

**MINUTES**  
**CATASAUQUA AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**Tuesday, June 27, 2017**  
**6:00 P.M. – District Administration Office**

1. **CALL TO ORDER** ..... **President, Penny Hahn**  
*President Penny Hahn Called the Meeting to Order at 6:00 P.M*
  
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG**  
*The Pledge of Allegiance was given*
  
3. **ROLL CALL**

Board Members		Non Board Members	
Penny Hahn	X	Robert J. Spengler	X
Carol Cunningham	X	Dave Knerr	X
Donald Panto *	X	Christina Lutz-Doemling	
Duane Deitrich	X	Lois Reed	
Jason Bashaw	X	Kathleen Kotran	
Dale Hein	X	Wayne Karess	
Christine Nace		David Ascani	
Rodney L. Nace		Melissa Inselmann	
Mary Alice Hartranft	X	Eric Dauberman	
		Bryan Klass	
Student Representatives		Adam Schnug	
Samuel Safadi		Thomas Moll	
Sofia Alquirih			

*\*Don Panto arrived at 7:00 pm*

*X = Present*

*Visitors: See List inserted in Permanent Minute Book*

4. **PRESENTATION/AUDIENCE INPUT ON AGENDA**
  - A. Innovative Arts Academy Charter School – Mr. Douglas Taylor, Principal and Ms. Kelly Bauer, Board of Trustee President  
*No representatives from Innovative Arts Academy Charter School were present. The following Public and Board commentary occurred:*

*Ann Tarafas, former Special Educator at IAACS, Slatington, PA:  
 Attended last meeting and IAACS Board meeting. Expressed concerns to Mr. Taylor, IAACS Board, and CASD Board. We were escorted from the building. I try to advocate for my students. My access to the student database in the process of doing quarterly reports was eliminated and then I was escorted out of the building.  
 Mr. Deitrich: Were you escorted out of the school building or the meeting? We were further out of compliance as a matter of fact.*

*Mrs. Cunningham: Were you able to complete grades, progress reports, M.A. Hartranft: Were you given a reason for dismissal? At the time No, but via email later. My mid evaluation was proficient.*

*Phyllis Altieri, Former Administrative Assistant, IAACS: I was also let go by IAACS. My personal email was hacked by IAACS personnel, looking for documents. They went into my personal emails on my personal computer.*

*Mrs. Cunningham: Did you take the minutes? No. No one took minutes. During L. Petrillo's tenure, all minutes and processes were documented. From that point forward, no minutes, contracts, documents, etc. were completed. It was a debacle.*

*Mrs. Hahn: When were you employed? Aug. 15 – April 23.*

*Emails: We had to use our own personal computers and email accounts. Al Cavalli's attitude is we can do what we want, we are a Charter School... I witnessed him harming kids, hitting kids, being vulgar, talking about student medication in front of them, etc....*

*Elizabeth Fox: Spanish Teacher/Aide: I was also let go. They said I was let go for poor performance. I was never evaluated. He never replied to any emails.*

*Mrs. Hahn: Wouldn't they discuss evaluations with employees? They snuck in my room, (Taylor and Cavalli), and dismissed me, walking me out immediately.*

*Stacy Saran, Fountain Hill Borough. Former Reading Specialist. Was laid off April 18 due to financial restructuring. I filed a police report against a student who hit me. Mr. Taylor expressed his concern that I filed the report. Teachers are threatened by students and administrators are doing nothing about it. He was decorating his office rather than dealing with the health, safety and well-being of his students and staff. Parents were not informed. All of the IEP'd students were put back into a regular education classroom and reading support ceased. Someone has to stand up for these kids. These students' needs have to come first. It shouldn't be about money and image. Somebody needs to do something. The building needs to be shut down.*

*Mrs. Cunningham: Were you ever evaluated? Not by Mr. Taylor. Mr. Gabryluk and Lori Moeck evaluated me.*

*Mrs. Hartranft: How long were you there? Beginning of year through April 18.*

*Shawn Penn: Behavioral Manager for IAACS. I've noticed that kids with IEP's are thrown out of regular ed classes and I'm concerned. This happens consistently from November and then picked up the 2nd half of the year. Demoralizing to see 12 year olds go through this. School work wasn't sent up by the classroom teachers. Generalized packets instead of actual school work, not the current curriculum. Kids with IEP's were treated poorly and kicked out of class. They don't give a crap about the IEP's. IEP's were not updated. Doug emailed the staff requesting everyone to give homework. This happened in June.*

