

**Independence Charter School  
Board of Trustees Meeting  
March 14, 2007 7:00 pm**

**Board Members Present:** Becky Baehr, Anyabwile Banko'le, Ryan Boyer, Michelle Campbell, Joana Davis-Diaz, Susan Gobreski, Sean Hennessy, Rosina Miller, Laval Miller-Wilson (by phone), Lisa Nelson-Haynes, Nicole Perkins Kilcullen, Pam Prell

**Board Members Absent:** Eric Cramer

**Others Present:** Sean Gallagher, Vice Principal; Jurate Krokys, Principal/CEO; Jerry Santilli, Santilli and Thomson; Megan Steelman, Administrative Assistant; Amy Leigh, Kristen Long, Begona Munoz, ICS teachers; Sandra Aidar, Andrew Dunakin, Ann Farnsworth, Anne Foresman, Timothy T.J. Gobreski, Terry Henry, Stephanie Kindt, Tina Kluetmeier, Robin Kohles, Rob Kopf, Leland Lott, Evelyne Laurent-Perrault, Fran Melmed, Kristin Nocco, Karl Olsen, Dawn Pakech, Nathaniel Popkin, Amy Rivera, Ken Roscioli, Caryn Seltzer-Devine & Cristina Vea, parents; David Schrader, Architectural Consultant.

**I. Call to Order**

**President Rosina Miller** called the meeting to order at 7:15pm. She gave an overview of how tonight's meeting would be run. She noted that the facility issue has been an emotional one for everyone and that the Board would be making a decision tonight and will need to stand behind its decision. She reminded everyone of the ground rules that have been established for Board meetings.

**II. Approval of Minutes**

Rosina asked if there were any changes to be made to the February minutes that were circulated. Ryan moved to accept the minutes; Anyabwile seconded. The minutes were approved without any changes.

**III. Public Comment Period**

Rosina stated that ground rules for each public comment period have been proposed and are outlined in the proposed resolution, which is attached to the agenda. Sean moved the motion; Anyabwile seconded. Susan asked how the Board would decide about responding, since Board members might disagree with the Board President's decision as to whether or not to respond. The resolution was amended to state that whether or not to respond was at the discretion of the Board Chairperson, but that decision may be overruled by a majority vote of the Board. The amended resolution passed unanimously.

Rosina then opened up the public comment period to those who had signed up to speak before the meeting started; all of the speakers were ICS parents.

- Ann Farnsworth: Institutions almost always have to go into debt when it's time to grow. Safety concerns could be better addressed at Durham, because it was built as a school. Other successful charter schools have their own buildings. Not going to Durham could mean losing the chance to continue to look for public-private partners.
- Stephanie Kindt: The commitment of the Board is fantastic. With CHAD, we'll always need to work at the relationship in regard to capital improvements, etc. We don't know where CHAD is going in the future.
- Timothy "T.J." Gobreski: This place is just fine; Durham is still too high. Why would the school district lower the price when they're having so many other

- problems? I don't buy the argument that donors are going to give because of a building; they'd give because of the program.
- Tina Kluetmeier: My vision of ICS is a safe place with outside recess to get movement. Thank you for the exhaustive work of the Facilities Committee. There are real costs of walking away from this deal.
  - Fran Melmed: I thought the Board voted down Durham. I hadn't heard anything about this still being considered. There are gains and losses at both sites. We've splintered into camps. This issue is carrying over into everything. I want the Board to lead.
  - Dawn Pakech: I live closer to Durham, but I love this bright building and this location is great. I like that my child goes to a public park. Time, energy and money should be spent on programs, not on a building.
  - Evelyne Laurent-Perrault: What concerns me is the use of Washington Square Park. The teachers do the best they can, but there are potential dangers. Think about the price we've paid to look into Durham and how we'll need to use more to start the process again. Have we looked at the possibility of getting partners? If you don't take risks, you don't move ahead.
  - Karl Olsen: I think it's a good sign that this has dragged; it shows that the Board and its committees are willing to look at all possible options. I'll support either decision.
  - Anne Foresman: I'm disappointed that this is still dragging out. We're only here for the kids and the teachers; we need to remember that.
  - Kristin Nocco: I want to make a clarification about teacher turnover last year. Twelve teachers left: 4 did not have their contracts renewed, 2 made career changes, 1 left for family circumstances, 4 left for teaching positions with higher salaries in the suburbs, 1 did not disclose the reason for leaving. The issue of teacher salary is being taken into consideration even if we move to Durham.
  - Terry Henry: Made an analogy to his kids' wrestling match as to knowing what decision you're making. What decision is ICS making tonight? I think we want Durham.

