



IVA Board Meeting
Wednesday, January 18, 2017

7:00-9:00 p.m.
3601 Linden Ave, Long Beach, CA 90807, Classroom 113

Minutes

Board Members Present: Karyn Pace, Rebecca Irwin, Rachel Weizmann. Steve Porter, Edward Castro, Dan Hertzler, Evan Hemmersbach, Eric Churchill, Darrin Early. **Absent:** Shelly Milsap, Gregg Whelan.

Staff: Jacquie Bryant, James McGrath, Summer Sanders, Danielle Montiel, Jana McAdams

Guests: Jason Baehr, Jonathan Hughes

Community: no community members present

1. **Call to order and overview:** Eric Churchill called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m. Items on the agenda include: consent agenda (SARC for both schools, check registers, credit card report for MS, December 7th minutes), MOU discussion, and board governance discussion.
2. **Closed Session:** no close session items
3. **Public comments on items considered in closed session:** no closed session items
4. **Move into Closed Session:** no closed session items
5. **Report of closed session items:** no closed session items
6. **Return to Open Session:** no closed session occurred
7. **Public Hearing:** nothing submitted ahead of the meeting
8. **Public Comments on Current Agenda Items:** no public comments
9. **Understanding our Mission:** Teacher Jana McAdams reported on her experience teaching at IVA.
10. **Reports:**
Chairperson's Report: Eric Churchill had nothing to report.

IVA Principal Report: Jacquie Bryant reported on refined procedures with grading as the semester comes to the end. 7th grade parent-student-teacher conferences are coming up. Ms. Bryant reported that the search is underway for hiring a history teacher since previous teacher resigned for personal reasons. Recruiting new students for next year is underway.

Academy Principal Report: Summer Sanders reported that there are 78 applicants and 11 inquiries for next year's admission which is far ahead of last year. Target number for admission next year is 90 students. James McGrath reported that it continues to be

challenging to recruit students.

11. **Consent Agenda:** (1) SARC for both schools; (2) December 7th, 2016 minutes; (3) Check registers, (4) credit card report for MS.

Motion: Eric Churchill moved that board approves the consent agenda items.

Second: Dan Hertzler

Discussion: Mr. McGrath pulled the HS SARC report and will present next board meeting.

All in favor: Unanimous

All opposed:

Abstentions:

Item #1609x1-1609x2CA

12. **Business items**

a. **Marketing:**

MS – nothing at this time.

HS – nothing at this time.

b. **Academic Oversight:**

MS – Board acknowledges that a search is underway for new history teacher and has given approval for Ms. Bryant to conduct search and offer contract.

MS – Dan Hertzler reported on the effort to add a second Spanish elective class.

No teacher was found. Informal communication has gone out to parents that there will be no further efforts to add a second Spanish elective class this year. Dan will send a formal email to the concerned parents.

MS – Discussion on LBUSD MOU approval. MS is in a difficult situation: either accept the District's MOU or reject the MOU and appeal for renewal to LACOE. Both options come with attendant risks. Board discussed that diversity is a high value at IVA independent of LBUSD's diversity requirement and IVA's need to communicate that valuing more clearly to those who believe otherwise. Board discussed the positive view IVA has of LBUSD leadership and schools and that IVA's existence does not signify a critique of LBUSD's middle schools (or high schools). Board discussed strongly worded advice from several respected and experienced charter school organizations and advisors that IVA should not enter into the District's MOU as written. These advisors recommended pushing back with the District for a revised MOU and/or rejecting the MOU and going to LACOE for appeal. IVA's legal counsel, Janelle Ruley, presented many of these concerns to LBUSD's charter legal counsel, Sukhi Ahluwalia. From that conversation as well as previous email communication with James Suarez, IVA received a clear indication that no further negotiation was possible. IVA was advised by multiple sources that: (1) the Charter School Act does not allow for a conditional MOU; (2) the abbreviated revocation procedures stated in the MOU violate the Charter School Act; (3) that according to the Charter School Act, failure to meet racial, ethnic, and/or other forms of diversity is not a substantive and sufficient basis for non-renewal or revocation; and (4) IVA can only be held accountable for implementing an agreed upon plan (means) for increasing diversity and cannot legally be held accountable to achieve targeted diversity numbers. IVA has some reason to think that LBUSD will continue to work with

IVA on these and other potentially problematic aspects of the MOU as written should the IVA Board approve the MOU.

Motion: Eric Churchill made a motion to approve LBUSD's MOU

Second: Rebecca Irwin

Discussion: Further discussion ensued regarding probabilities of charter being renewed at LACOE either now or after October 2020 should LBUSD move to revoke charter.

All in favor: Karyn Pace, Rebecca Irwin, Rachel Weizmann, Steve Porter, Dan Hertzler, Evan Hemmersbach, Eric Churchill, Darrin Early.

All opposed: Edward Castro

Abstentions:

Item #

c. **Finance:**

Nothing to report.

d. **Disciplinary:**

Nothing to report.

e. **Policy:**

Nothing to report.

f. **Board Governance:**

Edward Castro shared further information about board governance model. There is some reason to think that either MS or HS can be held liable for the other school's liabilities. Schools buffer with insurance policies. Schools tend not to develop two separate legal entities. The previously proposed oversight committees does not appear to be the best structure according to legal counsel at Young, Minney, and Corr. Current proposal is to continue to function as is in terms of board governance. Insurance policies of both schools were checked and appear to be sufficient and up to industry standards/best practice.

g. **Facilities:**

Nothing to report.

13. **New Items of Business:**

- Continuing efforts to bring more diverse representation to the board.

14. **Announcements:**

Next meeting is February 1, 2017.

15. **Call to adjourn and next meeting:**

Motion: Eric Churchill motioned to adjourn meeting at 8:56 p.m.

Second: Dan Hertzler

Discussion:

All in favor: Unanimous.

All opposed:

Abstentions:
Item #

Respectfully submitted:

Steven L. Porter, Vice-Chair

Approved: