



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

March 18, 2026 at 4:00 pm via ZOOM

New London, CT

This meeting was held virtually

In Attendance: Dr. Nicholas J. Spera, Richard Muckle, Barbara Crouch, Dr. David Brailey, Mercedes Alger, Dr. Richard Sanders, Bill Buscetto, Dr. Tanya Collins, Michael Spellman, Lee Muller, Elizabeth Bumgardner, Maria Depino-Wallig

MINUTES

4:00 pm

1. WELCOME/CALL TO ORDER

Chairman R.F. Muckle

• **Motion: to add item 5d. Organizational Chart, under New Business**

Moved: B. Buscetto; 2nd: L. Muller; Discussion: none; In Favor: all; Opposed: none; Abstentions: none

Motion Carries by unanimous voice vote

1a. Establishment of Quorum – *quorum established*

1b. Public Comment - *no public comment*

4:01 pm

2. CONSENT AGENDA

Chairman R.F. Muckle

- Approval of Minutes from the February BOD Meeting
- Acceptance of Executive Director Mid-Year Goals Reflection
- Acceptance of the Year-to-Date Profit/Loss Financial Report for February 2026

Motion: Approve and accept all items on the consent agenda

Moved: L. Muller; 2nd: R. Sanders; Discussion: none; In Favor: all; Opposed: none; Abstentions: none

Motion Carries by unanimous voice vote

4:03 pm

3. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Dr. Spera

3a. CSDE Report Update

Dr. Spera reported that we continue to meet periodically with state for our corrective action plan to review academic progress, accountability index performance, and required data such as SBAC results and suspension rates. Despite strong performance—ranking among the top charter schools in the state and the top middle school— Dr. Spera expressed concern that the current accountability system does not fully reflect the school's progress and student population. The CAP will remain part of discussions during the upcoming charter renewal process.

Dr. Spera also shared that we heard back from the CSDE regarding the grant we wrote. ISAAC was awarded a little over 3 million dollars, but the bond commission must meet before we can receive it.

3b. Grant Update

- **DRIP: \$51,030**

Received, all districts receive money from this grant

- **21CCLC Application Expected in April**

This is now a 3-yr grant (not 5 yr), each year recipients can ask for up to \$250,000.

3c. Legislative Update

Dr. Spera shared that current Senate and House bills are reviewing ECS funding, including potential increases to the per-pupil minimum (currently \$11,525). Advocacy efforts are focused on ensuring charter schools are included in any funding increases through appropriate legislative language. Additionally, a Senate bill proposes over \$4 million in capital improvements for Integrated Day Charter School. Dr. Spera has requested inclusion for ISAAC, seeking \$11.6 million in capital funding.

3d. Student Recruitment & Lottery Results for 2026

Dr. Spera reports that ISAAC is currently at full enrollment for 2026-27 with a waiting list of above 100.

3e. Hiring Update

Dr. Spera reported that there are multiple positions posted for next school year: Anticipated Opening Music Teacher, Science Teacher, Elementary Teacher, 7th grade Math Teacher, Student Supports Coordinator

3f. Budget Process Outlook

Teachers have submitted their budget requests. Dr. Spera and Erica Robb will be meeting to finalize and approve budget requests.

4:20 pm

4. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

4a. FINANCE

Lee Muller

- Finance Update – March Minutes

Lee Muller highlights the reduction in professional services and tech capital and that the expenses mainly reflect higher costs in the prior year because of the CSP grant and the construction project.

4b. SCHOOL GOVERNANCE

Chairman R.F. Muckle

Review of Technical Language for Policy

Corrected language in Board packet

4:30 pm

5. NEW BUSINESS

Chairman R.F. Muckle

5a. Appointment of Assistant Principal

Motion: To accept the contract and appoint the new assistant principal, Maria Depino-Wallig

Moved: B. Buscetto; 2nd: D. Brailey; Discussion: none; In Favor: all; Opposed: none; Abstentions: none

Motion Carries by unanimous voice vote

5b. Discussion regarding Policy 5001: Admissions Policy

Motion: Accept changes made by the Governance Committee to Policy 5001

Moved: L. Muller; 2nd: L. Bumgardner; Discussion: none; In Favor: all; Opposed: none; Abstentions: none

Motion Carries by unanimous voice vote

5c. Requirements for Submitting Healthy Food Certification Statement for 2026-27

a. Participation in the Healthy Food Option

Motion: Pursuant to C.G.S. Section 10-215f, the ISAAC Board of Directors certifies that all food items offered for sale to students in the schools under its jurisdiction, and not exempted from the Connecticut Nutrition Standards published by the Connecticut State Department of Education, will comply with the Connecticut Nutrition Standards during the period of July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027. This certification shall include all food offered for sale to students separately from reimbursable meals at all times and from all sources, including but not limited to school stores, vending machines, school cafeterias, culinary programs, and any fundraising activities on school premises sponsored by the school or non-school organizations and groups.

Motion: so moved, with a 'YES' vote

Moved: R. Sanders; 2nd: D. Brailey; Discussion: none; In Favor: all; Opposed: none; Abstentions: none

Motion Carries by unanimous voice vote

Yes Votes: 9; No Votes: 0

Allowance of Food and Beverage Exemptions

Possible Motion: The ISAAC Board of Directors will allow the sale to students of food items that do not meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards provided that the following conditions are met: 1) the sale is in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend; 2) the sale is at the location of the event; and 3) the food items are not sold from a vending machine or school store. An "event" is an occurrence that involves more than just a regularly scheduled practice, meeting, or extracurricular activity. For example, soccer games, school plays, and interscholastic debates are events but soccer practices, play rehearsals, and debate team meetings are not. The "regular school day" is the period from midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the official school day. "Location" means where the event is being held and must be the same place as the food sales.

Motion: so moved, with a 'YES' vote

Moved: R. Sanders; 2nd: B. Crouch; Discussion: none; In Favor: all; Opposed: none; Abstentions: none

Motion Carries by unanimous voice vote

Yes Votes: 9; No Votes: 0

***5d. Organizational Chart**

Motion: Approve Organizational Chart

Moved: B. Crouch; 2nd: L. Muller; Discussion: none; In Favor: all; Opposed: none; Abstentions: none

Motion Carries by unanimous voice vote

4:50 pm

6. ADJOURNMENT

Chairman R.F. Muckle

Motion: to adjourn

Moved: L. Bumgardner; 2nd: B. Crouch; Discussion: none; In Favor: all; Opposed: none; Abstentions: none

Motion Carries by unanimous voice vote