

INTERNATIONAL CHARTER SCHOOL of TRENTON

105 Grand Street, Trenton, NJ 08611

Board of Trustees Minutes for June 22, 2023

Opening of meeting, 5:18 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 had 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), Rachel Binz (RB), 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). 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 of minutes from the May 25, 2023 meeting. Motion to table, VV, 2nd RB, yes, VV, RB, KS, and BK, unanimous approval.

2. Governance, School management. (a) The Community Eligibility Provision for all school meals is designed with large schools in mind, but is too costly for ICST, so ICST will opt not to participate. Nevertheless, participating students will be fed during the Summer.

(b) MB reported that the Comprehensive Equity Plan is complete and the policy updates are as listed: 3327 Relations with Vendors, 3541.2 School Meals in Arrears, 3542.31 Free or Reduced Prices, Lunch or Milk, 5131.5 Vandalism Violence, 6454.3 Publications, 6164.1 Intervention and Referral Services for General Education Students. After discussion of individual policies and updated provisions, motion to approve the CEP and policy updates, M/VV, s/ RB, yes VV, RB, KS, BK, approved unanimously. (c) Title III refusal of funds, after discussion, m/RB, s/KS, yes RB, KS, VV, BK, approved unanimously. EASA 2023-24, m/RB, s/KS, yes RB, KS, VV, BK, approved unanimously. NJSIG School Safety Grant, Motion to approve, m/KS, s/RB, yes, KS, RB, VV, BK, unanimously approved.

3. Financial Report and Review of expenditures, income, budget. PL said that the reports of the Board Secretary and Treasurer of School Monies for April & May agree and were arrived at independently. Motion to approve m/KS, s/RB, yes, KS, RB, VV, BK, unanimously approved. (a) The payroll total for May @ \$114,832.08 and June 110,216.38, Motion to approve/KS, s/VV, yes, KS, VV, RB, BK. Unanimously approved. (b-c) Review & approval of expenditures & resolutions to pay the bills list for May @ \$56,442.27 and June @ \$155,102.47. After discussion of individual items, M/VV, s/KS, yes, VV, KS, RB, BK, unanimously approved.

There are no transfers of funds this month. PL said that next month there will be some transfers pertaining to contract negotiations, such as legal fees and auditing expenses.

4. Grants. ♦ (a) ESEA 2023-24 allocations are: Title I @ \$75,345; Title II-A @ \$6,574; Title III @ \$6,823 (refusing); Title IV Part A @ \$10,000 to be moved into Title I. ♦ (b.) ARP ESSER Summer Learning Grant staff: Katherine Palmer, Gary Olaff, Linda Abbott, Sujatha Sridhara, Julie Gannon, Monika Egyed @ \$50 per hour five hours, for eight days, totaling \$2,400 * plus potential new teacher.

ICST BOT Meeting June 22, 2023 (continued)

4. Grants (continued) ♦ (c) ARP Accelerated Learning Coach & Educator Support Grant, July 24th- August 30th \$3,750 total each (over 3 payments.) Katherine Palmer, Gary Olaff, Linda Abbott, Sujatha Sridhara, Julie Gannon, *plus potential new teacher. ♦ Engagement contract for ESSER II Analysis and improvement planning to increase student achievement, curriculum alignment and contracted services with Heather Jackson of the Squirib Group, at \$3,900.
5. Report on Staffing, Personnel and Employee Issues. (a) AN said the search for a certified ESL/Bi-lingual teacher is continuing. We are still looking for a music, ESL/Bi-lingual & potential regular ed teacher. (b) Staff renewal notices were distributed by May 15, and all but one staff member indicated that they intend to return for the 2023-24 school year. MB recommended that Amber Myers be hired for the position of school nurse per the contracted agreement of 2023 @ a 61,391 base salary. m/RB, s/KS, yes RB, KS, VV, BK, approved unanimously.
6. Executive session (optional , none held)
7. Status Reports on Legislation, Regulations and significant Litigation. "Under the Gold Dome." The terminology "backfilling empty seats" is being bandied about. The terminology has offensive overtones (comparing students to dirt). Under-achieving local school districts have suspicions that successful charter schools are somehow showing academic success in part due to the timing of adding new students. Research suggests that unfortunately student mobility during the academic year has mostly negative consequences. ICST regularly adds some new students during the school year to fill vacant seats, as is common practice in NJ Charter Schools, and is encouraged by NJDOE. The small size of ICST facilitates transfer students meeting the teachers and other students in order to fell part of the school culture quickly.
8. Report on School Days, Student Achievement, Attendance and Enrollment (a) No HIB reports, this month or this academic year. (b) NJSLA Testing for the 3rd, 4th and 5th grades is complete. (c) SY22-23 attendance 93%. This is somewhat lower than in previous years due to fears of Covid, many bad colds, bronchitis, and flu. (d) Enrollment of 109 students is 100%. The educational atmosphere at ICST continues to be good.
9. Report on Facility. MB reported that the lower floor boys urinal needed a new wax ring. ICST has received 14 free HEPA air purifiers and 28 extra filters from the NJ Dept of Health. Fresh paint and new flooring will be applied in July. At the May 25 meeting, the ICST Board approved a \$2000 School Safety Grant to add audio security to school entrances.
10. School Operations Fire & emergency drills were conducted in May and June.
11. Old (unfinished) Business. (none).
12. Correspondence review, ICST received Employee Retention Tax Rebate Checks from the Federal government. 13. Trustee business and announcements. Upcoming scheduled BOT 5:15 meetings in 2023: 7/27, and 8/24. 14. BK adjourned the meeting at 6:06 PM.