

Inspire School of Arts & Sciences Board of Directors

**Regular Session – 7:00 pm
Monday, September 14, 2020**

This meeting will be by teleconference pursuant to Executive Orders N-25-20 and N-29-20.

The Board of Directors (“Board”) and employees of Inspire School of Arts and Sciences shall meet via the Zoom meeting platform. Members of the public who wish to access this Board meeting may do so at:

<https://csuchico.zoom.us/j/5392949189?pwd=SHRaSUp3dUQyTkRGYWhjYUJJTURPZz09>

Meeting ID: 539 294 9189
Password: 866465

Members of the public who wish to comment during the Board meeting may use the “raise hand” tool on the Zoom platform. Individual comments will be limited to three (3) minutes. If an interpreter is needed for comments, they will be translated to English and the time limit shall be six (6) minutes. The Board of Directors may limit the total time for public comment to a reasonable time. The Board reserves the right to mute or remove a member of the public if comments or actions disrupts the Board meeting.

Access to Board Materials: A copy of the written materials which will be submitted to the School Board may be reviewed by any interested persons on Inspire School of Arts and Sciences Website along with this agenda following the posting of the agenda at least 72 hours in advance of this meeting.

Disability Access: Requests for disability-related modifications or accommodations to participate in this public meeting should be made 24 hours prior to the meeting by calling (530) 230-7758. All efforts will be made for reasonable accommodations. The agenda and public documents can be modified upon request as required by Section 202 of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

The mission of the Inspire School of Arts and Sciences is to provide high levels of learning and support within a personalized environment that allows students to explore their interests and develop their talents.

Board Meeting Norms

1. We collectively own problems and we collectively solve them.
2. We respect time guidelines and strive to watch our own “air time.”
3. We commit to hearing all voices and we value the ideas, experiences, and perspectives of all stakeholders.
4. We assume good intentions and we are polite, even when we disagree.
5. We come prepared for discussion—we do our homework.
6. We value feedback that is supported with evidence.
7. We speak up when we do not feel good about a decision before that decision is made.

MINUTES

Open Session:

1. **Call to Order** 7:07 pm
2. **Roll call of members: Kate McCarthy, Eric Nilsson, Ron Pope, David Zeichick, and Catherine Sullivan.**

3. **Public Comment**

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS:

This time is for members of the public to offer comments on agenda items or non-agenda items. For agenda items, members of the public will be allowed up to three (3) minutes per presentation not to exceed twenty (20) minutes in total and for non-agenda items: no individual presentation shall be for more than three (3) minutes and the total time for this purpose shall not exceed fifteen (15) minutes. Ordinarily, Board members will not respond to presentations and no action can be taken. However, the Board may give direction to staff following a presentation.

4. **Consent Calendar**

7:05 pm

- 4.1 Consider Approval of August 10 and August 20, 2020 minutes
- 4.2 Consider Approval of Monetary/In-Kind Donations
- 4.3 Consider Approval of Pending Expenditures over \$5,000
- 4.4 Consider Approval of Consulting Agreements
- 4.5 Consider Approval of Contracts
- 4.6 Consider Approval of Field Trips
- 4.7 Consider Approval of Fundraising Requests
- 4.8 Consider Approval of Monthly Check Register
- 4.9 Consider Approval of Personnel Changes
- 4.10 Consider Approval of PE Exemption

David Zeichick mentioned in the recent Special Session Minutes his name is incorrect after the first time he is mentioned. He asked to pull them and correct it.

Eric Nilsson motions to approve consent calendar with his name corrections. Ron Pope seconds it. Ayes: Kate McCarthy, Ron Pope, Eric Nilsson, Catherine Sullivan and David Zeichick. It passes unanimously.

5. **Student Report – No student available**

7:10 pm

6. **Teacher Report – Danielle Reynolds, Jim White, Jarrah Myles Reporting**

7:15 pm

Jim White shared that he asked for feedback from teachers. Linnea Smith has been doing a project with community members. Jim White said the biggest benefit of the 1X8 plan for him has been an increase in prep time. He feels more connected with kids. Recording is going great as well and a virtual tour to Butte College! Very successful class so far!

Danielle Reynolds has had a unique experience this year. She has been sitting in on classes. She is also co-facilitating AFL (now IFL) with Sherri Kaufman. She said this first couple of weeks is like building a plane while it is flying.

The teachers are grateful Advisory is only once a week. Students want more, but teachers can't accommodate that request yet. Beth Reid is grateful to be able to focus on one group of kids and Advisory.

