

**Independence Charter School
Board of Trustees Special Meeting Minutes
October 1, 2014 6p.m.**

Board Members Present: Rashidah Andrews (via phone), Mike Barsanti, Barbara Dundon (via phone), John Eagen, Susanna Greenberg, Krista Pfeiffer (via phone), Gloria Shabazz (via phone), Sheila Simmons, Elsie Stern (via phone), Claiborne Taylor (via phone), Gregory Turlington (via phone), Dana Twyman (via phone)

Board Member(s) Absent: George Awad, Rebecca Clothey, Brigitte Daniel, Tre Johnson

Others Present: Thomas Scheid, CEO; Megan Steelman, Compliance Manager

Call to Order

Gloria called the meeting to order at 6:07 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

John moved to accept the September minutes; Mike seconded. Susanna and Elsie abstained. The meeting minutes were approved.

Board Member Resignation

Gloria announced that Richardson Dilworth has resigned his seat on the board due to other obligations. Gloria told him he would be welcomed back in the future when he has more time.

Public Comment

There were no public comments.

Charter Renewal Application Resolution

Gloria asked Tom to give a summary of the renewal process and deadlines. Tom reported the staff members (the Principals, Odamis, Ramzy, Jenny, Megan) contributed to the renewal document and several board members gave some suggestions. Tom stated that they ask for five years of data; he said that the percentage of students with zero in-school suspensions appears to be incorrect and will be checked before submitting the final document to the charter school office. Tom said that for much of the data we're reporting the number/percentages directly from state reports from prior years. In some cases, ICS had submitted requests to the state for corrections to be made (i.e., in regard to highly qualified teacher status); however, in some cases it seems the state did not make those corrections. Tom clarified that there is a difference between out-of-school and in-school suspensions. Mike asked what Tom feels are the most pertinent issues with the renewal process. Tom said they are: certification of teachers, financial health, academic health and overall management of the school. Tom said we have made significant strides in teacher certification and the number of teachers who meet the "highly qualified" definition. Dana asked for clarification on the AYP information. She said there seems to be an error on page 9; 2011-2012 needs to be added to the years ICS did meet AYP. Mike asked about the financial stewardship section; he said it looks like the answer is only partially answered. Tom said he will add the additional ones uses of the fund balance that were approved by the board. Mike asked if we should address the deficit; it was agreed that does not need to be included. Tom asked everyone to look at the last section of the document, which is the goals section. Tom stated that he put in specific language about expansion (#7p. 31). Tom noted the section about expansion was added

because the deadline for requests for increased enrollment is now November 15th. We don't want to request increased seats now, unless we're going to fill them now. Gloria asked if we should decide now how many students from the charter school that is closing. Tom said he'll change this to a request for an additional sixty (60) seats. Elsie asked about the use of "moderate evidence" and "some evidence." Dana asked if these are terms that are used in PVAAS. Tom said they are PVAAS terms. Dana asked about the enrollment numbers; she said that if we take students from the charter that is being closed. Tom said we can take about ten (10) of those students this year. Tom would like to get the cap raised to cover all of the students we have. Elsie said there seems to be a vagueness about the essence of global citizenship. Tom said he feels that will be addressed in the middle states mid-term review in the spring. Gloria asked if there is a section talking about how we did on meeting the goals in the 2010 renewal; Tom reviewed that section on page 12. He noted that he gave evidence for each of those prior goals. Susanna said we probably want to format the tables so full table appear on the same page. Tom thanked everyone for their comments. Rashidah asked about adding a pre-K. Tom said that is totally separate, because the lowest grade included in our charter is kindergarten. He noted he mentioned that in terms of our receiving a 21st Century grant. Elsie said she was very proud reading this document; Tom said it was amazing to look at the last renewal and see all the work that has been done. Gloria asked if there are any questions about the cover letter.

Gloria asked Tom to read the charter renewal application resolution. John moved the motion; Sheila seconded. Barbara had to leave the meeting before the vote was taken. The motion passed unanimously.

Tom stated that he will be hand-delivering the renewal materials to the School District tomorrow morning.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:48p.m.

**Independence Charter School
October 1, 2014
Resolutions**

ADOPTED

Charter Renewal Application

Be it resolved that that the Independence Charter School Board of Trustees approves the charter school renewal document as presented.

Resolutions DEFEATED: None

Resolutions TABLED - None