

IVA Board Meeting

Wednesday, May 4th, 2016

7:00-9:30 p.m.

3601 Linden Ave, Long Beach, CA 90807, Classroom 113

Minutes

Board Members: Karyn Pace, Shelly Millsap, Rebecca Irwin, Janet Watt, Robin LaBarbera, Steve Porter, Gregg Whelan, Edward Castro, Jasmine Menard-Lenczewski, Summer Sanders

Staff: Jacquie Bryant, Danielle Montiel, Ian McCurry, Carrie Noble, Claudia Campos

Guests: Summer Sanders, James McGrath, Michelle Tubbs, Marisol Gold, Jason Baehr, Dan Hertzler

Parents: Judy Hunter, (other speakers noted below)

1. **Call to order and overview:** Eric Churchill called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. Items on the agenda include: Academy teacher appointments, Academy lease discussion; consent agenda items (April minutes, freedom of expression policy, LACOE-required documents), potential revisions of charter, appointments of two directors, amendment of bylaws, review and disclosure
2. **Announcement of closed session items:** student discipline matters, public employee appointment for Academy math, PE, and English teaching positions, lease negotiation for Academy.
3. **Public comments on items considered in closed session:** none
4. **Closed Session:**
 - a. *Student discipline matter:* Jacquie Bryant shared about the confidential student discipline matter. Edward Castro will review the insurance indemnity clause and will set up a call between him, Jacquie, and Young, Minney, & Corr team.
 - b. *Academy teacher appointments:* James McGrath discussed the Academy hiring process.
 - (1) James shared information about Ms. Early.
Motion: Eric Churchill moved to hire Ms. Earley for dual role as founding PE teacher (40%) and operations officer (60%) for a one-year at will contract with a salary not to exceed the budgeted amount.
Second: Gregg Whelan
Vote: Unanimous
Item #160524.
 - (2) James shared information about Mr. Alums.
Motion: Eric Churchill moved to hire Mr. Alums to be the founding English and writing teacher for a one-year at will contract with a salary not to exceed the budget amount
Second: Karyn Pace seconded,
Vote: Unanimous
Item #160525
 - (3) James shared information about Mr. Deeble.
Motion: Eric Churchill moved to hire Mr. Deeble to be the founding Math teacher (associate level) for a one-year at will contract with a salary not to exceed the budgeted amount

Second: Janet Watt

Vote: Unanimous

Item #160526

- c. *Academy lease:* Janet Watt recused herself. James McGrath shared information about the potential lease. We will discuss and vote on the matter in open session.
5. Return to open session
6. **Report of closed session items:** Robin LaBarbera reported that in closed session, the Board moved to hire Ms. Early as the PE Teacher, Mr. Alums as the English and Writing teacher, and Mr. Deeble as the Math teacher for the Academy.
7. **Public Hearing:** There was a request to address the board about an agenda item, but nothing was submitted for a public hearing.
8. **Consent Agenda:** April 6th minutes, Freedom of Expression Policy, IVAMS check register. Rebecca Irwin requested the Freedom of Expression policy be clarified to include the Middle School only.

Motion: Eric Churchill motioned that we approve the consent agenda items, inclusive of the April 6 minutes, Freedom of Expression Policy, and IAMS check register.

Second: Jasmine Menard-Lenczewski

Vote: Unanimous

Item #160527-160529ca

9. **Public Testimony on Current Agenda Items:**

Parent Marisol Gold requested that the agenda be posted in advance of the meeting for public notice; she also asked that the consent agenda be posted publically.

Parent Susan Horejsi expressed a concern about staff training regarding the recent student incident, questioning which policy determines how much class time is used to retain a child; what tools are students given to respond to active threat (e.g., drills, informed on what to do if an active shooter on premises); and she requested a notification process to parents in “real time” via text or similar method when there is an incident on campus.

Parent Sandra Grace Ballard reported that she requested her student be removed from the classroom where the student incident occurred. She expressed concerns about the quality and quality of staff response and communication with parents. She brought up the concept of “disruption free learning.” She also wanted to know what the policy is for how they express when they are not happy.

Parent Craig Calder expressed concerned there were multiple incidents with this student. Parents wanted to know how parents would receive feedback and communication. There was a discussion about “disruption free learning” and there was concerned about policies being followed consistently.
10. **Understanding our Mission:** Eric Churchill reminded us of why we do this item (Understanding our Mission) – it is to discuss what makes our school special. Ms. Campos shared her experiences in the classroom and how the Intellectual Virtues model has impacted her and her students.
11. **Reports:** Eric Churchill said that strategic planning is still moving forward. Jacquie Bryant mentioned the relatively few days left in the year and the upcoming events.
12. **Business items**
 - a. *Marketing:* MS - Rebecca Irwin sent an email with marketing data/social media statistics. HS - James McGrath shared potential mascot design items, for Tritans and Phoenix, and he updated the board about student recruitment. They have 109 applicants so far.
 - b. *Disciplinary Committee:* Jacquie Bryant described the committee and its purpose,

she shared the committee findings, and she shared a reflection of the findings about the student disciplinary matter. Steve Porter reported that they agreed to investigate communication tools. Karyn Pace shared her background in discipline issues in higher education, and her interpretation of the student issue, stating there is so much that cannot be discussed due to student privacy issues. She made a distinction between disruption and threat. Parent Sandra Grace Ballard questioned what is an acceptable amount of time for a disruption and her concerns about staff and their ability to respond, the timeliness of the response, and another parent was concerned about safety at school in general. There was a discussion about the concept of “restorative justice.” Parents questioned what they can do to express their unhappiness with any policy. Jacquie Bryant shared her reflection and offered to meet another time to hear any other parent concerns.