Once all speakers had their opportunity to speak, Rosina closed the public comment period of the meeting.

#### IV. **CEO Report**

**Jurate** reported that the Italian Embassy wants to move forward with an Italian language after school program, which will be entirely paid for by the embassy. She thanked parent Cristina Vea for her work on this project. The Spanish Embassy has also talked with ICS about the possibility of a Spanish heritage after school program. Teacher Sara's 7<sup>th</sup> grade classes will be giving an encore performance of their living history museum on March 23<sup>rd</sup>. Board members are urged to attend this incredible performance. She also noted that she recently attended a meeting of the International Educational Advisory Council in Harrisburg; she is the only elementary school representative at these meetings and has invited the council to visit ICS. News was received today that 7<sup>th</sup> grader Joshua Martin-Corrales, our ICS National Geographic Bee winner, has qualified for the state competition, which will be held at the end of March. Today there was a charter school coalition press conference before the School Reform Commission's monthly meeting. The focus was to say that charter schools are fed up with being blamed for the school district's deficit----especially since charter schools actually save the school district money.

Rosina asked if there were questions about the CEO report. Ryan asked whether the Board needs to vote on the grants for the Italian and Spanish Embassy after school programs. Susan clarified that there is a depth to our doing that for

school programs due to staffing needs, etc., but that we did not include after school in that requirement. Sean recommended that we bring the issue of after school program grants to the next meeting; in the meantime, we can continue the discussion off-line. Ryan then asked what happens when a child forgets lunch money. Jurate clarified that if the parent doesn't call to ask someone at ICS to loan the child money for the day, the cafeteria staff will offer the child cereal. We have been told by the School District that the cafeteria staff is not allowed or required to give children free lunch if they have not been found financially eligible via the meal application process. What usually happens is that staff loans the child money for the day. Susan suggested that the PTA be approached to start a slush fund to have money available specifically for these situations. Susan also stated that it is her understanding that the Board is supposed to get a periodic update as to what professional development programs teachers are attending, as well as what's happening on professional development days. Jurate stated that she does give periodic updates on the topics presented at professional development days. Megan also noted that we have an updated list of the workshops teachers have attended this year and she'll print that out for the April Board meeting.

Jurate then reported that she was asked by the Board to show how ICS could maintain the FLES and Immersion programs with less teachers to fit into Durham; she asked Ramzy to explain the plan, which uses a model of 33 core classroom teachers instead of 36. It assumes about 2.5 hours of Spanish in the 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade immersion programs. Kristen Long and Ramzy worked out a mock schedule, showing four classes each in grades K-5 and three each in grades 6-8. Jurate explained that for subjects taught only in English, the classes would be divided into three groups; for classes taught in Spanish, the classes would be divided into four groups to allow for smaller class sizes.

Rosina asked if there were any questions. Nicole asked, allowing for attrition, do these numbers work? Jurate stated that the model with a total of 732 students, which Jerry devised was used. Nicole asked how the 2.5 hours of immersion time was developed. Jurate stated that the 5<sup>th</sup> grade immersion group now gets about 3 hours of Spanish and that the current discussion in the Curriculum Committee is that in 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> graders would receive about 2.5 hours.

#### **V. PTA Report**

**Cristina** reported that the next book fair will take place from March 21<sup>st</sup> through March 29<sup>th</sup> and volunteers are needed. The Corbi fundraiser has just started; money and orders will be due before Spring Break. The Silent Auction will take place on Saturday, May 12<sup>th</sup> and we're asking people to help get gift certificates donated. The PTA is interested in helping to fund a middle school art teacher position and to see how it can assist with the music program.

