

INNOVATIVE

ARTS ACADEMY

MINUTES

Board of Trustees Meeting
Board Meeting Room #104
Wednesday, August 19, 2026

A. OPENING EXERCISES

- **Call to Order, Board President** - Meeting called to Order at 6:23pm
- **Notice of Meeting**
 - Proper notice was published in *The Morning Call* on June 29, 2026
- **Flag Salute**
- **Roll Call, Board President**

Board/Administrative Member	Attendance
David Rank, President	Present
Dan Schmidt, Member	Present
Robert Sirmans, Secretary / Treasurer	Present
Bob Susko, Vice President	Absent
Jason Nagle, Member	Present
Brian Taylor, General Counsel	Present
Lynn Fischer, CAO	Present
Tom Taylor, Accountant	Phone
Others:	Chris Fisher Robert Spengler

B. EXECUTIVE SESSION

An Executive Session was held at 5:30pm; Ended 6:22pm

C. OLD BUSINESS

Approval of Board Meeting Minutes from July, 2026:

- Motion to approve: Rob Sirmans
- Motion seconded by: Jason Nagle
 - Aye: 4
 - Nay: 0

Approval of July, 2026 Financials:

- Motion to approve: Jason Nagle
- Motion seconded by: Dan Schmidt
 - Mr. Rank highlighted the association of billing and student enrollment
 - Aye: 4
 - Nay: 0

D. PUBLIC COMMENT (AGENDA ITEMS)

Members from the public are invited to comment on items that are listed on this agenda. Each member from the public will have up to two minutes to address the Board of Directors. The board may choose to hear public comment without an immediate response. The two-minute time allotment per public member may be shortened if comments are made about items that are not listed on the agenda.

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E. NEW BUSINESS

PRESENTATIONS:

-Ms. Lynn Fischer introduced Dr. Lupo, the newly appointed School Principal. On behalf of the Board, Mr. Rank expressed his gratitude in joining the Team at IAACS and wished her well in the 2026-2027 school year.

-Jessica McLaughlin of SOS Group presented a contribution to the IAACS Education Foundation, and expressed her thanks to the Board for the continued partnership in providing team members and consultants.

-Mr. Christopher Fisher provided an environmental testing update.

-Mr. Christopher Fisher provided an Operations Update regarding capital and maintenance related projects.

1. PERSONNEL:

a. Introduction of Dr. Concetta Lupo, IAACS Principal.

Occurred during Presentations. Dr Lupo remarked regarding her start as the new Principal of IAACS; provided an overview of new initiatives; expressed her thanks for being part of the Team at IAACS.

b. Motion to approve the resignation of the following individuals:

- 1. Denise Vega - Middle School ELA*
 - 2. Bryan Abrams - School Counselor*
 - 3. Dawn Christ - School Counselor*
 - 4. Saravanapriya Vijayakumar (Priya Suresh) - Middle School Math*
- ii. Motion to approve: Dan Schmidt
- iii. Motion seconded by: Jason Nagle
- Aye: 4*
- Nay: 0*

c. Motion to approve the hiring of the following individuals as per contract and/or salary schedule:

- 1. Glorimar Valentin - School Counselor*
 - 2. Brynne Ehrlacher - School Counselor*
 - 3. Emily Johnson - Middle School ELA*
 - 4. Victoria A. Keenan - Marketing Specialist*
 - 5. Diamond Porter - MS Head Volleyball Coach*
 - 6. Elanna Erdman - HS Assistant Volleyball Coach*
- ii. Motion to approve: Dan Schmidt
- iii. Motion seconded by: Jason Nagle
- Aye: 4*
- Nay: 0*

d. Motion to designate James Pedone as School Safety and Security Coordinator, as per PA School Code:

- i. Motion to approve: Dan Schmidt
 - ii. Motion seconded by: Jason Nagle
- Aye: 4*
- Nay: 0*

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e. Motion to approve engagement with Alyssa Glass for Dance Program related services at the rate of \$50/hour on a contractual basis:

- i. Motion to approve: Dan Schmidt
- ii. Motion seconded by: Jason Nagle

Aye: 4
Nay: 0

2. FINANCIAL, OPERATIONS:

a. Motion to accept donations to the Innovative Arts Academy Educational Foundation:

Several donations were accepted on behalf of the Educational Foundation, totalling \$2,000.00. Mr. Rank thanked the donors and reminded the Board of the Foundation's role.

