



INTERNATIONAL CHARTER SCHOOL OF TRENTON

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

Opening of meeting, 5:33 pm. Trustees in attendance were Bob Kull (BK, presiding), Rachel Binz (RB), Kim Sdeo (KS) and Tom Ogren (TO). Also present were Melissa Benford (MB, chief school administrator, Peter Lanzi (PL, Business Administrator), visitor Mijkkia Collier-Schofield, 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.*

2) Minutes. *The Minutes for the February 7, 2018 were reviewed and unanimously approved. M/TO, s/BK, approved, yes, TO, BK. Abstaining were RB and KS who were not present at the 2/7/2018 meeting.*

3) Governance, School Management.

(A) *MB and PL provided an update on the ICST school budget. The State of NJ has not yet provided the financial numbers which will be the basis for providing a school budget. Possibly the State aid numbers will be released to charter schools next week. (B) Building Lease. After discussion, there was a consensus to negotiate using the numbers provided by HRC however keeping the current rent stable for the remainder of the FY, then jumping to the year-by-year numbers offered by the HRC starting with 2018-19 of \$7695 per month. KS suggested some possible revisions to eliminate obsolete or confusing language. HRC has agreed to leave any reference to snow removal out of the lease. (C) MB presented a slight modification of the 2017-18 school calendar. ICST will be open on 5/25, the Friday before Memorial Day, which had previously been reserved for use if snow days were taken. Motion to approve, m/KS, s/RB, yes KS, RB, TO, BK, unanimously approved.*

4) Financial Report and Grants.

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

(B) *The monthly payrolls for February of \$85,810.63 and March \$87,377.19 were reviewed and approved. Motion to approve, m/RB, s/KS, yes RB, KS, TO, BK, unanimously approved.*

(C) *Review of expenditures and resolutions to pay bills, after discussion of individual items, in the amount of \$48,479.66. M/RB, s/TO, yes, RB, TO, KS, BK, unanimous approval. (D) Transfer of funds, none made.*

(5) Grants. *MB reported that attendance at the second parent meeting pursuant to the Federal grant was weak despite a major push to gain parent participation. MB will try again, re-advertise the meeting, and to use the topic of "how to understand your child's report card."*

Minutes ICST BOT, March 14, 2018 (continued)

6) Report on Staffing, Personnel and Employee. MB reported that ICST has no staffing issues at this time. MB has secured a satisfactory long-term substitute teacher. Mr. Nixon resigned his custodial position and Mr. Richard Collom was hired. He has experience as a school custodian. The Emergent Hire forms were filed with the County Superintendent. Motion to approve the hiring effective March 5, m/KS, s/RB, yes, KS, RB, TO, BK, unanimously approved. Also, MB reported that the US Census Department has been satisfied.

7) Executive session. Motion to enter executive session at 6:29 to discuss a harassment incident and an attorney's letter concerning individual special education services, m/KS, s/RB, yes KS, RB, TO, BK, unanimously approved. The board returned to regular session at 6:47.

8) Under the Gold Dome: Governor Phil Murphy's FY 2019 Budget Address on 03/13/2018 includes some encouraging elements. He is seeking a \$283M increase in State Aid to education. Charter schools might benefit from that. He is seeking "full funding" for schools but maybe not until 2021-2022, and wants the legislature to revisit the school funding formula. There was no indication of specific hostility to CSs. He is known to oppose expansion in the number of CSs and their size, but hasn't called for closing successful CSs such as ICST. He wants to reduce the amount of PARRC testing. He wants to "hold harmless" the funding for CSs, therefore fewer new CSs, which could make it easier to maintain funding for individual existing CSs. The new State Assembly Chairman of the Education Committee, Pam Lampitt, is from Cherry Hill in Camden County. Her views are thought to be consistent with the Governor's views.

9) Report on School Days, Student Achievement, Attendance and Enrollment. (A) MB reported that the HIB incident that was investigated during February will be further reviewed by the Board at the next meeting. Also, MB reported that ICST enrollment is currently full at 90 students. The lottery for kindergarten was held on Friday 2/9. There were many more applications than there are openings. (B) Two former students are coming back for a Talent Share with our students for the March Celebration party.

10) Facility. Lease agreement. This was handled under item 3(b).

11) School operations A fire drill and an emergency drill were conducted in February. MB said that the drills are valuable to work out details such as use of walkie-talkies, and to maintain readiness. However the schedule of two per month is unfortunately disruptive and cuts into educational time, even if the drills are efficient and successful.

12) Old (unfinished) business. None discussed.

13) Correspondence. No additional items discussed.

14) Trustee business. MB reminded Trustees to complete their ethics forms electronically if they have not already done so. The forms are due by the end of April. The next ICST BOT meeting will be held at 5:30 PM on April 11, 2018. The schedule of meeting dates for (mostly) first Wednesdays is 4/11, 5/2, 6/6, 7/11, and 8/1, all at 5:30 PM.

15) Adjourn at 6:47 PM, m/RB, s/KS, unanimous approval.