

ICS Board of Directors Open Session
Meeting Minutes
August 1, 2018

Present: Diane Amour, Sommer Drake, Justin Thundercloud, Carmen Flores, Carrie McGhee Gleba

Also present: Tom Oechler, Bonnie Thielecke, Siobhan Marks, Dr. Mark Powless, Jason Dropik, Debbie Martindale.

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m.

Justin Thundercloud smudged the group.

Diane Amour led the group in prayer.

Tom Oechler read the Mission Statement.

It was moved by Sommer Drake and seconded by Justin Thundercloud to approve the July 11, 2018 Open Session minutes. The motion carried. (5-0-0)

It was moved by Carrie McGhee Gleba and seconded by Sommer Drake to approve the July 11, 2018 Executive Session minutes as revised. The motion carried. (5-0-0)

Jason Dropik joined the meeting at 4:04 p.m.

Chief Financial Officer Report – Tom Oechler reported:

- Approximately 13 maple trees need to be replaced, however they are under warranty. Staff is trying to determine the problem.
- The Boardwalk is complete and the handrails have been installed.
- The cooling issues are resolved, it is estimated that the repair project costs are about \$130,000, which is separate from the environmental work done which will be approximately \$35,000. Not all will be incurred this fiscal year. The engineering firm report should be received soon.
- An all staff email will be sent soon regarding projects that will be done soon and how it will affect access to various parts of the building.
- IT is migrating emails from Outlook to Google mail and formatting the new computers purchased. Due to the IT workload it was decided that we will not be selling old computers to the staff.
- The Auditors are working with the Finance Department.

Mr. Oechler reviewed the financial overview with the group.

Head of School—Jason Dropik reported:

- K4 is still not full, we have 6 openings, however overall we have the largest enrollment in the history of the school.
- 120 students signed up for summer program, ultimately had 103 consistent students attended. Because of this we had one more bus and more staff than needed. It is felt that the other community programs impacted our attendance. Next year flyers will be given to the other native organizations and it will be made known that the program will accept community members who are not students of ICS.
- Family Camp begins this weekend.

The Board asked how the summer program and family camp are being evaluated for their effectiveness. They also requested a breakdown of costs for each program. They also requested an itinerary of each program and requested that activities listed as “culture” be identified.

Our Ways Director – Dr. Mark Powless reported:

- Jon Greendeer is still interested in coming to work with ICS.
- Our Ways is creating a proposal regarding culture orientation.
- Napose has been contacted regarding the Spirit Pole and activities on the first day of school.
- A conversation has been held with Mr. Jones about the garden and greenhouse and mindful planning of the space.
- Mental Health First Aid Training was very good.
- Meetings are being planned with FRC regarding programming.
- Culture teacher and apprentices continue to meet and develop programming.
- Our Ways is working with Carol Amour to create an employee culture handbook.

Ms. Carol Amour asked Dr. Powless if ICS would be interested in being a sponsor to a play that is being written surrounding the Ancestral Women Exhibit that was on display at the school this spring. The Board requested that Dr. Powless gather more information about the program from Ms. C. Amour while she is at the school.

Communications & Marketing Director – Siobhan Marks reported:

- Work continues with Indian Summer regarding the ICS sponsorship and location of our booth.
- The Student Newspaper Club kicked off during the summer program and received a warm response from the students participating at this time. It is expected the program will grow when the school year begins and more students learn of the club.

Ms. Marks suggested the School consider doing a culture camp in the future and will be discussing this further with Dr. Powless and Mr. Dropik.

Academic Committee – Sommer Drake reported that the committee reviewed the Student Handbook and it was handed to Ms. Marks to try to soften the language without changing any meanings.

