

Interdistrict School for Arts and Communication
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

November 11, 2020 at 5:30 pm via ZOOM

New London, CT

This meeting was held virtually in accordance with Governor Lamont's Executive Order.

ATTENDANCE:

Members Present: R. Muckle, T. Wynn-Melendez, L. Muller, B. Crouch, D. Brailey, K. Rollins, K. Booker, L. Bumgardner, M. Paterson, M. Spellman

Members Absent: L. Cabrera

Ex Officio: N. Spera

Guests: D. Dunning, T. Collins, B. Zegarzowski, D. McMasters, M. Kuczenski, S. LaFrance, W. Linski, N. Rodgers, C. Blackshaw, M. Barron

MINUTES

5:30 pm

1. WELCOME/CALL TO ORDER

Chairman R. Muckle

1a. Establishment of Quorum

1b. Public Comment

The Board of Directors welcomes public comment. Individuals or groups may speak for a maximum of three minutes per person/group and twelve minutes per subject. Comments may be made on almost any matter related to the operations of ISAAC. However, comments concerning individual students or staff members shall not be permitted, per Board Policy 9418b "Meeting Conduct"

5:32 pm

2. CONSENT AGENDA

- Approval of Minutes from October 14, 2020 - [DRAFT Minutes - Oct. 14, 2020](#)
- ED-099 Agreement for Child Nutrition Authorization

PUBLIC COMMENT

- M. Barron, Teacher, shared his concerns about remaining open due to the conditions in the community

5:33 pm

3. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Dr. Spera

3a. Reopening of School Update, COVID-19 Response Update, and Future

Dr. Spera updated the Board on the current status of ISAAC. Discussion ensued.

3b. NEASC & Charter Renewal Update

- Dr. Spera will be visiting NEASC virtually at Plainville High School as Assistant Chair of the visit. This is a 4 day commitment.

3c. ESSER & Coronavirus Funds Update

Dr. Spera updated the Board regarding the purchasing as approved by SDE for all of the items listed within the written grant.

3d. [ISAAC School Improvement and Performance Plan](#)

Dr. Spera presented and discussed the School Improvement and Performance Plan that aligns to each teacher's SLO goals and the District Goals. Administration will be evaluated using this document as a guide. This is an essential document for NEASC.

3e. Appreciation of Service

- Honored Christine Pemberton, whose last day with ISAAC after 5 years, will be November 13, 2020. She will be working at LEARN as Director of Human Resources. A plaque and flowers will be gifted to Christine on behalf of the board.

5:40 pm

4. COMMITTEE REPORTS

4a. ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

K. Rollins

○ [Minutes - Nov. Meeting](#)

- Discussed making the website more parent- and student-friendly.

- Surveys have been sent out to students, families and staff. These will be done twice a year.
- Snow days - All attempts will be made to call these remote days for weather the day before, if possible. If the anticipated impact of the snow will not cause widespread electrical outages, then the day will be a remote day as allowed by SDE.

4b. GOVERNANCE

Vice-Chair T. Melendez

- No Meeting Last Month

4c. FINANCE

Treasurer L. Muller

- [Minutes - Nov. Meeting](#)
- [Monthly Report Graphs - Oct. 31, 2020](#)
- [October 2020 Budget Report - Nov. 30, 2020](#)
- [State and Federal Grant Summary 2020](#)
- A new Finance Director will be starting on December 1.
- A \$30,000.00 check is being written out for the services of Advantage. This is being done because the funds from the Coronavirus Grant must be used by December 31, and this totally acceptable to do.
- We had Reznig as our accountant. We now have new accountants. Kim Nardone was our previous auditor. She will be staying on as our Financial Consultant to support us while we go through this whole transition with the new Finance Director.
- Discussion about moving the Board Meetings to the 3rd Wednesday of the month have taken place. This recommendation is given in order to have the full previous month's financials completed prior to the Board meetings. B. Crouch mentioned that committee meeting dates are due January 31, 2001. She suggests that this change be done for the upcoming year. R. Muckle suggests that Dr. Spera send a survey to all the board members in reference to this change.
- K. Booker thanked Dr. Spera for his report. What would we need to do in order to stay in the green? Are we projecting looking at ways now for when the well runs dry? Things begin to shift and change. How will we plan on maintaining and staying where we are? Have we started thinking about some of those things down the pipeline?
 - Dr. Spera mentioned that these conversations have been taking place and that planning is being done for multiple years down the road. There will also be some strategic moves on the part of the Board. How can we survive? We can't rely on just the per pupil funds. This amount hasn't changed. We will continue lobbying but will continue to consider what we need to do differently.
 - L. Muller assured that we are very good financially for the year.
 - T. Melendez asks what is this going to look like in a year when we are back on track and kids are back in school. What happens with all the equipment that we spent the money, partitions, clearing out space, etc.? She suggests that we should progressively start thinking about what cleanup looks like in the future and if we can get some of the money back from the money that was spent to make sure that the reopening could happen because we possibly could recoup some money from the desks, the partitions, etc. T. Melendez also recommended a storage unit for the future. Dr. Spera thanked her for her comments and reminded the board that items purchased through federal and state dollars must go through a process if this was considered. Discussion ensued.

4d. EXECUTIVE

Chairman R. Muckle

- [Executive Director Goals](#)
Dr. Spera presented his goals for the year. There are three categories: Educational Leadership Practice, Organizational Management Practice, and Community and Board of Directors Relations. At mid-year, the Executive Director will prepare a reflection of his goals and make any adjustments needed to accomplish the goals within the document.

- Mr. Muckle mentioned that with regards to the bylaws, even though these were more or less recently approved a couple of years ago, the feeling is that there should be a high level review again just for a matter of thinning out of the details we may have encountered over the last couple of years. In that regard, evaluate the participation via Zoom since there is nothing in the bylaws in this regard. Other considerations including size of board, aligning board policy to the bylaws, and the emeritus board position have been approved previously for revision by the Board of Directors.
- Mr. Muckle thanked all the staff and people visiting this meeting.

6:10 pm

5. NEW BUSINESS

5a. Executive Session to Discuss Topics According to FOIA

5b. Possible acceptance of the contract for the *Dean of Students and Human Resources*

Motion to move into Executive Session: R. Muckle

Moved: L. Muller; 2nd: K. Booker; In Favor: All

The motion carries.

Invited to join the Executive Session: Dr. Spera.

MOVED INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 6:22 PM

6. ADJOURNMENT

Chairman R. Muckle