Minutes of Imboden Area Charter School

The regular February Meeting was held at 6:00 PM, Thursday, February 27, 2025 at Imboden Area Charter School, 800 Beech St. Black Rock, Arkansas 72415.

Board members present were Sara Juhl, Jade Sanders, Vice President Mike McLeod, and Secretary Scott Rorex. Director Matthew Wells, was also present.

Vice President Mike McLeod Presiding:

The meeting was called to order at 6:15pm.

Director Matthew Wells’ report:

* Mr. Wells began the report with an update on enrollment. Like mentioned last month, whenever IACS files FINS petitions with the county court system due to attendance issues, we tend to lose students. This tradition has continued. Once the FINS were filed, we lost two students almost immediately. Fortunately, we have been able to enroll an additional four children this month, thus putting the overall total at 47. Again, this is highly concerning.
* On a brighter note, Mr. Wells presented the Board with a copy of the email he received from the University of Arkansas’ Office for Educational Policy. The email announced that IACS had been recognized for high Overall Growth, and high ELA Growth on the 2024 ATLAS Summative testing. This is fantastic news. Between these awards, and the District’s removal from Act 1082 status, it definitely points to IACS doing great work with literacy.
* Next, Mr. Wells explained that Dustin with Arkansas Legislative Audit was now on site. Mr. Wells had met with the Auditor and signed all of the preliminary paperwork allowing the Auditor to begin his work. This process generally takes around a month to complete. The Board will be kept notified of all news coming from the audit.
* Unfortunately, last week February 19th, 20th, and 21st IACS had to close due to inclement weather. Since AMI is a thing of the past, all days must be made up. Mr. Wells and the staff had met last week discussing a number of options for making up these days. A letter was sent out to parents giving them the opportunity to vote from three different options. Votes will be tabulated on Friday afternoon and a letter explaining the results will be sent home Monday. Currently, the option including March 19th, April 18th, and Saturday April 26th is the leading vote getter. Mr. Wells asked the Board for permission to alter the school calendar to reflect the changes. Motion made by Jade Sanders and seconded by Mike McLeod to approve all calendar changes. Motion passed 4 to 0.
* Mr. Wells next presented the Board with next year’s contract with NEA Therapy Providers for speech, occupational therapy, and physical therapy. Mr. Wells explained that the contract was essentially a continuation of the current contract with no changes to services provided or changes in rates. Mr. Wells recommended IACS renew this contract for the 2025-26 school year. Motion made by Sara Juhl and seconded by Scott Rorex to renew this contract. Motion passed 4 to 0.
* Next, Mr. Wells presented the Board with a sample advertisement created by Ms. Shayna Green, for IACS. The plan is to create postcards and send them out to all households in Lawrence and Randolph counties. The approximate cost is less than $1000. This cost is significantly less than the postcards sent in the past from Master Printing in Jonesboro. Motion made by Jade Sanders and seconded by Mike McLeod to authorize the expenses. Motion passed 4 to 0. Mr. Sanders also suggested that with the lower cost of this project, it might be fruitful to send these out multiple times before the beginning of next school year. Duly noted.
* Lastly, Mr. Wells presented the Board with the most recent ASBA model policy updates. Policies reviewed included the following- 1.10, 3.1, 3.2, 3.5, 3.6, 3.7, 3.8, 3.9, 3.10, 3.13, 3.14, 3.18, 3.20, 3.24, 3.26, 3.28, 3.36, 3.38, 3.43, 3.44, 3.45, 3.46, 3.47, 3.48, 3.50, 3.56, 3.58, 4.27, 4.43, 4.45, 4.45.1, 4.50, 4.61, 4.64, 5.2, 5.10, 5.20, 6.1, 7.16, 8.4, 8.5, 8.6, 8.9, 8.11, 8.12, 8.20, 8.26, 8.31, 8.36, 8.37, 8.38, 8.39, 8.40, 8.44, 8.46, and 8.49. All policies were reviewed and discussed by the Board. Motion made by Scott Rorex and seconded by Sara Juhl to approve all aforementioned policy updates. Motion passed 4 to 0.

Consent Agenda:

Motion made by Mike McLeod and seconded by Scott Rorex to approve the consent agenda. Motion passed 4 to 0.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.

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Scott Rorex, Secretary Date