Minutes of Imboden Area Charter School

The regular January Meeting was held Thursday January 26th 2025, at 6:00 PM, at Imboden Area Charter School, 800 Beech St. Black Rock, Arkansas.

Board members present were Blake Clements, Mike McLeod, Scott Rorex, and George Morris. Director Matthew Wells was also present. School Board candidates Bill Cossey, Matthew Kain, Sarah Juhl, and Jade Sanders were also present.

Prior to the regular board meeting, the four candidates were presented to the Board for consideration. Mr. Wells stepped out of the room allowing each of the four candidates to provide the Board with their qualifications and explain their interests in becoming a Board member. Two positions were available as one position had been vacant for several months, and Vice President, Blake Clements, had previously expressed his interest in resigning his position due to other commitments. Each candidate was provided an open forum in front of the Board and given fifteen minutes to provide their information. After all interested parties had provided the Board with their qualifications, the standing Board members were provided with sheets with the names of all four potential members on them. Current members were instructed to choose the two candidates they felt were the best fit for the positions. Sarah Juhl and Jade Sanders received the most votes and were offered the positions. Both parties accepted the appointments to the Board. It was also noted during this ordeal, that President George Morris will be stepping down from his position on the Board effective July 1st, 2025.

The regular February meeting followed this election.

President George Morris Presiding:

Director Matthew Wells’ report:

* Current enrollment figures are at 46. Obviously, this is highly concerning and will severely restrict funding for next school year. Mr. Wells explained that considerations were already being made to restructure grades and teaching positions for next year. It is currently believed that the school will return to the four classroom model we had for many years at the old Imboden location. Staffing will be considered at a later date.
* Mr. Wells explained that the Auditor had been in contact and will be on campus starting February 27, 2025. Plans are being made to gather up all materials the Auditor will need, and a space is being set up for him to work in the cafeteria.
* Mr. Wells presented the Board with the annual Board member training spreadsheet. All Board members had a deficit that needs to be corrected asap. Board members were advised to scour the ASBA website for training opportunities, and Mr. Wells would reach out to APSRC to see what was available. Motion made by George Morris and seconded by Mike McLeod to accept the report on Board Member training as presented. Motion passed 5 to 0.
* Next, Mr. Wells presented the Board with information regarding fifth grade student Braxton Green. Braxton had been enrolled in mid-January with his mother explaining that there had been some difficulties at his previous school and that she wanted him in a smaller environment. Mr. Wells had agreed to accept him. Within four days, Braxton had displayed numerous concerning behaviors and had an incident in the gymnasium that could have severely injured someone. Mr. Wells, Counselor Paula Wagner, Ms. Ring, and Police Chief Bryan Archer met with Braxton and his mother explaining concerns. Mr. Wells explained to the parent that he was very uncomfortable having Braxton at school until some changes to his behavior were made. All parties discussed options and it was agreed that an extended inpatient stay was the best option. School work would be provided to the parent and Braxton would not return to school until after his court date on January 29th, 2025. Mr. Wells did explain to the Board that he felt the parent was not forthcoming with all of the issues Braxton had experienced at his previous school, and that with low enrollment, he felt enrolling Braxton was needed. Mr. Wells attended the court date on January 29th, where the judge explained that Braxton had had numerous violent outbursts at Walnut Ridge schools and that he felt the parent had moved him to our District to avoid some of the orders from both the court system, and Walnut Ridge School District. Judge Adam Weeks court ordered Braxton to return to the Walnut Ridge District and to complete a number of psychological screenings. Therefore, Braxton Green is no longer enrolled at IACS.
* Lastly, Mr. Wells provided the Board with information regarding student attendance. It is law that the District must report and file a FINS petition with the county court system for students missing ten or more days per semester. Mr. Wells presented the Board with 11 FINS petitions that would be filed with the county court system. Mr. Wells explained that while this is law, it usually impacts IACS very negatively. Once the parent is notified by the court system, they generally pull their children and move them to another district. Motion made by Sarah Juhl, and seconded by Mike McLeod to approve the FINS petitions as presented. Motion passed 5 to 0.

Consent Agenda:

Motion made by George Morris and seconded by Mike McLeod to approve the consent agenda. Motion passed 5 to 0.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00pm.

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Scott Rorex, Secretary Date