- c. **Academic Oversight:** Eric Churchill recommends a material revision of the Charter related to potential admissions preference for children of board members. Danielle Montiel explained the due diligence that went into this discussion. There was some discussion about how to best achieve the desired outcome of prioritizing board members’ children.

Motion: Jasmine Menard-Lenczewski moved to submit a request for revision package to the district.

Second: Rebecca Irwin

There was some discussion about potential consequences of changing the charter in such a way. The Board decided not to vote, and the item was removed.

- d. **Finance:** Jasmine Menard-Lenczewski updated the board briefly about finances.

- e. **Board Governance:**

(1) **By Laws:** Eric Churchill discussed a revision of the governance structure of both schools in a 6-point plan: (1) determine the appropriate governance structure to oversee both schools; (2) reduce the number of committees, re-focus some committees, and develop committee charters; (3) create structure through clear roles and responsibilities; (4) amend by-laws to prevent overlapping terms; (5) retain directors and recruit new members; (6) create advisory board for retaining potential departing directors and other experts. Eric would like to meet with individual board members whose terms are expiring in June.

Motion: Eric Churchill moved to amend the bylaws to strike the words “for the initial seats” and add “the length of the term will be less than three years and this will be at the discretion of the board of directors.”

Second: Janet Watt

Vote: Unanimous

Item #160530

(2) **Nominations:** Eric Churchill presented information about Dan Hertzler as a candidate for board membership.

Motion: Eric Churchill moved to appoint Dan Hertzler for a term of one year to Board of Directors of IVA.

Second: Steve Porter

Vote: Unanimous

Item # 160531

Eric reviewed information about Gregg Whelan.

Motion: Eric Churchill moved to appoint Gregg Whelan for a term of two years

to the Board of Directors of IVA.

Second: Jasmine Menard-Lenczewski

Vote: Unanimous

Item #160532

Eric Churchill reviewed information about Janet Watt.

Motion: Eric Churchill moved to appoint Janet Watt for a term of one year to the Board of Directors of IVA.

Second: Gregg Whelan

Vote: Unanimous

Item #160533

- f. **Fund Development:** Gregg Whelan asked for recommendations for event planners. Jacquie Bryant made a suggestion. Gregg is requesting others to help with the event as well.

Action Item: James will reach out to Chrystal Day.

- g. **Facilities (ad hoc):** James McGrath discussed a potential conflict of interested related to Janet Watt. The Board went into quasi-judicial proceedings. Eric Churchill swore in Janet Watt and James McGrath. Janet Watt testified as follows: that her sister-in-law was the recent buyer of the property located at 1621-1647 Long Beach Blvd; she learned of the purchase when her sister-in-law asked if she was attending a meeting with James McGrath regarding the property, and then told owner she could not comment; Janet immediately contacted James McGrath apprising of him of potential conflict of interest; both discussed that it would be best to not have any discussions with owner, Board members, or any other person connected with either the property or the Academy; and Janet has not discussed with owner, Board members, or any other person connected with either the property or the Academy after this phone call.

James McGrath's testimony confirmed Janet Watt's testimony of their phone call. James McGrath testified that he independently investigated the prospects of leasing 1621-1647 Long Beach Blvd., and that the results of his investigation are provided in the Board Information Memorandum provided to all Board members prior to the Board meeting. James McGrath reminded everybody that Janet Watt left the last board meeting when the topic of leasing facilities came up. Janet Watt left the room again to allow for board discussion.

Motion: Eric Churchill moved to find that Janet Watt was not materially involved in any lease decision making.

Second: Gregg Whelan

Vote: Unanimous

Item #160534

Motion: Eric Churchill moved that the board finds a disinterested person, James McGrath, investigated alternatives to the proposed transactions.

Second: Edward Castro

Vote: Unanimous

Item #160535

Motion: Eric Churchill moved that the board finds there not a more advantageous

transaction, the proposed transaction is in the Academy's best interest, the proposed transaction is for the Academy's own benefit, and that the proposed transaction is fair and reasonable.

Second: Gregg Whelan

Vote: Unanimous

Item #160536

Motion: Eric Churchill moved to authorize James McGrath to enter into negotiations to finalize the lease agreement for the property located at 1621-1647 Long Beach Blvd., Long Beach, CA consistent with the material terms presented in the Board Information Memorandum entitled "BIM Academy Lease Agreement" dated May 4, 2016.

Second: Gregg Whelan

Vote: Unanimous

Item #160537

13. **Public Comments on Agenda Items:** None

14. **New Items of Business for future approval:** None

15. **Announcements:** Next meeting is June 1, 2016.

16. **Call to adjourn and next meeting:** Eric Churchill adjourned the meeting at 9:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:



Robin LaBarbera, Board Secretary

Approved: June 1, 2016