The teachers are trying to do Professional Development once a week. This includes sharing tutorials on Pear Deck, Jamboard, WER, online quizzes, etc. Jamboard is a google tool app – great way to monitor students in breakout rooms. Major issues have been: cameras off, mics, internet issues, monitoring breakout rooms. Example: Quality of interaction w/students is far less with distance learning. Our personal expectations for engagement has changed. Chromebooks seem to be an issue with the internet.

They love that they were able to share information together, since they aren't able to all be together on campus. They love the clear communication from Admin, and the especially love the information provided by Matt McLaughlin regarding mental health and how to support each other. The teachers want to hear more about how to support students.

Kate McCarthy is concerned about the Chromebook issue. Ken Hardy said it is sometimes, user error, and sometimes kids can't do audio and video together, so they have to do one or the other. We

support kids by switching out to a laptop and cable, or exchanging the Chromebook. We are also providing Wi-Fi hot spots. Ron Pope asked if the Chromebooks needed updates. Ken Hardy said he thinks they have done them.

Eric Nilsson asked how teachers feel about how the learning is going for the kids. Jim White feels positive his kids have learned a lot in his class. For engagement he asks to see their face to let them into his zooms.

Danielle Reynolds says after speaking to her Advisory kids, she feels that they are learning. The kids that show up and engage are doing the work. The only concern from a student that she heard about was about learning Spanish in 4 wks. She is excited about teaching Math 2, something she has never done.

Kate McCarthy said she thought of our approach to distance learning as a rich experiment to see if it works. Are there creative ways we can think of how to access this?

Jarrah Myles said she has been co-teaching this period. The work her kids were submitting was exceptional! Every student made sure they improved their work to get a better grade. She feels students are excited and they have good quality work.

Becky Brown said student surveys will be given to see what students thought about the past four weeks. She reviewed grades and they were similar to last semester. Distance learning is not a full curriculum. She has observed a lot in the classes she has sat in. Time is being used wisely.

7. Principal Report - Becky Brown Reporting 7:20 pm

Last week with the Bear Fire in Oroville, we started calling families. So far no students have lost homes. Students have been able to engage at friend's homes if displaced. Parents are supportive.

Ken Hardy has been coordinating tech needs for our students transitioning to Period 2. There is a tight schedule to do so. Most families have expressed gratitude for the 1 x8 schedule.

Having Matt McLaughlin's expertise in mental health has been a great resource for staff and students. Ron Pope said we have to be aware of teacher's mental health as well.

8. Development Director Report – Celeste Cramer Reporting 7:25 pm

Over \$34,000 has been raised so far. We have 54 monthly donors, 9 alumni giving back, and there is a Pledge Drive coming up on Oct. 16th! So far we have 15 parent volunteers and 7 interns. She is working on the details of our donor wall and naming buildings. Monthly volunteer meetings coming up. Has held 3 volunteer origination meetings.

Jennifer Spangler is going to be working with her on getting 100% commitment from staff and board members. This is important to show unity and commitment for our new school.

The staff is working on the Pledge Drive and you won't want anyone to miss it! It will be the best of best for the last 10 years. She has hired a grant writer and they will apply for 26 grants. She has a meeting scheduled with Les Claypool's wife to get his support for our school this weekend. She is also meeting with a radio station in San Francisco.

She found out from Doris Luther that her position can be funded by prop 51 funds. She will be in all new construction meetings. She hired a new construction manager. We are looking for an architect and hoping by next meeting we will have one. David mentioned we will need to vote on removing and hiring of the architects. We can put this on the Agenda for the next meeting.

Dan LaBar said that Celeste has brought great skills and abilities to our school. He shared information he learned that was asked at a previous Board Meeting. There have been studies on how other schools are doing with donations. The numbers are going down and getting fewer large donations. Tipping is going up. Mid & large level gifts are decreasing. So finding relationships is the type of foot work we need.

Danielle Reynolds said we are receiving new students and that is something we need to promote when looking for donations. She will promote information about donating to our school on social media.

Eric Nilsson said it is not the dollar amount of the donation, but actually the number of donors that helps when looking for more donors. We can say that 100% of the Board and staff have given to the campaign. We need 100% commitment for donating. Even the smallest amount helps. Maybe we should get 5 friends to give.

9. Discussion/Action Items

9.1 Discussion/Action Consider Approval of 2020 Learning Continuity and Attendance Plan

7:25 pm

Becky Brown said this is the alternative to the LCAP. Catherine Sullivan thought it was very thorough. She is wondering if there is a standard protocol for every class. Will they exist as a document to be kept? Becky Brown said WER is something collected weekly, all using the same form. This is required by the state, and each dept. will decide how to record their own info. And put into Aeries. Eric Nilsson said it was a very thorough report. He appreciates the process.

