



**Interdistrict School for Arts and Communication
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

September 15, 2021 at 4:00 pm via ZOOM Link Available on Website
New London, CT

*This meeting will be held virtually in accordance with Governor Lamont's Executive Order.

PRESENT: R. Muckle, M. Spellman, D. Brailey, K. Booker, K. Rollins, L. Fenn, M. Paterson, C. Schiano, L. Bumgardner, N. Spera

MINUTES

4:00 pm

1. WELCOME/CALL TO ORDER

Chairman R.F. Muckle

1a. Establishment of Quorum

1b. Public Comment: NONE

The Board of Directors welcomes public comment. Due to the nature of the virtual format of the meeting, all comments are to be submitted via email prior to noon on the day of the meeting. Comments may be made on almost any matter related to the operations of ISAAC and will be shared with the Board members in their packet. We shall not read or address any comments at this meeting. However, comments concerning individual students or staff members shall not be permitted.

4:01 pm

2. CONSENT AGENDA

Chairman R.F. Muckle

- Approval of Minutes from August BOD Meeting
- Acceptance of the Year to Date Profit/Loss Financial Report for August 2021

Motion: Approve and accept all items on the content agenda

Moved: Fenn, 2nd: E. Bumgardner; Discussion: None; In Favor: All; Opposed: None; Abstentions: None. The motion carries.

4:02 pm

3. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Dr. Spera

3a. COVID-19 ReOpening Update

Dr. Spera reported that there has only been one positive case. He reported that 100% of the teachers are fully vaccinated per Executive Order 13G; Any staff members not vaccinated will start being tested weekly starting September 27, 2021. Dr. Spera shared a letter from the State Board of Education expressing thanks to all board members for their hard work to ensure that school was open this year. This letter will be shared with the Board. Dr. Spera reported that teachers are observing some behaviors in the classroom which is a direct correlation to the pandemic. He believes that this is mostly because of students' excitement in being back to school and not remembering how to "play school" after such a long time. Dr. Spera also reported that thirty-two students are participating in the first ever Cross Country Team at ISAAC. In addition, ISAAC has secured busing for the five meets this season.

3b. CSDE Report Update

Dr. Spera provided an update on the approval of three of the four bucket items: 1) Disposal of Equipment; 2) Board Governance; and 3) Policies and Procedures. He gave thanks to the team and the Board for the support during the hard work. In addition, Dr. Spera assured the Board that these new procedures will continue and that we will remain in compliance. The remaining Special Education Billing bucket is remaining to be approved. Dr. Spera will be meeting with CSDE tomorrow to discuss this area and the work that has been completed. A few remaining items needed to be completed. The CSDE is requesting that the Finance Committee Meeting minutes from December be amended. Dr. Spera showed the Board the changes to the minutes. The copy of the minutes are in the Board packet.

Motion to amend the Finance Committee Meeting Minutes for the month of December to reflect the inaccuracies noted by CSDE:

Moved: M. Spellman; 2nd: K. Booker; Discussion: None, In Favor: All; Opposed: None;

In the August Board Packet was the Staff Handbook and Parent/Student Handbook. Dr. Spera wanted to inform the Board that the staff at a PD went through the Staff Handbook page by page. The documentation evidence is the PD Agenda which is in the Board Packet. He also reported that for the Parent/Student Handbook, an email was sent to all families. The email confirmation evidence is in the



Board Packet as well. Board Attorney Ritter advised Dr. Spera for the process to approve the policy and procedural changes found in both handbooks.

Motion to accept the policy and procedural changes in the Staff Handbook and the Parent/Student Handbook.

Moved: Dr. Fenn; 2nd: Schiano; Discussion: None; In Favor: Fenn, Schiano, Bumgardner, Paterson, Muckle, Spellman, Booke, Brailey; Opposed: None; Abstentions: K. Rollins. The motion carries.

