



INTERNATIONAL CHARTER SCHOOL OF TRENTON

105 Grand Street Trenton, NJ 08611 609/394-3111 [fax 394-3116]

Board of Trustees Minutes for September 27, 2023

Opening of meeting, 5:17 PM. Call to Order. Flag Salute/Pledge of Allegiance. All provisions of the Open Public Meeting Law of 1976 "Sunshine Law" NJ Public Law 231 have been met in the scheduling of the meeting. The purpose of the meeting is to conduct regular business of the public charter school. Present at ICST or virtually were Trustees Valeen Vaccaro (VV), Kim Sdeo (KS) and Bob Kull (BK, presiding). Also attending were ICST school principal April Nixon (AN), CSA Melissa Benford (MB), Peter Lanzi (PL) and note-taker David Bosted (DB). Call to Order. Flag Salute/Pledge of Allegiance. MB reported that members of the public had the opportunity to provide comments in person or in advance or to join the meeting but she had received no public comments for the Trustees and no requests to join the meeting.

1. Minutes and Public Comment. Review and adoption of minutes for the August 24, 2023 meeting. Motion VV, 2nd KS, yes, RB, KS, and BK, unanimous approval.

2. Governance, School management. (a) MB and AN thanked the Board for all the support and guidance that the Board members have provided over the years to keep ICST running smoothly and according to its charter. ICST is commencing its 25th year of operations.

(b) The School Year 2023-24 is off to a blazing start. AN reported that the students are behaving, parents are engaging, and the teachers are focused on teaching. There is high energy. Back-to-school night had a packed house, with 75% of families participating.

(c) There are no policy updates at this time.

3. Financial Report and Review of expenditures, income, budget. The reports of the Board Secretary and Treasurer of School Monies for July & August were reviewed. The reports agree and were arrived at independently. Motion to approve the reports. m/ VV, 2nd KS, yes, VV, KS, BK, unanimous approval. (a) The payroll total for September @ \$110,591.60. Motion to approve/KS, s/VV, yes, KS, VV, BK. Unanimously approved.

(b-c) Review & approval of expenditures & resolutions to pay the bills list for March @ \$53,948.50. After discussion of individual items, M/KS, s/VV, yes, KS, VV, BK, unanimously approved. (d) There were no transfers of funds.

4. Grants. (a) Resolution to approve using ARP ESSER Extended Day grant money to pay certified staff members Julie Gannon, Eva Shilkret, Katherine Palmer, Linda Abbott, Kaitlyn Boyko & Sujatha Sridhara each \$9,734.50 and Melissa Benford CSA \$9,035. (b) Program preparations are taking place. Parents will be invited to learn more and be notified next week. (c) Submissions and reports are up-to-date.

5. Report on Staffing, Personnel and Employee Issues. (a) Resolution to approve Monika Egyed as Food Service Manager @ \$15,900 from Sept to June SY24. Ms. Egyed is efficient and experienced. M/KS, s/VV, yes, KS, VV, BK, unanimously approved.

6. Executive session (optional , none held) .

7. Status Reports on Legislation, Regulations and significant Litigation. "Under the Gold Dome." MB and AN attended a meeting in which NJDOE indicated it would attempt to create a fair and reasonable system of school comparisons. To date, charter schools have been compared to schools in remote locations with which there were no obvious common characteristics. This will be an interesting effort, laudable in intent, but there are no guarantees of success. Finding schools similar to ICST (urban school with 109 students K-5) with similar demographics will be one hurdle.

8. Report on School Days, Student Achievement, Attendance and Enrollment (a) SY24 is open at ICST as scheduled. (b) Achievement updates will be reported in October. (c) No HIB reports (d) Enrollment of 109 students is 100%. The educational atmosphere at ICST continues to be good.

9. Report on Facility. (a) MB reported that recent excessive rain has driven a few bugs into the building. This has been dealt with. (b) The fire suppression systems over the stoves will be brought into compliance. The three embedded but unused stoves are residuals of the previous use of the building for food preparation. Removal of the large stoves and flues would be a major costly undertaking, not as simple as it might seem. (c) Bryan Electric rewired some circuits and replaced several broken light fixtures.

10. School Operations (a) Fire & emergency drills were conducted in September, including an extra "shelter in place" drill. (b) MB reported that Kindergarten English language acuity screening is done. Screening for new students in grades 1-4 (there are no new fifth graders) will begin next week.

11. Old (unfinished) Business. (none).

12. Correspondence review,. The Washington-Rochambeau march to victory at Yorktown was commemorated in Trenton at the Trent House, at the end of August. The many units of the French and Continental American armies had a rendezvous in Princeton in late August 1781, then marched rapidly south to Trenton where the armies crossed the Delaware River. The events here in 1781 were crucial to American Independence, but are less well known than the Ten Crucial Days of 1776-77. The 250th anniversary of American Independence in 1776 is now less than three years away.

13. Trustee business and announcements. Upcoming scheduled BOT 5:15 PM meetings in 2023-24: 10/26, 11/30, 1/25/2024. 2/29, 3/28, 4/25, 5/23, 6/27, 7/25, 8/29.

14. BK adjourned the meeting at 5:45 PM.