

Interdistrict School for Arts and Communication

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

February 16, 2022, at 4:00 pm via ZOOM Link Available on Website

New London, CT

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

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

MINUTES

- 4:00 pm **1. WELCOME / CALL TO ORDER** *Vice Chairperson M. Spellman*
- 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 January BOD Meeting
 - Acceptance of the Year-to-Date Profit/Loss Financial Report for January 2022
Motion: Approve and accept all items on the consent agenda
Moved: B. Crouch; 2nd: M. Spellman; In Favor: All; Opposed None. The motion carries.
- 4:03 pm **3. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT** *Dr. Spera*
- 3a. COVID-19 Re-Opening Update
The mandate on the use of masks has changed. February 28 is the date set for schools to make the use of masks optional. In giving our parents the opportunity, if they wish to do so, to vaccinate their children prior to making masks optional at ISAAC, we will be hosting two vaccination clinics: one February 21 and the second one on March 16, making the use of masks optional at ISAAC starting March 17. Fifty-five percent of our students and 99% of our staff are vaccinated.
- 3b. CSDE Report Update
- March BOD Training with Shipman & Goodwin - it is a good practice to continue these trainings as part of the continuous improvement of ISAAC
 - The State Department of Education has what is called Interim Assessments Blocks (IAB), which are similar to the SBAC. The Turnaround Office asked that charter schools in particular use this tool to assess student progress. ISAAC administration has been working closely with CSDE throughout the year in an effort to utilize these assessments for the improvement of student achievement. Teachers are looking at data to adjust instruction to improve student skills.
- 3c. Grant Update
Submitted a \$315,400.00 expansion grant. If awarded the grant, part of the funds will be used for a van to be used for after-school programming. Another part would be used to expand our theater program in the summer for our current 6th and 7th graders. And another part would be used toward adding music to our Step-Up program for the summer.
Have not heard from the security grant.
- 3d. Legislative Update
There is a current reduction in the charter funding bill of approximately \$674,000.00. Further information was provided by N. Spera in reference to other bills that affect charter schools. Busing for charter schools was not discussed during the most current legislation session.
- 3e. Hiring Update
- Hired a Special Education Teacher, Jannine Moores, from East Lyme who will be with us for the remainder for the school year.
 - Hired a Spanish Teacher in-house, Luz Clavijo, who was a Bilingual Educational Assistant.
 - Promoted Celestino Rodriguez from Head Custodian to Director of Maintenance and Facilities.
- 3f. JCJ Architecture Construction Project Update
Going in front of the Zoning Committee tomorrow. The last meeting was postponed.

Construction costs are up 23%, per a meeting with JCJ.

3g. Food Service Update and Cafeteria Upgrades

Received the permit from New London city hall to be able to do our kitchen upgrade. T. Rodriguez will be doing this upgrade during the April break.

3h. NEASC Accreditation Visit Update – Oct. 20-23, 2024 (Collaborative Conference - Fall Oct 2022)

A day will be set for the Board to meet with the committee during the Collaborative Conference.

4:15 pm

4. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

4a. FINANCE

Chairman R.F. Muckle

- Finance Update - February Minutes
There were no items of significant note.

4b. EXECUTIVE

Chairman R.F. Muckle

- Executive Director Review of Goals
The Executive Committee is very pleased with the Executive Director's performance.
- Buck Foundation and Charter Association
The state of CT is putting out an RFP sometime in the spring in which they are looking to expand the number of charter schools, the goal is to possibly almost doubling the number of charters. Right now, there are 21 charters in the state of Connecticut. In southeastern Connecticut there are only three possible cities/towns that would qualify as an alliance district: New London, Norwich and Groton. Further details were shared.

4:30 pm

5. NEW BUSINESS

Chairman R.F. Muckle

5a. NEASC Standard 5 Self Study - Associate Principal Collins

NEASC Standard 5 is all about learning resources. We have a smaller NEASC committee comprised of about 8 staff members. At their meeting, they went through 5 different items on which they rated the school. Ms. Collins reported on the specific findings. The overall finding was that we are in the implementing phase of this standard.

5b. 21st Century Community Learning Centers Grant Update - William Linski

207 students have had accessed our after-school program. Our goal is to access 100% of our students and to try to meet their needs. W. Linski went on to report on the success of the programming so far.

5c. Possible Executive Session to Discuss the Contract of the Executive Director

Motion: Move into Executive Session to Discuss the Contract of the Executive Director

Moved: B. Crouch; 2nd: K. Booker; In Favor: All. The motion carries.

Motion to amend the agenda by adding item 5d. in order to vote for the Executive Director's contract

Moved: B. Crouch; 2nd: K. Rollins; Discussion/Comments: None; In Favor: All; Opposed: None. The motion carries.

Motion to vote for the Executive Director's contract to approve the Executive Director's revised contract

Moved: Dr. Fenn; 2nd: C. Schiano; Discussion/Comments: None; In Favor: All; Opposed: None. The motion carries.

4:45 pm

6. ADJOURNMENT

Chairman R.F. Muckle

Motion: Adjourn this Meeting

Moved: B. Crouch; 2nd: M. Booker; In Favor: All; Opposed: None. The motion carries.