- i. Motion to approve: Rob Sirmans
- ii. Motion seconded by: Dan Schmidt

Aye: 4
Nay: 0

b. Motion to approve the purchase of 4 - PTAC units from Keystone HVAC in the amount of \$10,783.60:

- i. Motion to approve: Rob Sirmans
- ii. Motion seconded by: Dan Schmidt

Aye: 4
Nay: 0

c. Motion to approve agreement with Benesch Engineering for a comprehensive building envelope study:

Mr. Fisher provided an overview of the agreement and scope of this initial phase.

- i. Motion to approve: Rob Sirmans
- ii. Motion seconded by: Dan Schmidt

Aye: 4
Nay: 0

d. Motion to approve agreement with 3D Dance Studio for the IAACS Dance Team Program:

- i. Motion to approve: Rob Sirmans
- ii. Motion seconded by: Dan Schmidt

Aye: 4
Nay: 0

e. Motion to approve the inclusion of an IAACS staff option to withdraw funds via a Qualifying Hardship in the agreement with Equitable Holdings:

- i. Motion to approve: Rob Sirmans
- ii. Motion seconded by: Dan Schmidt

Aye: 4
Nay: 0

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f. Motion to approve the disposal of various obsolete or damaged furniture and equipment as per Policy:

- i. Motion to approve: Rob Sirmans
- ii. Motion seconded by: Dan Schmidt

Aye: 4

Nay: 0

g. Motion to acknowledge the annual environmental testing presentation:

During Presentations, Mr. Fisher provided this overview.

- i. Motion to approve: Rob Sirmans
- ii. Motion seconded by: Dan Schmidt

Aye: 4

Nay: 0

h. Motion to approve an agreement with Catasauqua Area School District for rental of Thomas Field facility:

Mr. Rank commented on his pleasure to have this opportunity for the students of IAACS and the positive relationship with CASD, our sponsoring school district.

- i. Motion to approve: Rob Sirmans
- ii. Motion seconded by: Dab Schmidt

Aye: 4

Nay: 0

3. POLICIES, CURRICULUM, PROGRAM:

a. Motion to approve the 2026-2027 Innovative Arts Academy Comprehensive School Improvement Plan:

- i. Motion to approve: Jason Nagle
- ii. Motion seconded by: Rob Sirmans

Aye: 4

Nay: 0

b. Motion to approve the 2026-2027 Innovative Arts Academy Parent & Student Handbook:

- i. Motion to approve: Jason Nagle
- ii. Motion seconded by: Rob Sirmans

Aye: 4

Nay: 0

c. Motion to approve the 2026-2027 Innovative Arts Academy Program of Study:

- i. Motion to approve: Jason Nagle
- ii. Motion seconded by: Rob Sirmans

Aye: 4

Nay: 0

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d. Motion to approve the 2026-2027 Innovative Arts Academy Curriculum Maps:

- i. Motion to approve: Jason Nagle
- ii. Motion seconded by: Rob Sirmans

Aye: 4

Nay: 0

e. Motion to approve the 2026-2027 Innovative Arts Academy Cell Phone Guidelines as consistent with the Parent & Student Handbook:

- i. Motion to approve: Jason Nagle
- ii. Motion seconded by: Rob Sirmans

Aye: 4

Nay: 0

F. ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATES (Lynn Fischer, CAO; Bob Spengler, SOS Group)

The need for student clothing aligned with the dress code was discussed. The Board requested administration purchase necessary items and seek approval next month Mr Rank requested an update on the Attendance initiative. Ms. Fischer provided an overview, highlighting the achievement of an approximately 50% regular attendance rate as defined by PDE for the 25-26 school year, a significant improvement over previous years.

G. PUBLIC COMMENT (NON-AGENDA ITEMS)

Members from the public are invited to comment on non-agenda items.

Each member from the public will have up to two minutes to address the Board of Directors. The board may choose to hear public comment without an immediate response. The two-minute time allotment per public member may be shortened if comments are made about items that are not listed on the agenda.

None

H. NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, September 16, 2026 at 6:00pm. (An Executive Session will be held at 5:30pm)

I. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn Board Meeting: Meeting adjourned at 7:06pm

- iii. Motion to approve: Rob Sirmans
- iv. Motion seconded by: Dan Schmidt

Aye: 4

Nay: 0