

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](tel:+12603271959) (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.

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- o 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
- o 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
- o Afterschool staff helping with the school day coverage
- New automated system for application, lottery, etc.
 - o Will make lives easier/efficient
 - o Lottery opens Jan 28
- Weighted lottery- learning from last year?
 - o Automated this year.
 - o No changes to policy
- SIA grant- Student Success Act- how funding has been spent and continue to be spent
 - o Money to reduce class size or instructional time, health, and safety,
 - o Advance equity by reducing and eliminating disparities; an initiative to support equity
 - o 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
 - o 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.
 - o 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
 - o Will be open to public.
 - o 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
 - o Follow up three-hour morning meeting- prefer weekdays (get together in person)
 - Meeting to be held on weekday to support staff
 - o Reserve a follow up two-hour in case that time is needed
 - o 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
 - o Nikki to reach out to get access information
 - o 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

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