

Indianapolis Classical Schools Board Meeting
via Zoom
February 16, 2021

Board members present were Patrick Chittenden, John Watson, Keith Steiner, Adrian Miller, Mindy Cunningham, Dan Roy, Mark Nottingham, Mac McWhirter, David Steele, Meggie Dials, and Brenda Roper. Staff present were Janet McNeal, Juli Woodrum, Jonathan Harris, Tenika Holden-Flynn, Jennifer Sommers, and Karen Lalioff.

Mr. Watson called the meeting to order and a quorum of the Board was present.

The minutes of the prior meeting of the Board were reviewed and approved.

Mr. Roy gave the Education Committee report, including a review of 1st Semester academic performance during the pandemic. Mrs. Dorsey reviewed data at RHS, which has a higher number of students with unattained credits, and Mrs. Holden-Flynn reported on performance among HHS students. There was a discussion regarding how students with challenging home lives have been impacted, and how the pandemic has caused a significant increase in the need for home visits and mental health referrals. Strategies to improve performance and credit attainment include the purchase of a dual credit program to assist students with credit recovery, on-campus attendance for SPED students on Wednesdays, and a one-to-one mentoring program. There will need to be a restructuring of course offerings next fall to benefit students needing remedial courses. There is no inexpensive way to do this. Dr. Harris reported on changes to the grading structure and said that mastery skill now accounts for 60% of a student's overall grade. NWEA data was showing significant growth despite the drop in grades. Mrs. Dorsey reported that college acceptances were beginning to come in for RHS's first graduating class and was currently at 50%. Many of these acceptances came with amazing financial aid awards. Mrs. McNeal reported on the recent cyber-attack on the ICS network. ICS is working with the FBI to identify the culprit. An analysis determined that there was no data breach as all student data resides on a secure cloud and not on the network. The attack resulted only in a disruption of services and a denial of service which shut down the network for a day.

Mr. Watson provided the Executive Committee report for potential sites for the permanent home of the K-8 campus. There are a couple of possible leads of great interest but negotiations were slowed due to the pandemic and that are no details yet to share with the board. The COA from Indiana Historic Preservation Commission was approved with caveats, including a change in the paint color of the unit. A final site plan will need to be submitted for staff approval with the contracting for fencing and landscaping is finalized.

Mr. Miller provided the Fiduciary Committee report. The budget is stable due to the influx of the first and second round of recovery/stimulus funding. Some standard building expenses are down due to the period of virtual learning. Enrollment for the February count day was down which will impact next year's budget if there is a reduction in returning students, but the third round of stimulus funding, if passed, will provide funds for teacher retention. Ms. Woodrum provided a summary of measures the Enrollment team is taking to increase student enrollment.

Ms. Sommers provided the Development Committee report due to Mr. Sternberg's illness. She summarized plans for this year's Classical Cocktails which will be a short but robust virtual event. The guest of honor is Teresa Lubbers who will be recognized for her efforts to increase student achievement and higher education. The program will be streamed online. In May, ICS will host a fundraiser in the form of a Movie Night at Tibb's Drive-in. Sponsor packets will be sent out soon.

Mrs. McNeal provided the President's report. She reported on the recent student tragedy and measures to cope with the impact on the school's community. The counseling team stepped up services to students and teachers. She provided an enrollment update for the 2021-2022 school year with the results from round one at Enroll Indy. Enrollment was down compared to the same period of the previous year, most likely due to covid, but is expected to pick up during the following enrollment periods at Enroll Indy.

The meeting was adjourned.