#### **VI. Teacher Report**

**Amy** reported that since there was so much teacher feedback this month, she and Tienne put together a brief report, which was distributed at tonight's meeting. Rosina asked the Board members to take a few minutes to review the report. Amy noted that the report represents the teachers' questions; she clarified that these are simply comments from some of the teachers. She stated that many teachers feel the Board needs to re-visit the issue of more staff meeting time; teachers really miss the extra time they had to meet during Enrichment Wednesdays last year. Rosina agreed to plan a time to meet with the teachers soon. Jurate stated that there will be an opportunity for more discussion at the March 30<sup>th</sup> professional development day.

**VII. Committee Reports**

**A. Facilities Committee**

Nicole reported that the representative from the Hawthorne building called her earlier tonight and stated that the cost would be about \$16 million; she was not able to talk to him at length this evening. The facilities committee, some Board members, Jurate and Ramzy toured this facility recently.

Nicole clarified that tonight’s facilities presentation is not a Facilities Committee report, but rather a collaborative effort of the Facilities, Executive, Finance and Development Committees with input from ICS administrative staff. She emphasized that a decision needs to be made because going down several different paths simultaneously: 1) requires spending money, 2) may affect our ability to get bonds and 3) may affect our relationship with the School District. She then gave a Power Point presentation that gave summaries of the viability of the Durham and Liberty Square sites. ICS has spent about \$250,000 on the due diligence process at Durham, looking at the potential space and fit. Originally the Durham site seemed to offer 33 classrooms, instead of 36 and there would be 5 rooms for specials, instead of 7 as indicated in the core program. Potential issues at Durham include: the estimated life of the roof is less than 5 years, the status of the boiler is unknown, we would need to add 16 students, and the staffing would be based on 33 homeroom classrooms. Purchasing and renovating Durham would cost about \$17 million, which includes \$6.3 for purchase, \$9.4 for renovations and \$1.7 for the required reserve. ICS can afford a \$12 million bond; other funds would need to be raised. There are not likely to be significant fundraising opportunities linked to a building purchase; CHAD raised \$1 million when purchasing Liberty Square.

Nicole then clarified that a Board resolution to continue spending money on Durham was defeated in December 2006. Since December ICS representatives have met with School District, had Pennrose Properties review the site and plan to determine if costs could be cut, looked at new possibilities regarding how ICS might be able to fit in the property and investigated political options. The design was reworked to fit 36 classrooms, as well as to gain some more administrative space. At this point in time, renovation costs have probably risen about 10%, but since interest rates have gone down, the total cost of the project probably remains about the same. The closing date has been extended to June 1, 2007. Although a lot of work has been done recently in regard to contacting potential funders and politicians, to date we’ve received a lot of empathetic support, but no reduction in the purchase price and no other monetary offsets.

A summary regarding the potential for purchasing part of Liberty Square was then presented. The cost for most of the first floor and the full second floor, which totals 51,000 square feet, would be \$6.4 million. The initial “swap” date would be September 2008. At that time, CHAD may have to use part of the second floor if we could not negotiate to relocate the current tenant on the third floor. If we could not relocate them, this arrangement would expire in 2010, at the latest, when the lease for that tenant expires. Renovations would include: installing operable windows, an HVAC overhaul, an internal staircase. ICS would have its own entrance on Sansom Street.

Nicole noted that comparing Durham with Liberty Square is comparing apples and oranges. There are positives and negatives of both sites:

Liberty Square	Durham
46% more square feet for	Private, outdoor space (5,000 square feet)

specials	
2 more specials rooms	Homeroom classrooms that are 10% larger
22% more square feet of administrative space	72% of the classrooms are larger than the core program target size of 650 square feet
Fewer students overall	Larger homeroom class sizes
Less renovations, which would save \$7 million; fundraising could offset or supplement the budget/programs	Would require a significant fundraising effort
CHAD as a partner/co-occupant	ICS would be the sole occupant
7 classrooms wouldn't have external windows	External windows for all classrooms

A partial move-in to the Liberty Square space would occur in Fall 2008 with a full move-in by Fall 2010. For Durham, it would be a Winter 2009 move-in. We don't know enough about expansion opportunities and costs at either space to comment at this point.

