



INTERNATIONAL CHARTER SCHOOL OF TRENTON

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ICST Board of Trustees MINUTES for July 29, 2021

Opening of meeting, 5:16 pm. Participating at ICST were Rachael Binz (RB) and Melissa Benford (MB), CSA. Participating via telephone conference call were Bob Kull (BK, presiding), Kim Sdeo (KS), Jason Briggs (JB) and trustee-nominee Valeen Vaccaro (VV). Also present at the meeting were Peter Lanzi (PL, business administrator, online), April Nixon (AN, online) and David Bosted (at ICST). Call to Order. Flag Salute/Pledge of Allegiance. All provisions of the Open Public Meeting Law of 1976 "Sunshine Law" NJ Public Law 231 had been met in the scheduling of the meeting. The purpose of the meeting is to conduct regular business of the public charter school. Flag Salute and Pledge of Allegiance.

1. Minutes and Public Comment. Review and adoption of minutes for the July 7, 2021 meeting. Motion to approve, m/RB, s/KS, yes, KS, RB, BK, unanimously approved. MB reported that members of the public had the opportunity to provide comments in person or in advance but she had received no public comments for the Trustees and no requests to join the meeting.

2. Governance, School management, Re-organization. (a) MB asked for Board approval of Resolutions pertaining to the 2020-21 Annual Report, current Pandemic Response Reopening Plan, and CEP. These had been distributed electronically in advance. After discussion, m/RB, s/KS, yes RB, KS, JB, BK, unanimous approval. (b) The Board discussed the NJSBA Policy Manual system and agreed to readopt the Policy Manual for the 2021-22 Academic year and specifically policy updates in response to COVID-19, previously distributed, m/ JB, s/RB, yes, JB, RB, KS, BK, unanimously approved. (c) CSA and Board Reviews. After review of the CSA's activities and accomplishments, the Board gave her the highest endorsement, citing especially her leadership in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. BK thanked her on behalf of the Board. The Board and CSA discussed priorities for the coming year and focused on health of students and staff, academic accomplishment, parent communication and involvement, and staff training to overcome difficulties. (d) Board Reorganization. There was consensus that the Board is functioning efficiently (as indicated in the Board self-evaluation) and therefore it is wise to maintain the current slate of officers. Motion to reelect BK as Board President, m/RB, s/KS, yes, KS, JB, with BK abstaining. Motion to reelect RB as Board VP, m/JB, s/KS, yes, JB, KS, BK, with RB abstaining. Nicole will inform the Trustees as to NJSBA training recommendations. (e) Grievance Committee discussion. (f) MB reported that the Covid-19 summer school session is being conducted on-line in August. Some CSs are seeking to open in August on-line, then switch to hybrid in mid-September, if NJDOE and the Governor will allow that. Even at this late date in the last week of July, what is OK (or not) isn't clear. Plans are being "accepted" but not actually approved by NJDOE.

3. Financial Report and Review of expenditures, income, budget. (a) Board Secretary and Treasurer of School Monies report for June will be available at the September 2 meeting. (b) The monthly payroll

totals for July, 2021 @ \$22,895. reviewed and approved, m/RB, s/JB, yes RB, JB, KS, BK, unanimous. There were no transfers of funds.

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(c) Review & approval of expenditures & resolutions to pay final bill list total for June, \$9,693.84 and July \$20,048.70. Motion to approve, m/KS, s/JB, yes JB, KS, RB, abstaining BK. (d) Other financial information. None discussed.

4. Grants. MB reported that both the ESEA and CARES II funding grants have been approved. MB is pursuing grant-funded equipment upgrades for air handling and filtration.

5. Report on Staffing, Personnel and Employee Issues (a) MB said that she has found a potential kitchen employee and substitute teacher. Board action is not required at this time. (b) There were no other significant employee issues for Board action.

6. Executive Session (optional, no exec session held).

7. "Under the Gold Dome." Covid is creeping back into the picture, despite the official NJ State position that all schools will return to normal in-classroom instruction for the 2021-22 academic year. "Learning loss" is real, but appears to be much worse at some schools than at others.

8. Report on School Days, Student Achievement, Attendance and Enrollment. (a) MB reported that the Summer program concluded today (July 29) . Students reported that math and STEM projects were their favorite academic activities. (b) ICST is contacting parents and asking them to review and practice healthy habits with their students now, so the good habits will seem normal at school. (c.) ICST is expected to open on September 2nd. At this time, ICST has four openings for students in its Fourth grade. Some parents are only beginning to focus on the coming school year, due to confusing or incomplete information coming from many sources.

9. Report on Facility. (a) Some water entered the building due to a blocked window drain during a July thunderstorm. That was cleaned up promptly and the drain unblocked. (b) Fire and emergency drills will continue to adhere to recommendations from the Office of Emergency Management.

10. School Operations (a) The Restart Committee that NJDOE is requiring will meet online to plan Sept-Jan and will include a design for remote learning only instruction, if that should be required. (b) There were no HIB incidents during the July Summer Session or for the entire school year 2020-21. (c) Our school nurse is excellent and will return for another year. Our official school doctor is Henry J. Austin Health Center.

11. Old (unfinished) Business. None discussed. 12. Correspondence review, if any. None discussed.

13. Trustee business and announcements. Motion to add Valeen Vaccaro as an ICST Board member, m/KS, s/RB, yes KS, RB, JB, BK. BOT Meetings for the 2020-21 year will be held on the first Thursday of the month for the 2021-22 academic year, starting at 5:15 PM. m/JB, s/RB, yes, JB, RB, KS, BK, VV,

*unanimous. The first Thursday in September is 9/2/2021. 14. Adjourn. m/KS, s/RB, yes, unanimous.
6:30 PM.*