Catherine Sullivan motions to approve of 2020 Learning Continuity and Attendance Plan. Ron Pope seconds it. Ayes: Kate McCarthy, Ron Pope, Eric Nilsson, Catherine Sullivan and David Zeichick. It passes unanimously.

9.2 Discussion/Action Consider Approval of Extension of MOU with Inspire Foundation

7:45 pm

Becky Brown said the big concern was Celeste Cramer's salary. It is a big relief that her salary will be covered. She is asking that agreement be extended to 3/20/2022. Dan LaBar said we attempted to close the books for the services. Doris Luther agreed the foundation has paid. Kate McCarthy asked what we would be doing with the prop 51 funds if not used for her salary. These funds are being used the same way, and it will be even better. This is part of the matching grant. Doris Luther said we are trying to keep the project as modest as possible. The state has already approved us for a loan. It is usually not more than 3%.

Eric Nilsson motions to approve the extension of MOU. Kate McCarthy seconds it Ayes: Kate McCarthy, Ron Pope, Eric Nilsson, Catherine Sullivan and David Zeichick.

9.3 Discussion/Action Consider Approval of 19/20 Unaudited Actuals

8:00 pm

Doris Luther shared we closed the fiscal year. We had a large surplus. We changed to our own Special Education SELPA. We saved \$387K to our bottom line! We have saved a lot through distance learning. We are spending a little more on Special Education this year, but it is worth it. She said Matt McLaughlin, who is our school psychologist in house is a huge asset.

Kate McCarthy motions to approve the unaudited actuals. Ron Pope seconds it. Ayes: Kate McCarthy, Ron Pope, Eric Nilsson, Catherine Sullivan and David Zeichick. It passes unanimously.

9.4 Discussion Discuss Uniform Complaint Procedure Policy

8:15 pm

Eric Nilsson gave background that we never really had a complaint procedure policy. This is the external version. Becky Brown researched a template and the committee edited it to fit our needs.

Kate McCarthy is thankful to have this in place.

9.5 Discussion Discuss Internal Complaint/Conflict Resolution Policy

8:30 pm

Eric Nilsson said we had a situation where we did not have an internal complaint form. The lawyers helped us create a template. Catherine Sullivan helped edit it specifically to Inspire. He said if the Board would like to look over the document we can make it an action item next month.

Kate McCarthy questioned who the complainant is. It is the person making the complaint. She said in the second paragraph it is confusing. It needs to go back to lawyers for clarification. Eric Nilsson will get it clarified and bring it back to the Board.

9.6 Discussion Discuss Process for Recruitment of New Board Members 8:45 pm

Eric Nilsson said we currently have six board members. We have a couple of Board Members leaving soon. Catherine Sullivan said she is leaving soon. We need 7 members.

9.7 Discussion Discuss and Present Board Candidates 9:00 pm

David Zeichick said this is the presentation of potential candidates. Then the next meeting will be Q&A and then the Board will vote. Ron Pope said we used to ask that we have representatives from the community, educators, parents, higher education staff, etc. Becky Brown said yes we checked all the boxes.

Catherine Sullivan presented Pat Macias. She has a background as an educator in Arts, Music, and grass roots for the Capital Campaign. She said she always thought Inspire is somewhere she would want to teach, but has taught for 36 years. She is interested to get back into teaching and creativity.

Becky Brown introduced Brian Boyer. He is a former teacher and Assistant Principal from Chico High. She thought he would be a great addition to the Board with his experience in education. Eric Nilsson said he is a wonderful educator and a longtime friend. Brian says he was thrilled Becky Brown nominated him. After teaching for 30 years he wants to get back into it.

David Zeichick introduced Joni Dunlap. He works with her husband. She is a professor at Colorado and has been a great resource to us. She said she is inspired by all of us. She was happy to share her experience with Distance Learning. She has enjoyed it. It has been amazing to see it unfold with her own kids. It has gone beyond what she imagined. Becky Brown said she was so grateful for her insight in Distance Learning.

10. Announcements

Jarrah Myles said Pledge Drive is coming up! It will be the best of the best over the last 10 years. It tells the story of Inspire. There will be a live MC and lots of participation. We are also doing productions of Phantom of the Opera and Alice in Wonderland for upcoming events.

Dan LaBar shared the New Charter Political Action Committee and Chico Unified School Board is endorsing Linda Hovey. They will support her campaign. It is important to be informed as you vote.

11. Adjournment 9:00 p.m.