At this point, Nicole introduced David Schrader, an architect who worked on the Durham due diligence process. Mr. Schrader reviewed the plans for renovating the Durham site. After his presentation, Rosina asked if there were any questions about either presentation. Michelle asked whether we have clear numbers on the costs of having to make two moves in our current building. Nicole replied that we have not yet done a due diligence study on our current building. Becky asked for clarification as to whether CHAD would be needing to use part of the second floor until 2010. Joana asked for clarification, since the space looks like the area where we currently have our large student bathrooms. Rosina responded that we would need to work out that situation and that 2010 would be the latest; it will be less time if the current tenants leave before their lease is up. Ryan asked what CHAD's specific offer is at this time. Rosina clarified that the drawings distributed in tonight's packet show the specific space. She also stated that the Multi-purpose/Gifted Room on the drawing should be crossed out; that area would actually be CHAD's space. Jurate asked where elevator access would be; Nicole stated that ICS would have access to CHAD's elevators. Jurate asked whether there would be plans to build our own elevator eventually. Nicole stated that we haven't gotten that far in the due diligence process on Liberty Square; Rosina added that CHAD has suggested we have a joint task force to work on those types of things. Susan asked what the total square footage is; Rosina stated that it is 51,000 and that CHAD would be temporarily borrowing about 8,000. Anyabwile stated that the political approach didn't really start until after the February 12<sup>th</sup> small meeting and that the decision to have an ad hoc group wasn't decided until the February 14<sup>th</sup> Board meeting. He outlined what has been done between then and now : meeting with Jim Nevels office, meetings with politicians, etc. He added that today the state Charter School Coalition held a press conference before the School Reform Commission meeting. Anyabwile also spoke at the SRC meeting. He added that we seem to be operating in different places, because Paul Vallas seems to think ICS only offered \$1 million for the Durham site and suggested that they're ready to start putting it back on the market. Anyabwile stated that he thinks if we make it clear that we can offer more than \$1 million, there may be some room for negotiating. Ryan stated that the School District's deficit is probably bigger than being publicized and that the SRC probably sees ICS as blocking condo development. Pam suggested that we write down a timeline of events as a good historical record. Terry Henry

suggested the Board may want to go into an Executive Session. Susan stated that we had witnesses when we offered \$3 million and that she's concerned that we're using all this energy. She asked: how much money has been raised and has the price been lowered? There are a lot of children who need that \$5 million. Nicole clarified that the \$1 million offer scenario is probably from the due diligence period when we had said that's all we could afford to offer. Laval added that he wouldn't be able to give an estimate from a Development Committee perspective at this point, since it would be a multi-year campaign. Sean H. stated that we spend 2/3 of our budget on salaries and that the Human Resources Committee is working on a new teacher pay scale with about a 6% average increase being recommended. Are we going to have 716 or 732 students? The numbers are as follows:

716	36 classes	6% raise	11.2 million available for acquisition
732	36 classes	6% raise	13.1 million available for acquisition
732	33 classes	6% raise	16.5 million available for acquisition
716	36 classes	8% raise	10.1 million available for acquisition
732	36 classes	8% raise	12.1 million available for acquisition
732	33 classes	8% raise	15.5 million available for acquisition

Becky stated that she's circulated a confidential draft of the proposed pay scale to Board members only and that we're not sure what the increase in benefit costs will be. Jerry stated that the preliminary estimate seems to be over 3%. Susan asked if we look at the 6% plan, does that mean we're stuck there? Sean stated that you'd assume a 3% increase each year. Pam asked whether we're taking into account the cost of repairing the boiler at Durham in case that would be necessary; Sean stated that is not part of the plan. Jerry added that although there's nothing built in, when we'd get a bond, a reserve would be required. Joana asked what the bottom line total is for Durham. Rosina stated that we'd need \$17 million. Sean clarified that ICS can afford the debt service on up to \$18.1 million.