Dr. Spera has been consulting with other districts in reference to Special Education billing methodology. Dr. Spera spoke with the Waterford Director of Special Education for how to bill, their methodology, and other districts methodology especially with co-taught. Dr. Spera explained that the discussion with SDE has been about billing when multiple students are in the same program. Waterford stated that New London bills a flat rate of \$90 regardless of the number of students. The advice was to remain consistent with the other districts. A discussion ensued. Dr. Fenn provided the Board with an overview that other districts are billing in a variety of ways. He stated that 169 towns are billing in a variety of ways and he does not believe that the state will mandate a rate. A discussion ensued. Dr. Spera will continue to keep the Board updated and he stated that he is thankful to the state for their partnership.

3c. Grant Update

Dr. Spera reported that ISAAC did not get one of the after-school program grant. We are still waiting to hear from the State Dept of Education grant. There is also a United Way grant for \$25,000 that we anticipate hearing from this week. We did allocate funds for after-school programming. The cost of busing is an issue, as it is outrageous.

3d. Legislative Update

Dr. Spera met with Felipe Ruben, Executive Director of the Charter Network. They discussed the busing issues in reference to funding.

3e. Hiring Update

Hired a 6th grade science teacher. Dr. Sanders did a great job filling in. He is now officially retiring. He made a donation of \$1000.00 to go toward culture and climate at ISAAC.

Dr. Spera reported that he hired Jacob Battipaglia, Science teacher, a Bilingual Assistant, Luz Clavijo Parrado, who has the goal of becoming a teacher, and a Culinary Assistant, Nkiruka Anameze-Okolie. We are currently 100% staffed.

3f. JCJ Architecture Construction Project Update

Dr. Spera met with JCJ Architecture the New London Zoning Committee and also with the Building Inspector to go over the plans.

3g. Food Service Update

The students are very pleased with the quality of our food. The kitchen staff are taking feedback from students and staff in reference to what they like and dislike. We received \$17,000 based on last year's pandemic issues with the state. This money will be used toward new kitchen equipment.

3h. Annual Audit Update

Our auditors were here last week and this week. Dr. Spera praised Erica Robb for her hard work. The auditors praised Erica for her preparation.

3i. NEASC Accreditation Visit Update - October 20-23, 2024 (Collaborative Conference - Fall 2022)

We are starting our self-study. D. Dunning, Principal, will have a steering committee. She will name the chairs of the school as well as meet with the steering committee.

4:27 pm

4. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

4a. FINANCE

Treasurer L. Muller

- Finance Update - September Minutes
Dr. Spera reported that fiscally ISAAC is in good shape.
- Special Education Hourly Billing Cost for All Districts for 2021-2022



A discussion ensued in reference to a rate of \$50.89 per hour for billing of special education services. Dr. Spera suggested that the Board may want to wait until after his meeting with CSDE tomorrow. A discussion ensued. Chairman Muckle asked about the proposed rate. Dr. Spera reported that the rate would be for all districts. Dr. Spera went over the special education billing methodology and reiterated that ISAAC will not obtain any revenue from special education costs. The Board decided to postpone the rate approval until the October meeting there will be a possible motion to *Approve the Special Education Hourly Billing Cost as presented for the '21-'22 school year*

4:32 pm

5. NEW BUSINESS

Chairman R.F. Muckle

5a. Discussion concerning transportation

Dr. Spera posed the issue with transportation of students attending ISAAC from outside New London. A discussion ensued amongst the Board members.

5b. Executive Session

Motion to Discuss Concerning Records of Strategy Related to a Successor Teacher Contract

Moved: Fenn; 2ndL: Brailey; Discussion: None; In Favor: All; Opposed: None; Abstentions: None. The motion carries.

Motion: Approve the 3-year Teacher Bargaining Unit Contract as presented

Moved: Dr. Fenn; 2nd: K. Booker; Discussion: None; In Favor: Six; Opposed: None; Abstentions: M. Paterson. The motion carries.

5:20

6. ADJOURNMENT

Chairman R.F. Muckle

Motion: Adjourn the Meeting

Moved: K. Booker; 2nd: K. Rollins; Discussion: None; In Favor: Six; Opposed: None; Abstentions: M. Paterson. The motion carries.