*Mrs. Hahn: Who are "they"?: 3-4 teachers who didn't care about IEP's.*

*Students were missing in the building since it's so huge. Pigeons came flying in from the upper floor, scaring him and students. Hopefully there is a contingency plan moving forward for IEP students.*

*Mrs. Hahn: Were you let go? It was a mutual understanding since he signed with an outside firm.*

*Mr. Taylor said his strategy is to flood the school with students from Special Education. He said we can't get rid of the little Bastards since they bring in so much money...*

*Mr. Bashaw: Were behavioral plans, etc. developed for any students? Yes, one student had a plan.*

*Mrs. Tarafas and Ms. Saran: None of Ms. Saran's students had behavioral plans.*

*Mrs. Tarafas indicated 2 of her students had plans.*

*Sharon Reichenbach: Grove St., Allentown, PA*

*Her grandson attended IAACS He was mistreated. He had no work and no TSS. I had to fight for a TSS, funded by my own insurance company. He had a "Safe Person", but she was let go and then he suffered. When requested work for home, only 2 teachers provided work for home. I tried to get him the supports he needed since the beginning. Everything fell upon deaf ears. He loves to cook and be creative. They wasted 7th grade for him. They told him he passed 7th grade, but he knows nothing. I fought for him and for other students. His needs spelled out by the IEP were not met. My grandson was willing to go to the woods and be eaten by bears rather than go to school. I fought for the behavioral function report to be done. It was facilitated by an outside person.*

*Hartranft: Did the TSS report how the school operated?*

*Yes, they reported there is total chaos and it is impossible for any student to learn.*

*Kids were just kicked out of class and no work given.*

*Mr. Bashaw: Was he being suspended? Do you know how many? Yes, he was ISS. Also they had attendance record that he had oral surgery, but never did. The days reported did not match the actual.*

*Mrs. Cunningham/Mr. Bashaw: How many days suspended? Almost every day...*

*Spengler: Concern regarding compensatory education and settlements that could occur and impact the financial situation of IAACS.*

*Knerr: PDE should also be concerned since any compensatory education obligations not able to be met by the Charter School would then be the responsibility of PDE*

*Wayne Langsdorf: Northampton, PA*

*He indicated that he was a Science Teacher at IAACS. Many teachers are inexperienced and/or not certified with very little input from administration on what to do. I was the only Level II teacher in the whole district. My concern is that many students have more needs than were being provided. Quality coaches and mentors that could help the young teachers would make a great impact on the program at IAACS. When the school itself sets it own course of action instead of what is best for the students and then backtracks. The prior CEO and Consultant wanted me to stay. There were no supplies, etc. Only HS books for my Middle level students. Formal observations did not occur. I think only few went through any. None of us received any end of year evaluations. No mid-year evaluations and no improvement plans for the teachers let go. I was emailed during the school day that my contract would not be renewed. The Principal put me off for 2 weeks then told me I just wasn't a good*

*teacher. What about the health and PE dept? I'm there for the kids. Taylor said, "I just don't think you are the best for our kids here and are not preparing them for college." IEP'd students missed much class. Way too much inconsistency regarding instruction and the way things were being done. Teachers were let go because they didn't go along with those running the system.*

*I would like to see something positive happen with this school. Needs better leadership and administration. Students were not happy or productive. Students heartbroken that teachers were let go. These students are our future and someone is giving up on them.*

*Ms. Fox: At the last IAACS meeting, June 10, they said were going to table any new hires. A Mr. Christopher Brown has been hired, though. All of my personal items were thrown out on my last day. There is now a Principal and two Assistants, but no minutes show they were hired.*

*Mrs. Tarafas: At the last meeting, I mentioned a Special Ed. Coordinator was going to be hired. On his LinkedIN, it says he's been the Special Ed Coordinator since May, but he was never at the school and not hired according to minutes. Mr. Taylor was in my classroom 2 times. First day and when I was escorted out.*

*Phyllis Altieri: No consistent minutes, etc. Regarding how students sent to ISS: They just took the kid out of the classroom and put them in ISS. They were not notified or scheduled and in PowerSchool, it was not documented that they were in ISS. We still didn't know where kids were at the end of the year. Schedules were not accurate. Student data in PowerSchool is not accurate and will now show exactly how much time Special Education students are out of the regular classroom and/or suspended.*

*Mrs. Hartranft: What if you had to evacuate the building? We were terrified and there was no safety plan. I ended up putting things together from past plans.*