Joana clarified that according to Jurate's presentation, we can preserve the Spanish Immersion program within 33 core classrooms, instead of 36. So, it seems we could afford that and still increase teacher salaries. Pam asked whether the 732 number works; Jurate stated that number is based on typical attrition. Michelle asked what the timing is of an RCAP grant; Ryan and Anyabwile stated that it takes about a year. Susan stated that 5% seems like just a good raise, not a fundamental change and that the financing plan still seems to have a lot of "ifs." She added that if the building comes first, other decisions will end up being based on what's left over and we'll be "house poor." Nicole stated that there is over a \$12 million difference in the plans. At Liberty Square, we'd have two music and two art rooms. She added that she hadn't seen Jurate's plan until today, so she hasn't had time to review it. She also raised concern over the fact that the plan/presentation was developed by Jurate, Kristin Long and Ramzy without any input from Claudia or the curriculum committee.

Michelle asked for clarification on what it means that the core program doesn't fit. She clarified that it's one thing to say children won't get art at all, rather than all children will get art, but not all in a separate classroom. Jurate apologized for

not notifying Nicole earlier and acknowledged that was an oversight. She added that she does not think the program would suffer. Ryan asked whether it would be difficult to get bond financing for a condo deal. Terry stated that it's more complicated, but is possible. Nicole stated that it sounds like we're continuing to squeeze and squeeze the space, while still paying \$18 million. Susan added that the cafeteria at Durham would only be functional as a cafeteria and that the reason for moving was supposed to not to be squeezed. Pam stated that she feels adding 16 kids in larger rooms would probably not be so bad. Anyabwile asked: If we vote yes on the resolution, what happens? Sean stated that if that happens, we'll go into an Executive Session to discuss further negotiations. Susan added that the SRC already has us on record as saying we'll pay a certain amount. Terry added that the Board has already ratified the agreement of sale. Pam stated that what we'd really be doing is proceeding with due diligence. Rosina called for a roll call vote:

Pam- No	Michelle- Yes	Joana- Yes	Lisa- Yes	Ryan- Yes
Sean- Yes	Rosina- No	Nicole- No	Becky- No	Susan- No
Anyabwile- No	Laval- No	Eric- Absent		

The motion was defeated.

Sean moved the resolution regarding defaulting on the Durham agreement of sale; Ryan seconded. Rosina noted that a friendly amendment was suggested regarding wording of the last paragraph to change "inform" to "authorized the Executive Committee to notify. Anyabwile asked if we can consider giving one week for possible negotiating with the School District and possibly move forward if the price was reduced to \$2.5 million. Susan replied that everyone here is in the same state of the middle. If something changes, we can call a special meeting with five days notice. Anyabwile stated that if we added something like this, we wouldn't need to call a special meeting. Ryan stated that he doesn't feel that \$2.5 million would sway anyone. Rosina called for a roll call vote.

Pam- Yes	Michelle- Yes	Joana- No	Lisa- Yes	Ryan- No
Sean- Yes	Rosina- Yes	Nicole- Yes	Becky- Yes	Susan- Yes
Anyabwile- No	Laval- No	Eric- Absent		

**B. Finance**

Sean stated that due to the late hour, he does not plan on going through the balance sheet. Jerry added that there is nothing unusual at this point in time. Sean moved to approve the January expenditures; Susan seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**C. Curriculum**

Pam reported that due to the late hour, the report the committee had been asked to present regarding feedback on the 5<sup>th</sup> grade Immersion program will be given next month; in the meantime, she urged Board members to read the written feedback from Tr. Martha and Tr. Scott.

**D. Community Relations**

No report.

**E. Human Resources**

Becky moved the resolution regarding staff changes; Sean seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Becky then moved the motion regarding emergency certification; Pam seconded. That motion passed unanimously.

