

Interdistrict School for Arts and Communication

ISAAC

Meeting of the Board of Directors

November 2, 2011

Conference Room, ISAAC, 190 Governor Winthrop Blvd, New London, CT

Present: Suzanne Bartels (President), Ashley Hanson, Corrina Ferguson, Joseph Castagnaro, Stephen Castagnaro, Larry Roberts, Mike Barron, Riley Barnes, Ellen Calkins, Stephanie Brown, Lee Cole-Chu, Guy Hermann, Rich Muckle

Also Present: Gina Fafard (Executive Director), Diane Foster, Janna Salmon, Migdalia Salas, Jennifer Barnes

Board Members Absent: Melvin Alston, Luis Gonzalez, Carol Hervey, Darwin Reed, Lindsey Reed, Liz St.Louis

1. The President called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m.
2. Motion by Corrina Ferguson to approve the minutes of September 13, 2011 as printed [approved]
 - a. Discussion followed: Lee Cole-Chu stated that all reports distributed at the Board meetings as well as the attendance sign-in sheet should be attached to the approved minutes and retained for official use.
3. Motion by Steve Castagnaro to approve the minutes of the Special Board Meeting dated October 12, 2011 [approved]
4. Introduction of Guests & Public Comment: Student Representatives Riley Barnes and Joe Castagnaro were introduced.
 - a. Riley reported on activities of the ISAAC Student Government.
 - i. Student Ambassadors from the Crews attended a program about anti-bullying that took place at Connecticut College. The program was called "Someday We'll Laugh About This."
 - ii. The Mixed Bag Fundraiser is about to begin. ISAAC retains 50% of the profits from this and the other 50% goes to a charity that will be later determined.
 - iii. The Thanksgiving Dinner Drive has begun. This is a drive to benefit area families that cannot otherwise afford a Thanksgiving dinner. Each Crew will collect funds for the event. The winning Crew gets bragging rights as well as a push turkey to display. For each \$1 collected by ISAAC, Liberty Bank will contribute 25 cents. Riley passed an envelope for Board members to contribute. This event is being done in conjunction with the Rotary Club.

- b. Joe reported that a letter regarding the Thanksgiving Dinner Drive will be sent out to school families soon.
5. Successes and Appreciation
- a. Gina and Migdalia reported on the fundraising efforts for the Gala. Currently, the fundraising has surpassed any possible target.
 - b. Migdalia handed out the program for the event and stated that this event is about community relationships and partnerships.
 - c. Migdalia stated there is 80% participation from the Board of Directors for the Gala.
 - d. Mike Barron stated that there is 100% participation from the staff.
 - e. Migdalia thanks Gina for providing her the office space and support needed for this to happen.
 - f. Migdalia presented an architectural rendering of the proposed "CAPAS," the community, athletics, performance, adventure space.
 - g. Gina indicated that it is hoped that ISAAC will be able to renovate the third floor at the time the CAPAS space is being built.
 - h. Gina indicated that ground breaking for the renovation must begin in the summer of 2012 and that construction prints must now be drawn.
6. IPAT news
- a. Corrina distributed the IPAT minutes from September 12, 2011 meeting.
 - b. Corrina indicated that the October IPAT meeting focused on two main concerns, the cancelled camping trip and high school readiness.
 - c. Corrina distributed an article from the *Groton Patch*, "Hiking Club at Fitch Middle School 'Like a Family'."
 - d. Gina and Janna indicated their safety concerns regarding the camping trip.
 - e. Corrina indicated it was the lack of communication regarding the cancelled camping trip that was most frustrating to the parents.
 - f. Suzanne indicated that this is a great opportunity to form a new model for the camping trip, a task force should be created. She said that there is now time to examine the situation, to insure that future camping trips can be done safely and correctly.
 - g. Mike Barron indicated that he is very committed to the camping trip. He also suggested a possible new approach providing camping trips for each grade, 6, 7, and 8.
 - h. Regarding High School readiness, Suzanne indicated that the Board should not be debating the curriculum of the school. The protocol should be that the leader of IPAT meet with Gina and then if appropriate the topic will be presented to the Board.
 - i. Gina indicated that parents should direct curriculum concerns to her and she will address them.
 - j. Mike Barron indicated that he and other Endurance teachers have been working on addressing High School readiness for our eighth graders.
 - k. Corrina reported a lack of participation from parents regarding the IPAT meetings. Larry suggested having a guest speaker as a "draw" for parents at each meeting.
 - l. Mike Barron reported that he will talk to teachers about being guest speakers at each IPAT meeting.

7. Motion: moved by Rich Muckle to adjust the agenda as needed [approved]
8. Technology Committee report
 - a. Steve distributed copies of his ISAAC-IT diagram (attached). Steve recommends that the internal functions of ISAAC-IT be handled by a sub-committee. He recommends that the ISAAC-IT Infrastructure fall under the responsibilities of the Finance Committee. He recommends that the external functions of the ISAAC-IT (ex. ISAAC Web Site) be handled by the External Relations Committee.
 - b. Motion by Steve Castagnaro to disband the Technology Committee as part of the Board. [approved]. Steve will now be a consultant on the ISAAC-IT infrastructure, which will be part of the Finance Committee.
9. Approval of Consent Agenda: motion by Guy Hermann.
 - a. Executive Director's Report (see attached)
 - i. Gina reported on various activities and partnerships happening at ISAAC
 1. Facilities, External Affairs, Community Partnership, Community Outreach, Grant Administration, Technology, Curriculum and Instruction, Student Support Services , Professional Development, SDE news (State Department of Education).
 2. Gina distributed an article, "Charter School Funding," written by the Connecticut Charter School Network.
 3. Corrina suggested the Board write a letter to the Educational Cost Sharing Task Force.
 - b. President's report
 - i. Suzanne stressed the importance of Board attendance. Board members must think about their commitment. At times, due to lack of attendance, it has been difficult to conduct the business of the Board. Ashley will create an attendance grid to illustrate Board attendance
 - ii. Suzanne and Gina distributed copies of "Fortifying and Replicating Excellence at ISAAC" a draft program proposal for the ISAAC Self Study. Suzanne described Michael Sharpe's "BRIC"
 - iii. (Blue Ribbon Improvement Committee) team approach for this process, indicating that there will be a Board BRIC, Staff BRIC and a Parent BRIC.
 - iv. Motion by Rich Muckle that we have Michael Sharpe be our consultant for the self study [approved]
10. Facilities Committee and Finance Committee report.
 - a. Guy recommends that the Facilities Committee be rolled into the Finance Committee. (No Motion Made)
 - b. Guy distributed copies of the Budget report. We are currently looking at a budget surplus. We are able to reallocate what was the loan payment monies and put it toward the gym (CAPAS) and third floor renovation project. Also there is money to reallocate to the next year's budget.
 - c. Motion by Rich to accept the budget as presented by Guy [approved].
11. Membership Committee

- a. No report
- 12. Personnel Committee
 - a. No report
- 13. Policy Committee
 - a. No report
- 14. External Relations Committee
 - a. Migdalia reported earlier in the meeting regarding the GALA.
- 15. Motion by Corrina Ferguson to adjourn the meeting [approved]
- 16. Meeting adjourned at 7:40 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Ashley Hanson

Secretary of the Board of Directors, ISAAC School