

The Ivy School-Regular Board Meeting Minutes

5420 N Interstate Ave.

Monday August 29, 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: Tom Bull, Margie Sollinger, Paul Clerc, Jim Livermore, Eric McNair Scott joined partway through

Board members absent:

Admin: Nikki Jones, Amy Stuhr

Other: Sam Nagmay (PTA)

Meeting Facilitator: Tom Bull

Chair's updates:

- Board will be back on regular schedule for next meeting, which is September 26 th .
- Spencer stepped off the Board, so Paul is interim Treasurer until the Board can vote.
- Tom hopes Board can move to a different chairmanship model that includes an incoming, current and past chair.
- Expect to be better about posting minutes in a timely manner.
- Reminded attendees that public comment is at the end.

Board unanimously approved last meeting's minutes.

Executive Director's report:

- Teachers and staff have returned and are in positive spirits. Expects this to be an impactful year.
- Radio frequency/EMF issue
 - Nikki reached out to PPS and spoke with a Telecomm support specialist. Ivy is paying
 - attention to developments in the science and recognizes that the majority of evidence
 - shows that low exposure doesn't cause adverse effects.
 - Nikki and Jim put together a statement that want to send out to the community to conclude this matter
 - Margie suggested adding language to statement addressing cell phone tower; Jim and Nikki to work on additional language.
- Personnel updates
 - Hired a chef, Teyah Reynolds, who will be revamping Ivy's food service.
 - This year will be facilitating hot lunches (no more sack lunches)
 - Next year, lunches will be prepared at the school, using local and organic ingredients, and served family-style
- Jenea Dennis, Campus Support, is going to be working closely with Amy Stuhr. Jenea will support pre-K through 3 rd grade, and Amy will focus on 4 th grade through middle school grades.
- Darryl Miles is the new Student Information Specialist coming to Ivy with a diverse professional background, including at PPS.

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- Emily Stebbins is the new lead teacher for the St. John's classroom, and her son is attending Ivy.
- Ivy has gone down from two to one Children's House class and teacher this year.
 - This caused Ivy administration to place 13 students back on the waitlist.
 - Admin notified families about 2.5 weeks ago.
 - Amy has been working through family questions and concerns.
 - Admin has been unable to find a replacement teacher for kindergarten for this year, so Ivy will not be able to re-open the second classroom.
 - Affected families are sad and upset, but also very understanding. Ivy will be offering them a spot in 1 st grade and will not need to go back thru the lottery next year.
 - Eric asked about any plans to communicate about this issue to a wider audience. Nikki explained early communications have been limited to the affected families, but that there would be a general communication to the whole school regarding Children's House.
- Ivy has hired two new middle school teachers – Mark Russell (math) and Elizabeth Autio (language arts). Neither are Montessori-certified. Board briefly discussed desire to get middle school teachers certified in Montessori education.
- There are 3 categories of open positions
 - Still need to hire 2 after-care teachers, to join the two already hired
 - Ivy's physical education and movement teacher resigned at the last-minute, and admin does not expect to be able to hire a replacement anytime soon.
 - Jim asked why Ivy is struggling to find a P.E. teacher. Nikki explained that P.E. teachers are in low supply, and that instructors must be certified by the state.
 - Nikki said Ivy will be looking to find creative ways to engage students in movement activities in the meantime.
 - Intervention specialist
- Financial audit
 - Audit is wrapping up, and the audit team will be attending the Board's October meeting.
- Facilities
 - Lots of work done over the summer, including installing a new HVAC system, new flooring and cabinetry in many of the classrooms
 - There is a newly built staff lounge and workroom
 - New playground equipment that covers different occupational therapy skills (e.g. spinning egg)
 - Nikki is hoping the new fence on the Interstate Ave side of the school will be installed before school starts. The new fence will be more secure and will require key card and doorbell access.
 - Eric asked about what's happening on the Northside of the building, and Nikki shared that there was a sewage back-up in the building during in-service.
 - The problem stems from tree roots growing into the pipes and causing ablockage. Plumber quoted it as \$22,000 to fix.

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- The walkway is being fixed and if it's not complete before the first day of school, Ivy will have people out front redirecting foot traffic, as needed.
- Equity Committee
 - Darryl is going to be the chair of the staff Equity Committee
 - Last Friday, Ivy held a global majority meet-and-greet with administration and black and brown families
 - Attendance was lackluster, but folks that came got a lot out of it, and Ivy plans on making this an annual event
- Ice cream Social
 - Scheduled for 1 st Friday of school at 5-6:30pm
 - Nikki would like board members to attend

Treasurer's Report

- Local income is below what expected due to after-care, Children's House, and fundraising coming in below expectations.
- Nevertheless, Ivy is still in good cash position, and has a surplus on hand for the coming year.
- Tom wants board to think about bonuses or incentives to help retain staff.
- Ivy received a grant to provide mid-year bonuses.

PTA Report

- Sam Nagmay is VP of the PTA this year, and will continue updating the Board
- Amanda Rhoades is the new President of the PTA and will be coming to Board meetings as well
- 1st fundraiser of the school year is the apple sale.
 - PTA wants to advertise to the broader community, like did with the plant sale.
 - Delivery will be the week of October 24 th
 - The website will hopefully be ready to launch and start accepting orders by September 16 th
- 1 st PTA meeting for this year will be September 13 th at 5:30pm

Bylaws Committee Update

- No updates

Operations Committee

- With Spencer leaving board and Paul taking on Treasurer role, Tom will be taking the lead for the time being
- Tom will be reaching out to board member applicants, and will continue recruiting new board members, which is a priority

No public comment.

Margie moved to adjourn meeting; Paul seconded.

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Next Board meeting is September 26th at 5pm.