



# INTERNATIONAL CHARTER SCHOOL OF TRENTON

105 Grand Street Trenton, NJ 08611 609/394-3111 [fax 394-3116]

## ICST Board of Trustees MINUTES for October 25, 2018

*Opening of meeting, 5:35 pm. Trustees participating were Rachel Binz (RB, presiding), Tom Ogren (TO) and Kim Sideo (KS). Also present were Melissa Benford (MB, chief school administrator, Peterr Lanzi (PL, Business Administrator), Rich Barre, Auditor, and David Bosted (DB). Call to Order. Flag Salute and Pledge of Allegiance. This meeting is held in accordance with NJ Public Law 231, also known as the Sunshine Law. Notice of this meeting and other regular meetings was published in The Times of Trenton and The Trentonian. Public notice for this meeting was also posted at ICST and published in the school newsletter. The purpose of the meeting is to conduct regular business of the public charter school.*

**1) Public Comments.** *None, no members of the public being present.*

**2) Minutes.** *The Minutes of the September 27, 2018 meeting were reviewed and approved, having previously been distributed via email. M/BK, s/KS, yes BK, KS, JB, TO, unanimous approval.*

**3) Governance, School Management. (A)** *MB reported that the Department of Education Review of the Charter School Program is in full gear. MB attended the first session and delivered a statement in support of charter schools. The NJEA was out in force to denounce charter schools. (B)* *An additional local session has been added at NJ School Board Association on West State Street, on Nov 5<sup>th</sup>. DB has obtained one of 50 tickets to participate. MB will circulate the NJDOE summary of the minutes of the first session. Trustees may wish to suggest specific statements for the Nov 5<sup>th</sup> event, or possibly be able to go online to submit their own statements in support of specific aspects of charter schools.*

**(B) A Policy update for Gangs, #5131.2** *was discussed. MB described the vigorous efforts at ICST to make all the students feel involved and “part of the team” so that they won’t feel the need to attach themselves to a gang. Gang activity is unfortunately prevalent in Trenton including South Trenton. Motion to adopt policy #5131.2 as amended, m/JB, s/KS, yes JB, KS, TO, BK. unanimously approved.*

**(C) School Safety and Security Plan** *was circulated by MB. It is required by NJDOE. After discussion, motion to approve, m/JB, s/KS, yes JB, KS, TO, BK.*

**(D) The School Nursing Services Plan** *was reviewed. It is also required by NJDOE. The Nursing Plan is very similar to previous years. Motion to approve, m/JB, s/TO, yes, JB, TO, KS, BK, unanimously approved.*

### **4) Financial Report and Grants.**

**(A)** *The Board Secretary Report & Treasurer of School Monies Report for September 2018 were reviewed. The reports agree and were derived independently. Motion to approve the September 2018 Board Secretary’s report and the Treasurer’s report, m/JB, s/KS, yes JB, KS, TO, BK, unanimous approval.*

**(B)** *The monthly payroll for June of \$89,210.88 was reviewed and approved, m/KS, s/JB, yes KS, JB, TO, BK, unanimously approved.*

**(C)** *Review of expenditures and resolutions to pay bills, after discussion of individual items, in the amount of \$49,941.83, m/TO, s/KS, yes, TO, KS, JB, BK, unanimous approval.*

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**(D) Transfer of funds, not applicable.**

**(E) Grants. The Title I Parent meeting** was held on October 10<sup>th</sup>. It was very successful, with high parent participation. Students are being identified for special services through baseline assessments.

**5) Report on Staffing, Personnel and Employees.** MB reported that the staff is working well during the new academic year, including the new hire who is an experienced CS teacher. Teachers are focused on student achievement.

**6) Executive session.** None held.

**7) Under the Gold Dome.** The NJ Charter School Association is concerned that NJDOE, under the new Governor, might make a move against charter schools. ICST is participating in pro-charter school activities.

**8) Report on School Days, Student Achievement, HIB, Attendance and Enrollment.** MB said that 2018-19 enrollment on the first day was 89 students, due to unpredictable last minute decisions by parents. The school atmosphere is good, very positive. There is a solid start to the academic year, with an excellent school climate and the teachers focused on student achievement. There were no HIB incidents to report.

**9) Facility.** MB reported on a clog in the plumbing downstairs this week due to a student flushing wipes down a toilet. MB said she will be alert to the possibility of a re-appearance of wipes, which must be thrown away (but are alas sometimes negligently flushed, causing plumbing emergencies).

**10) School operations.** MB reported on activities during the new academic year. HIB scoring is underway, with a scoring system that typically provides low scores even if a district has few or no HIB incidents. ICST has a score of 52 out of 78. NJSBA objected to the HIB scoring system as being misleading and unfair when it was created by NJDOT. There were no HIB incidents since the start of the school year. Two emergency drills were conducted in October. MB received additional School Safety & Security training. The Trustees reviewed the updated list of authorized Field Trip destinations. ICST has a vigorous field trip program. Motion to approve the field trip destination list as updated, m/JB, s/KS, yes JB, KS, TO, BK, unanimous approval.

**11) Old (unfinished) business.** None.

**12) Correspondence.** None discussed.

**13) Trustee business.** The last Thursday of each month at 5:30 is the schedule for most meetings during the 2018-19 academic year. Up-coming meeting dates will be 11/29, no meeting in December during the holidays, 1/31, 2/28, 3/28, 5/2, 5/30, 6/27, 7/25, 8/29.

**14) Adjourn** at 6:30 PM, m/JB, s/TO, unanimous approval.