The Ivy School-Regular Board Meeting Minutes

5420 N Interstate Ave.

Monday January 24, 2022

Regular meeting 5:00-6:00pm

*Due to Coronavirus/Covid-19 closures no in-person meeting

Phone: +1 260-327-1959 (PIN: 810105730) Virtual: meet.google.com/dim-jzhx-ixs

Board members present: Eric McNair Scott, Tom Bull, Spencer Crandall, Jim Livermore, Margie Sollinger, Paul Clerc
Board members absent:
Admin: Nikki Jones, Amy Stuhr
Other: Julia Murray Sam Nagmay (PTA), Ana Hristic, Lexi Murray, TB

Meeting Facilitator: Tom Bull

5:02 Tom Bull Opens meeting

Approval of November 2021 minutes

- Eric McNair Scott moved to approve
- Jim Livermore seconded
- All present members in favor, motion carries

Treasurer report

- December anonymous donor of 10K. December donation 11K+
- State income was higher than budgeted
    - 5% increase in rate of budget
- Cash available at end of December is strong at 752K
- Projecting 12-month loss in December 2022 of 161,928K
    - Plenty of cash in bank to cover the projected loss
    - Budget based on current enrollment

PTA report (Sam)

- Big new fundraiser- wreath and plant
- Raised about $6000
- Lesson learned
    - More volunteers are needed next years.
    - Deliver earlier next year
    - Support understanding of this fundraiser as a neighborhood staple
- Middle of February- March- read and writing-thon
    - Biggest fundraiser of the year.
- PTA and masks- evaluating interest

Leadership Report

- COVID issues
    - Goal to keep the school open. Serving students to support safety.

- Managing and being successful but there are challenges
  - Staffing- short assistants and actively hiring/working interviews
  - Folks are getting sick with COVID and affecting staffing
  - Model is to have teacher and assistant in each classroom
  - Children's house always needs two staff members
  - Financial incentive available if assistant needs to be alone in a classroom due to illness
  - Subs are coming in
  - Hired long term subs (two) on the payroll who help plug in
- Feeding the staff
  - Do something special for the staff 2-3 times a month.
  - PTA to put the word out for supporting staff with food
- Afterschool staff helping with the school day coverage

- New automated system for application, lottery, etc.
  - Will make lives easier/efficient
  - Lottery opens Jan 28
- Weighted lottery- learning from last year?
  - Automated this year.
  - No changes to policy
- SIA grant- Student Success Act- how funding has been spent and continue to be spent
  - Money to reduce class size or instructional time, health, and safety,
  - Advance equity by reducing and eliminating disparities; an initiative to support equity
  - Developed strategies to guide SIA and action items
    - Academic intervention specialist
    - Equity Coach- spent money on this
    - Culturally Responsive Classroom Materials
    - Youth Advocate
    - Restorative Justice Training for Key Leadership
  - COVID- No SIA $ spent until Q3 2020-2021. Spent money on the following:
    - Equity Coach
    - Culturally Responsive Classroom Materials- materials that reflect all cultures, materials that help students who learn differently. Most Montessori materials count for this.
  - 2021-2022. $208,492 allotted. Money spent:
    - Youth advocate
    - Equity Coaches- all staff sessions on "Embracing Equity"
    - In conversations with teachers around culturally responsive classrooms
    - Hired academic intervention specialist

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        - Will look to sustain after grant
    - Youth advocate going to restorative justice training
    - Desire for Nikki and Amy to attend restorative justice training
- Goal is to offer again aftercare in February
- In parent volunteering as an option will be evaluated month by month depending on COVID numbers
- Board members need be champions, give feedback positive and corrective

Strategic planning with the board

- Board needs to have a strategic planning meeting before Nikki's team meets in March.
- We need a board meeting to review
- A dedicated strategic planning meeting with the board
- Looking at creating a by-law committee- Margie to be lead coordinator
- Board recruitment orientation- Paul will be lead coordinator.
- Board planning meeting
    - Will be open to public.
    - Propose two-hour review of strategy (evening virtual)
        - Need to have read through the plan before hand
        - Facilitator
        - Board members to have access to the strategic plan
    - Follow up three-hour morning meeting- prefer weekdays (get together in person)
        - Meeting to be held on weekday to support staff
    - Reserve a follow up two-hour in case that time is needed
    - First couple weeks in April board would be the time for report back to Nikki and staff

Public Comment

- Suggestion- be clear when the outside comment is needed.
- Suggested format- updates, then open comments, then board discussion.

Board of Education Training for Board members

- Portal OSBA
- Board members need access to the portals
    - Nikki to reach out to get access information
    - Ethics and board responsibility requirements to be determined for compliance
        - Tom Bull to follow up and coordinate with Margie

Meeting closed 6:08 pm

- Spencer Crandall moves to close the meeting

- Jim Livermore seconds
- All present members in favor, motion carries