



## **Independence Academy**

675 29 Rd Grand Junction, CO 81504  
Phone: (970) 254-6850 Fax: (970) 241-2064

**Board Meeting Minutes**  
**Monday, Separate 30, 2024**  
**5:00 P.M-Commons Area**

**Brought to order: 5:08 pm**

**Present:**

- **Brad Thompson**
- **Thomas Gibson**
- **Lisa Sutherland**
- **Jane Pizem**
- **Burke Martin (late arrival)**

**Absent:**

- **Hadassa Berger**

**I. Staff and Student Celebrations:**

- A. Fourth-grade students showed up to the board meeting with parents to see what the governing board of the school does and how decisions at the school are made. Mr. Jones explained that their attendance is to help them connect their civics unit to a real-world experience.
- B. Megan Henry celebrated additional grant funding from Governor Polis for additional supplies.

**II. Public Comment:** Time-limited TBA – individuals may make public comments, limited to items on the agenda and two (2) minutes. The Governing Board asks that each member complete a public comment card, available in the front office, before the commencement of the meeting. Public comment cards should be given to the Executive Director, who will then deliver them to the Governing Board President.

- A. None at this time

**III. Approval of the 9/30/24 agenda**

- A. An addition needs to be added to the agenda regarding a review of the resolution of the Independence Academy Construction Contract.

**Motion:** Thomas Gibson

**Second:** Lisa Sutherland

**Vote:** 4-0 vote passes

**IV. Approval of the August 26, 2024 Board Minutes.**

**Motion:** Burke Martin

**Second:** Lisa Sutherland

**Vote:** 4-0 vote passes

**V. Approval of the August Financials.**

- A. Burke questioned the absence of Pre-K funding, and Lisa Gonsalves explained that the first payment was not received until September, so they will not see that funding until next month's board meeting.**

**Motion:** Thomas Gibson

**Second:** Burke Martin

**Vote:** 4-0 vote passes

**VI. Approval of the Resolution of Independence Academy's authorization of the construction contract.**

- A. Lisa Gonslaves debriefed with the board about recommendations Dustin Sparks made. The board discussed instead or not to add an additional incentive to encourage the contractor to ensure the most competitive pricing. After discussion, the board thinks that the relationship established with Asset is quality and does not need monetarily incentivized.**
- B. Burke explained to the fourth-grade students some terms they used to discuss the building project. Brad Thomas explained some exciting compomenets of what they can look forward to and expect to see when the building is all done.**

**Motion:** Burke Martin

**Second:** Thomas Gibson

**Vote:** 4-0 vote passes

**VII. Executive Director's Report.**

**A. Operations**

1. The Gates Foundation visited IACS on 9/30/24 to tour the school because the school is the finalist in a possible grant for \$75,000.00 to add to the auditorium.
2. IACS is also the Finalist in the Federal Mineral Lease District Grant for \$160,000.00 for upgraded seating in the auditorium and a scoreboard.
3. IACS is back in talks with the district regarding adding a high school to IACS. The district is requesting that Lisa resubmit the entire application. Still, she hopes to

negotiate not having to resubmit the application based on the guidance they gave her last year.

4. Lisa Gonsalves is working with District 51 to refine procedures and protocols and distinguish the purview of the charter regarding safety and technology.
5. The leadership team is doing a great job leading innovative conversations and improving collaboration and communication.
6. Zion's just issued a check to IACS in bonds overage \$54,718.00. Lisa asked them to consider what they would like these funds to go towards. The board decided to put this funding in savings for future projects for now.

**B. Instruction/Assessment**

1. CMAS data. IACS is maintaining its performance status and is the highest-scoring middle school in science. IACS had the 2nd highest scores in the valley in middle school and the 5th highest scoring school in elementary.

**C. Events Calendar**

1. Fall Festival on October 25th

**D. Facilities Report**

1. The roof has some damage and is being repaired under warranty.
2. The paper towels will be removed from all the bathrooms, and hand dryers will replace them.

**Moved out of regular session at 6:25 pm**

**Moved into executive session at 6:35 pm**

**Moved out of the executive session at 7:28 pm**

**VIII. Executive Session CRS Section 24-6-402 (4)(f)**

C.R.S. 24-6-402 (4) The members of a local public body subject to this part 4, upon the announcement by the local public body to the public of the topic for discussion in the executive session, including specific citation to the provision of this subsection (4) authorizing the body to meet in an executive session and identification of the particular matter to be discussed in as much detail as possible without compromising the purpose for which the executive session is authorized, and the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the quorum present, after such announcement, may hold an executive session only at a regular or special meeting and for the sole purpose of considering any of the following matters; except that no adoption of any proposed policy, position, resolution, rule, regulation, or formal action, except the review, approval, and amendment of the minutes of an executive session recorded pursuant to subparagraph (II) of paragraph (d.5) of subsection (2) of this section, shall occur at any executive session that is not open to the public.

Adjourned: 7:29 pm