Community Relations – Diane Amour reported:

- Sky Hopinka is moving to Boston and will not be able to work on our film so the committee is searching for a new editor.
- There is a need for a great many volunteers to work the ICS area during Indian Summer. Volunteers will receive paid admission and food tickets.
- The Native American Tourism of Wisconsin group has contacted the school to partner with them. The Memorandum of Understanding that was received will be sent to legal counsel for review. They have also requested to have their September 6th meeting at the school.
- Forest County is still coming on August 15, 9 a.m. to 2:15 p.m.
- The Staff Welcome Back event is on August 25, for ICS staff and families.
- Franklin Public Library requested our children to do a mural for them.
- Mr. Dropik will be inviting Franklin students for Indigenous Peoples Day.

Ms. Amour reported that Dr. Margaret Noodin has submitted a proposal to the Board regarding the creation of a book surrounding the history of the Indian Community School. The book would be written in honor of our 50th Anniversary. Ms. Amour stated that Michigan University Press is interested in partnering with ICS and that there would be no cost to the School.

The Community Relations Committee is recommending approval to move forward with this project.

It was moved by Sommer Drake and seconded by Carrie McGhee Gleba to accept the proposal submitted by Dr. Margaret Noodin of the Electa Quinney Institute to begin the process of creating the ICS 50th Anniversary History book. The motion carried. (5-0-0)

Ms. Marks will contact Dr. Noodin notifying her of the Board's approval of the project.

A break was taken at 5:27 p.m.

The meeting reconvened to Open Session at 5:39 p.m.

Finance Committee – Mr. Oechler reported that the auditors met with the Finance Committee regarding the upcoming audit. Marquette Associates also attended the meeting and spoke to the portfolio.

Building & Grounds Committee – Mr. Oechler reviewed the Committee meeting minutes with the group. Discussion was held regarding when the broken piping by the garden will be taken care of. It was also noted that a solution needs to be designed to stop water from coming in under the 3rd floor doors during driving westerly rains.

Policy Committee – Carmen Flores reported that all the policies are now in BoardDocs and the Direct Reports have access to edit them. The Direct Reports will review the policies and bring and revisions or new policies to the appropriate committee for review. The Board requested that they be given access to the policies for review only.

Culture Committee – Diane Amour reported that the Committee reviewed and revised the Committee Statement of Purpose and is recommending the Board approval.

The committee received a request to change the title "Core Values" to "Sacred Gifts". All documents will need to be changed with this wording. Going forward the School Calendar will also use the terms "Our Ways Strand" instead of "Theme".

It was moved by Sommer Drake and seconded by Carrie McGhee Gleba to approve the revisions made to the Culture Committee Statement of Purpose as presented. The motion carried. (5-0-0)

It was moved by Sommer Drake and seconded by Carrie McGhee Gleba to approve the changing of the wording of "Core Values" to "Sacred Gifts". The motion carried. (5-0-0)

Ms. Amour further reported that the Committee will be requesting reports from Mr. Dropik and Dr. Powless to assist them in their review, evaluation and support of culture in the school.

New Business: Landscaping and weed control – Mr. Oechler noted that there has been concern raised by the staff about how weed control is done, and it has been questioned if we should actually be doing anything. The concern is, do we want the school grounds green or natural? Should we be using common herbicides and pesticides, or organic compounds. Mr. Dropik stated that he is creating a plan to increase the use of the athletic fields and has slated to submit his proposal to the Board next year. Mr. Thundercloud stated that if we would like our kids to be able to play at the high school level, then our athletic program needs to be changed. Ms. Amour stated that if we are not using the fields for playing, then we should repurpose them for cultural items. Ms. Flores directed the Academic Committee to review transportation and costs for afterschool activities and develop a proposal to be submitted to the Board.

Mentoring – Mr. Dropik reviewed the recommendation to revise the existing mentoring program with the group. The Board will review the proposal and discuss it at the next meeting.

Annual Meeting – Ms. Martindale reminded everyone to submit their reports and materials to her.

The meeting adjourned at 6:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Diane Amour, Secretary

8/15/18

Date Approved