**F. Policy**

**Susan** stated the student absence policy resolution will not be considered tonight in order to give additional staff time to give input. She then moved the resolution regarding student absence reporting; Sean seconded. Pam asked whether the concerns of the other staff members are included in this resolution; Susan stated that there weren't concerns about this resolution, just the other one. The motion passed unanimously.

**G. Development**

No report. The resolution regarding the fundraising dinner was not discussed at this meeting.

**H. Executive**

No report.

**VIII. Old Business**

All resolutions were addressed during committee reports.

**IX. New Business**

All resolutions were addressed during committee reports.

**X. Adjournment**

**Nicole** moved for adjournment; Joana seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 10:50 p.m.

Handouts circulated at this meeting:

Agenda

Minutes from the February 2007 meeting

CEO report

Curriculum Committee minutes

Development Committee minutes

Finance Committee minutes

Facility Report

January financial report

Human Resources Committee report

**Independence Charter School Board of Trustees Meeting  
March 14, 2007**

**Resolutions Passed**

***Ground Rules for Public Comment***

Be it hereby resolved that the ICS Board of Trustees adopt the following ground rules for the Public Comment period of its meetings:

The purpose of the Public Comment Period during meetings of the ICS Board of Trustees is for the public to give feedback or raise issues directly to the board. The Board hears such comments at a particular point in the meeting, specified by the Agenda. Comments to the Board may also be given in writing via email ([feedback@independencecharter.org](mailto:feedback@independencecharter.org)) or to the front desk.

1. Members of the public who wish to comment at ICS Board of Trustees meetings must sign up to speak before the board meeting begins. A request to comment can be made in advance at the front desk, to Megan Steelman by email ([megans@independencecharter.org](mailto:megans@independencecharter.org)) or phone (215-238-8000), or in person the night of the board meeting.

2. When the meeting is called to order, the list will be closed and presented to the Board Secretary.
3. Speakers must limit their comments to two minutes. A speaker may not cede her/his time to another speaker.
4. The Board will ordinarily not answer specific questions asked in the Public Comment Period. However, at the discretion of the Board chair, a board member may choose to address a factual question or make a brief point of clarification. The Board chair may be overruled by a majority vote.
  1. The Board may or may not choose to hold a discussion following the Public Comment Period about any issues that arise.

### ***Expenditures Approval***

Be it resolved that the Independence Charter School Board of Trustees hereby authorizes January 2007 expenditures in the amount of \$221,753.11 as presented in the attachment.

### ***Durham Project – Authorization to Default on Agreement of Sale***

WHEREAS ICS has entered into an Agreement of Sale with the School District of Philadelphia to purchase the property known as the Durham School located at 16th and Lombard Streets;

WHEREAS ICS has executed a 5th Amendment to the Agreement of Sale and is scheduled to close on the Durham School property on June 1, 2007;

WHEREAS ICS's feasibility study determined that the cost of acquisition and minimum necessary renovations and construction for occupancy will be approximately \$17.4 million, about \$5 million more than originally projected;

WHEREAS ICS will not immediately be able to meet its present core program requirements within the minimum necessary renovations and construction at the Durham School;

WHEREAS the ICS Board of Trustees, at its December 2006 and March 2007 meetings, failed to pass a resolution authorizing continued expenditure of funds necessary to pursue those activities required to purchase the Durham School; and

WHEREAS the ICS Board of Trustees acknowledges that by defaulting on its Agreement of Sale with the School District of Philadelphia, ICS will likely incur over \$250,000.00 of expenditures made during due diligence for the Durham School, which expenditures will not be qualified for reimbursement in any subsequent bond financing.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it hereby resolved that the ICS Board of Trustees authorizes the Executive Committee to notify the School District of Philadelphia that ICS is terminating its obligations under the Agreement of Sale.

### ***Student Absence Reporting***

Whereas, parents should be informed of the attendance of their children and are responsible for communicating with the school regarding the presence or absence of their child and whereas the attendance record of a child is part of their academic record and the recording of excused absences, be it hereby resolved that the ICS staff shall develop a manner of informing parents of recorded unexcused absences in writing. The CEO is requested to report on the manner of reporting by the April 2007 meeting.

