

# INTERNATIONAL CHARTER SCHOOL OF TRENTON

## *ICST Board of Trustees **MINUTES** for January 6, 2022*

*Happy New Year 2022! Opening of meeting, 5:18 pm. Trustees participating via Google meets were Trustees Bob Kull (BK, presiding), Jason Briggs (JB) and Valeen Vaccaro (VV), with Kim Sdeo (KS) joining at 2(d). Also present online at the meeting were Melissa Benford (MB), CSA, April Nixon (AN), Peter Lanzi (PL) and David Bosted. 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. 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. The purpose of the meeting is to conduct regular business of the public charter school. Flag Salute. Pledge of Allegiance.*

*1. Minutes and Public Comment. Review of minutes for the December 2, 2021 meeting. Motion to table, m/JB, s/KS, yes, JB, VV, BK approved.*

*2. Governance, School management. (a) MB reported that ICST opened for in-person classes on Monday Jan 3 but the exploding high #s of Covid cases had triggered a two-week virtual learning period for ICST, until January 18, consistent with ICST's Emergency Virtual Remote Program Plan. Trenton Public Schools did not reopen for in-person classes. (b) The proposed "twice gifted" policy 6171.2 was reviewed and discussed. Motion to approve m/VV, s/JB, yes, VV, JB, BK. (c) MB said that DRA and mid-year assessments have been delayed until the end of February. (d) The Trustees reviewed the revised 2021-22 budget based on dollar amounts from 10/15 enrollment, the annual audit, and revised State aid. After discussion, Motion to approve, m/JB, s/VV, yes JB, VV, BK, no negative votes, approved, KS abstaining.*

*3. Financial Report and Review of expenditures, income, budget. (a) Board Secretary and Treasurer of School Monies reports for November were presented. The reports agree and were arrived at independently. Motion to approve, m/VV, s/JB, yes VV, JB, KS, BK. Unanimously approved. (b) The monthly payroll totals for December 2021 @ \$102,992.84. M/KS, s/JB, yes KS, JB, VV, BK, approved. unanimous. There were no transfers of funds. (c) Review & approval of expenditures & resolutions to pay final bill list total for December, total \$87,756.85. Motion to approve, m/KS, s/JB, yes KS, JB, VV, BK. Unanimously approved. (d) Other financial information. None discussed.*

*4. Grants. (a) MB reported that ARP CARES III updated Safe Return Plan was submitted. It will need to be revised however. Nicole will work on that with MB. (b) MB said the funding is being drawn down and electronically deposited into the appropriate school bank accounts.*

*5. Report on Staffing, Personnel and Employee Issues (a) MB said that 20% of the school staff have been directed infected or exposed to Covid. (b) MB provided the good news that there are no staff issues to report. Everyone at ICST is doing their best to stay positive and support one another. Professional Development for K-2 and the concurrent staff meeting were very productive.*

**ICST Board of Trustees Minutes, January 6, 2022 (continued)**

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

7. *"Under the Gold Dome." Directives and recommendations are often inconsistent or out-of-sync with the evolution of the pandemic. The rapid growth of positive test #s has been astonishing. Some offices are sealed up tight with extraordinary precautionary measures while other institutions are urged to remain open as if normal operations were possible.*

8. *Report on School Days, Student Achievement, Attendance and Enrollment. (a) MB reported that despite strong headwinds, the school continues to operate successfully for the 21-22 academic year. (b) Students are doing their best to maintain learning despite the challenge of returning to virtual classes. Looking back, the 2021 first quarter was extraordinary, with good student progress. (c.) Daily attendance has been adversely affected by the flu, and student participation fluctuates daily. (d) Enrollment was full during late October at 90 students, however enrollment is now back down to 88 students with two openings in Fourth grade. JB noted that some schools have had to shift to a half-day schedule because lunchtime was a daily super-spreader event. Other school districts in Mercer County will be likely to switch to the half-day model.*

9. *Report on Facility. (a) MB reported that typically there are fewer than five people in the building, so the air quality is fine.*

10. *School Operations. There were no HIB incidents during the past month (or in the past year). Two Emergency drills were conducted in December.*

11. *Old (unfinished) Business. None discussed.*

12. *Correspondence review, if any. None discussed.*

13. *Trustee business and announcements. BOT Meetings will be held on the first Thursday of the month for the 2021-22 academic year, starting at 5:15 PM, on 2/3, 3/3, 4/7, 5/5, 6/2, 7/7 and 8/4.*

14. *Adjourn. m/RB, s/KS, yes, unanimous. 5:55 PM.*