz, Jaime Bard, Joyce Rice, Diane Mapp, Alicia Arnold, William Nganga, Amanda Tuminelli.

6. Diversity

Next meeting is 9/13/05, after that they will be the first Tues. of each month (5:30pm). On 9/27/05 there will be a tour for families of color considering the Spanish Immersion program. There will also be some type of Back-to-School event geared toward families of color in October (independent of the all-school BTS nights in September). Consideration was given to presenting candidates of color for vacant BOT seats.

7. Executive

None

8. Discipline

Hearing conducted to expel, family today agreed to withdraw. In another case, student’s family has agreed to Special Ed. services for student considered for possible expulsion.

VII. Old Business

VIII. New Business

A. Lease Reimbursement

Be it resolved that the Board of Trustees authorize the CEO and the Business Manager to make application to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for the Lease Reimbursement subsidy in accordance with Pennsylvania Department of Education Regulations.

Becky moves to adopt the resolution.

David seconds the motion.

Discussion

None

Unanimous to adopt.

B. Authorization for BOT President to sign Charter

Be it resolved that the ICS BOT authorizes the ICS BOT President to sign the Renewal Charter presented by the School District of Philadelphia, August 2005.

Rosina moves to adopt the resolution.

Christine seconds the motion.

Discussion

None

Unanimous to adopt.

C. Employee Benefits Plan

Be it resolved that the Independence Charter School Board of Trustees approves an employee health insurance benefit plan for the 2005-06 school year that is the same as that provided in the

2004-05 school year, except that individuals who have been employed by ICS for 3 years or longer be given the option of enrolling in Personal Choice, with ICS paying 97% of the premium.

Rosina moves to adopt

Becky seconds

Discussion

None

Unanimous to adopt.

D. Personnel – hiring

Be it resolved that the ICS BOT offer full-time or part-time positions as stated below, to the following individuals under the terms and conditions specified by the CEO and the ICS contract:
Full time teachers: Begona Munoz, Arturo Navarro, Lucia Pardo, Leonore Jimenez Kreidie, Sarah Marlay, Scott Craig, Robert Kelly, Kerri Tobin, Yerodin Lucas, Amy Leigh, Jay Staten, Kristen Schier and Long Term Substitute Munir Kreidie.

Part Time Teacher Assistants: Rebecca Roe, Ariel Hegedus, Ashanti Newman, Tilza Rivera, Ericka Heather Morris, Francisca Garcia, Jaclin Blank, Francis Villot, Lauren Long, Valicia Williams.

Susan moves to adopt the resolution.

Rosina seconds the motion.

Discussion

None

Unanimous to adopt.

XII.

Adjournment

David moves to adjourn.

Rosina seconds the motion.

Meeting adjourns at 8:11pm.