***Emergency Certification***

Whereas according to the Federal No Child Left Behind Legislation, all teachers must be highly qualified and whereas the Pennsylvania Charter School law allows for a maximum of 25% of teachers to be uncertified and whereas the Commonwealth has directed Independence Charter School (ICS) to designate \$16,000 of its Title I entitlement funds to be used towards assisting teaching staff to become highly qualified by the end of the 2006-2007 school year, the ICS Board of Trustees approves payment of up to \$40 per teacher for the cost of the processing fee required for emergency teaching certificate applications. Payment will be made by ICS directly to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The total amount to be spent on these processing fees (a maximum of \$40 per eligible teacher) is not to exceed \$800. This policy applies for the 2006-2007 school year only and applies only to teachers who are currently not certified and who are currently enrolled in courses, or who agree to take courses towards certification, over the summer.

***Staff Changes***

Be it resolved that the ICS Board of Trustees acknowledges the termination of the following 2006-2007 employee agreement: Cristina Quintana, Lower Grade FLES Spanish teacher.

Be it resolved that Luis Ramji-Nogales be offered a full-time position as a Lower Grade FLES Spanish teacher for the remainder of the 2006-2007 school year under the terms and conditions specified by the CEO and the ICS contract.

**Resolutions Tabled or Defeated**

***Durham Project – Authorization to Act and Expend Funds***

WHEREAS ICS has entered into an Agreement of Sale with the School District of Philadelphia to purchase the property known as the Durham School located at 16th and Lombard Streets;

WHEREAS ICS has executed a 5th Amendment to the Agreement of Sale and is scheduled to close on the Durham School property on June 1, 2007;

WHEREAS ICS's feasibility study has determined that the cost of acquisition and minimum necessary renovations and construction for occupancy will be approximately \$17.4 million, about \$5 million more than originally projected;

WHEREAS the ICS Board of Trustees, at its December 2006 meeting, failed to pass a resolution authorizing continued expenditure of funds necessary to pursue those activities required to purchase the Durham School;

WHEREAS a proposed revised design for the building provides three additional classrooms and a small amount of additional administrative space within the same overall project costs; and

WHEREAS the projected project costs and financing and fundraising conditions have not changed substantially over the last ninety days.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it hereby resolved that these conditions notwithstanding, the ICS Board of Trustees authorizes the Executive Committee to under take those actions and expenditures necessary to continue preparing for closing on June 1, 2007, which actions and expenditures

include, but are not limited to, applying for a financing, obtaining necessary zoning approvals and authorizing the architects and other retained design professionals to begin phase II activities.

### **Resolutions Withdrawn**

#### ***Student Absence Policy***

Be it hereby resolved that the following language be adopted as a policy with regard to student expectations and added to the student and parent handbook: In general students are expected to be absent no more than 5% or approximately 10 days of the school year, including routine illness and activities and/or vacations that may conflict with a school schedule. The school administration is responsible for determining when chronic or serious illness provides for exceptional circumstances. Parents who wish to arrange for absence for non-illness items should consider that attendance is part of a child's and the overall classroom environment and should minimize the amount of time a child is out of school. Parents should provide at least 2 weeks written notice for planned absences of more than 2 days and should make arrangements with a child's teacher for schoolwork. Absences of more than 7 consecutive days are strongly discouraged. Parents who think this may be an issue for their family should contact the Principal to discuss the circumstances and should be advised that excessive absences may be unexcused and may be recorded as such on the child's scholastic record. Parents are asked to check the school calendar and not to schedule any planned absences during state mandated testing periods. Parents who wish to appeal any individual decision regarding unexcused absences may do so by writing a letter to the Principal and the President of the Board of Trustees.

#### ***Fundraising Dinner***

Be it hereby resolved that the Independence Charter School Board of Trustees hereby authorizes expenditures of up to \$23,000 for a fund raising dinner associated with the First Annual "Excelencia Award."