*Bashaw: How many fire drills this year? One*

*Mrs. Cunningham: Mr. Taylor and Ms. Bauer were invited. They declined the invitation. Mr. Fennick was invited but unable to attend and he then informed his clients they should not attend.*

*We, as a Board, have questions we were planning on asking...*

*She then recited the below questions.*

1. *Personnel/Staffing:*
  - a. *Are you planning on hiring PA Certified individuals for at least 75% of positions? Nurse? Administrators?*
2. *Special Education:*
  - a. *Under review by PDE?*
  - b. *Is a PDE representative advising regularly? If so, how often?*
  - c. *Are you budgeting contingency funds in the case of Compensatory Education?*
3. *Meeting Advertisement*
  - a. *A recent Morning Call article indicated you did not properly advertise Board of Trustee meetings since August, 2016. Is this accurate?*
4. *Budget Advertisement*

- a. *Was the meeting in which the 2017-2018 IAACS Budget was discussed and approved advertised?*
5. *Budget Approval*
  - a. *When was the 2017-2018 IAACS Budget approved?*
  - b. *What documentation was used for the approval?*
  - c. *Has the appropriate Budget documentation been submitted to PDE within the required timeframe?*
6. *Change of Curricular offerings*
  - a. *A recent mailing indicated Specialized Electives and a Basketball program. Was this included in the curriculum and activities described in the Charter granted by the Board of School Directors of the Catasauqua Area School District?*
  - b. *Is Spanish being eliminated as a course for 2017-2018? Was this course indicated as being offered in the Charter granted by the Board of School Directors of the Catasauqua Area School District?*
7. *17-18 School Calendar*
  - a. *Has the 2017-2018 School Calendar been presented and/or discussed with Catasauqua Area School District Administration? Other regional School Districts sending students to IAACS?*
8. *Security*
  - a. *Security is a component of the Safety Plan for IAACS. Reportedly, Security Guards are being eliminated from the 2017-2018 IAACS Budget. Is this correct?*
9. *Administration*
  - a. *What is the current plan for Administrative positions for IAACS?*

*Mrs. Cunningham/Mrs. Hahn: Should we formally ask these questions? The Board discussed and agreed.*

*Joanne Jackson: Special Ed. Consultant, former ASD Board member. None of the questions you indicated seem to be of a confidential nature. Certification should be necessary and easy to obtain. A seven day response is a good thing. Can CASD provide curricular assistance? ASD provided it, using their Coordinators for Executive Academy. We can work with the Allentown SD personnel to provide support. CASD has only 1 or 2 students at IAACS. IAACS student population is primarily comprised of ASD students.*

*Mr. Langsdorf:*

*Another thing: The Principal, Mr. Taylor, moved the Nurse to the basement small area with no bathroom, difficult to access, and not ADA compliant. He took over the Nurse area as his office. We had a mandated 403b, not PSERS. We were not given a choice and signed nothing.*

*Mr. Delbertis, resident of Catasauqua:*

*Who audits them? A local auditor, a State Auditor. We should monitor their audits and financial situation.*

*Phyllis Altieri:*

*I presented the benefit documents to administration and Mr. Cavalli, Consultant. They indicated thank you, but we can't do this. We had a mandated 403b, no PSERS*

*Mr. Bashaw:*

*We should meet earlier than August 8 to discuss this with IAACS reps.*

*Mr. Fox:*

*Next IAACS meeting is July 12, 2017*

*Mr. Panto:*

*Can we ask for responses within 7 days? What if they don't respond? Mr. Knerr: Yes, the Charter indicates a 7 business day response is required. If they don't respond you can begin revoking the Charter.*

*Mr. Deitrich: Safety, Education, Financial, etc. and I'm sick about what I'm hearing. General agreement by Board members.*

*Mr. Bashaw: Are they subject to state assessments?*

*Yes, they are. In fact, their Charter submitted by Dr. Platt and Ms. Fennick (sister of the Solicitor), includes specific achievement benchmarks that must be met.*

*Board discussion occurred regarding the next steps and directed Administration to communicate the discussed questions and areas of concern to IAACS Administration and request their presence at a future meeting.*

*Special meeting to be held on July 25, 2017, 6pm (later rescheduled to July 18, 2017 7:00 pm)*

**5. RECOGNITION OF GUESTS & VISITORS**

*See above*

**6. ADJOURNMENT**

*MOTION BY: Deitrich*

*SECONDED BY: Cunningham*

*Motion carried*

**Time Adjourned: 7:45 P.M.**

Respectfully submitted,

Duane Deitrich  
Secretary