



Governing Board

Meeting Minutes for November 14, 2024 at 7p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Call to order at 7:07p.m. by Adam Caskey.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Adam Caskey, Michelle Clements, Allie Jett, Walter Bell, Neal Christian, Danny Brewington, Gregg Stevens, Jennifer Bradley, Eddie Lovett, and Lawrence Stephens

I. Administrative Functions

Motion to approve the agenda.

Michelle Clements – 1st; Walter Bell – 2nd. Unanimous Approval.

Motion to approve meeting minutes from Board Meeting from October 10, 2024.

Allie Jett – 1st; Walter Bell – 2nd. Unanimous Approval.

II. Public Comment

None.

III. Academic Related Reports

Head of School Report

- Mr. Christian began the Head of School Report with a current enrollment count of 521 students in the following grades: K-54, 1st-59 2nd-64, 3rd-64, 4th-77, 5th-61, 6th-54, 7th-50, 8th-38. Next, Mr. Christian highlighted Mr. Olin Pirkle as BIA’s Teacher of the Year and noted enrollment efforts to target nearby families. Mr. Christian highlighted events recently taking place at BIA, including the Parent Council Fall Festival, Veterans Day, and the Book Parade.

Mr. Christian then presented academic achievement data illustrating that BIA scholars continue to grow more during the year than students at nearby schools, showing BIA’s strong commitment to academic excellence for all students. BIA is increasingly recognized as a Math leader, with the SCSC recently noting BIA’s achievements in Math. Mr. Christian and the administrative team are exploring additional ways to provide students with more opportunities, including a summer high-school enrichment program and coordinated after-school programs to further instruction.

IV. Finance Committee Report

- Monthly Financial Report as of October 31, 2024
Mr. Stevens then presented BIA’s current Financial Statements as of September. The report emphasized the school’s robust fiscal health, maintaining a strong cash reserve and consistently improving financial standards. As of September 30, the school had \$4.4 million in cash, with both revenue and expenditures tracking with typical school spending patterns. BIA is running under budget as a result of staffing vacancies and discretionary spending remains minimal.

Operations Committee Report

- Irrigation Leak Update
- Fencing Update

Board Member Bell provided the report from the Operations Committee. Mr. Bell noted that Ms. McKoy identified the location of the irrigation leak and it has been repaired. Mr. Bell then detailed that though the Director of Operations position remains vacant, the Operations Manager effectively oversees current responsibilities. The team is exploring transportation options, including partnerships with third-party providers and potential bus acquisitions, to improve accessibility for students. Plans for after-school and summer programs aim to maximize facility use, enhance academic support, and generate additional revenue. The school continues to monitor enrollment trends, particularly in middle school, and leverages marketing campaigns to attract and retain students. The operations team also focused on improving inventory and addressing federal compliance requirements to support instructional goals.

Mr. Danny Chamblee from Southern Mechanical joined the meeting via telephone to provide an update on potential repairs for three of the school's energy recovery units. Mr. Chamblee explained that changes to EPA regulations are increasing refrigerant costs and installing an inverter system will minimize current costs and provide the opportunity for BIA to add additional stories if needed.

V. **Consultant's Report (Ed Innovation Partners)**

Mr. Brewington presented the Consultant's Report, noting additional support to gather contracts, records, and inventory as the first step in a comprehensive review of key systems that support instruction and operations. The goal is first to modernize BIA's inventory system to both ensure compliance and better leverage instructional and financial resources.

VI. **Old Business**

- Marketing Firm Update

Mr. Christian and Ms. Bradley highlighted that work was starting with the school's new marketing firm which is eager to begin work.

- Charter One Update

Mr. Christian provided the Charter One update noting that BIA families with outstanding payments are becoming current. Mr. Christian emphasized that all scholars are provided meals regardless of their ability to pay.

VII. **New Business**

- Southern Mechanical ERU Estimate

Mr. Chamblee from Southern Mechanical provided a thorough explanation of BIA's options to replace three energy recovery units as part of its HVAC system. Mr. Chamblee discussed the advantages of an inverter system. The Board discussed requesting additional assistance from a former Board Member with expertise in complex building systems to increase vendor accountability.

- Teacher iPad Quote

Mr. Christian provided the correction that no action or consideration of the Teacher iPad Quote was necessary and the Board tabled the item.

VIII. **Executive Session**

Motion to move into Executive Session for the purposes of discussing personnel and real estate.
Walter Bell – 1st; Michelle Clements – 2nd. Unanimous Approval.

Motion to move out of Executive Session.
Allie Jett – 1st; Michelle Clements – 2nd. Unanimous approval.

Motion to approve slate of new hires presented in Executive Session.
Allie Jett – 1st; Michelle Clements – 2nd. Unanimous Approval.

- Mrs. Margo Osborne – EIP ELA

Next Regular Meeting Date: December 12 @ 7p.m.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn at 8:34p.m.

Kelly Mandy – 1st; Michelle Clements – 2nd. Unanimous Approval.