

Inspire School of Arts & Sciences Board of Directors

Regular Session – 6:30 pm

Monday, November 8, 2021

Room IC-6

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.

Minutes

1. Call to Order **6:30 pm**

- 2. Roll call of members:** Brian Boyer, Pat Macias, Kam Bull, Chris Fossen, Joni Dunlap, and Eric Nilsson. Staff: Jarrah Myles, Daniel Marcy, Becky Brown, Ken Hardy, Sandii Buckman, Evita North (from 8:13 to 8:35) and Doris Luther. Public: none, Students: none

3. Public Comment

Board President Nilsson asked if there were any public comments. There were none.

Eric Nilsson recommended moving up discussion item 9.1 to approve Chris before consent calendar. No opposition.

4. Consent Calendar **6:35 pm**

Brian Boyer motioned to approve the consent calendar, Kam Bull seconded it, and the motion passed unanimously 6-0.

5. Student Report **6:40 pm**

Written student report read by Becky Brown. Spirit week was successful, and DOP was incredible. Also there was a fall dance on November 5 and a spaghetti feed on November 29. This Friday is the very first *School Culture Day*, where we are providing rotations with local leaders and afternoon enrichments. We are hoping this is something we can continue in the future.

6. Teacher Report **6:42 pm**

Presented by Daniel Marcy. Engineering team advanced to quarter finals this last weekend. Physics students are playing broom ball and learning about law of inertia. Biotech is learning about tap water in the community. 2-D Animation is working on a metamorphosis project. Ceramics students are making monsters, and Art 2 is working on a project to sell at auction. The Great APUSH debate is next Monday and Wednesday. Health and Study Skills classes were doing rotations with Chico state student partners. Spanish 2 is starting to learn around family traditions, and Spanish 3 is learning about legends. Vocal students is working on All Together Now. Teachers were excited about Dancing with the Stars during the dance showcase.

7. Development Director Report **6:48 pm**

Currently the Development Director is out on FMLA leave through December 1, so Inspire staff and Foundation board members are working together to keep rolling ahead with fundraising.

Doris Luther and Jen Josephson have full control of the Foundation accounting now. The past accounting appears accurate, though there's definitely room for improvement. In fact, it's needed.

Inspire will have an audit finding due to the lack of supporting documentation.

8. Principal/Superintendent Report

6:58 Pm

Becky Brown shared that the dance showcase and music concert felt like a return to what we do best at Inspire - opportunity for the students to express who they are. The energy of the audience was huge, and so clear that it felt like a coming together of a community.

While it was wonderful to have a fall dance and the students had fun, the Cohasset location was too difficult for parents to drop off and pick up students.

This Friday is our first School Culture and Community Day, and we brought it in to rebuild the feeling of community that we lost last year. Excited about bringing in the guest speakers, and kudos to Brittney Hawkins for all her planning.

Since we're back to in person, we need to work on our calendar because there's too much going on. Staff are going to talk about getting back to original calendar process, and figure out how to get events marketed and promoted in a timely manner.

Students in Spanish had a wonderful Dia de los Muertos unit and field trip to the Valene L Smith Museum of Anthropology, a beautiful unit on celebrating life and death and honoring loved ones.

9. Discussion/Action Items

- 9.1 Discussion/Action Consider Approval of New Inspire Board Member 6:35 pm

This agenda item was moved before approval of the Consent Calendar. **Joni Dunlap motioned to approve Chris Fossen as a new Inspire board member. Brian Boyer seconded. The motion passed unanimously 5-0.**

- 9.2 Discussion/Action Consider Approval of New Inspire Foundation Board Member 7:03 pm

Carla Bee, long time Chico resident and Soroptomist member, has been approved at the Foundation level, and now needs the Inspire Board's approval.

Joni Dunlap motioned to approve Carla Bee as a new Inspire Foundation Board Member. Kam Bull seconded. The motion was approved unanimously 6-0.

- 9.3 Discussion/Action Consider Approval of Development Assistant Position 7:06 pm

Based upon the workload and urgent need to get donations for the Fremont St project, staff recommended hiring an additional person to work with the Development Director position. This would be an additional expense for Inspire budget.

Kam Bull motioned to approve hiring a Development Assistant at Classified Salary range 16. Pat Macias seconded. The motion passed unanimously 6-0.

- 9.4 Discussion/Action Consider Approval of Donor Relations Coordinator Contract 7:25 pm

Staff recommended approval of an Inspire contract for Victoria Padilla, the Donor Relations Coordinator. This would be bringing the expense over to Inspire budget. Since this work is done by an independent contractor, there is no job description, just outcomes – to secure 200 donors and at least \$80,000.

Brian Boyer motioned to approve the Donations Relations Coordinator contract, and Joni

Dunlap seconded. The motion passed unanimously 6-0.

- 9.5 Discussion Public Hearing of 2021 Educator Effectiveness Block Grant Plan 7:45 pm

The plan for the 2021 Education Effectiveness grant of \$99k requires a public hearing prior to approval. Staff recommends using the funds to build capacity to align instruction with WASC and LCAP goals, support new teachers through induction, fund department teams to develop yearly action plans to close learning gaps and provide opportunities for core academic teachers and CTE elective teachers to develop integrative lesson plans, and to fund the Equity Coordinator extra duty.

- 9.6 Discussion/Action Consider Renewal of MOU with Chico Unified School District 7:52 pm

The only significant change is that CUSD has removed cost sharing services for ISS programs, which we don't necessarily need anyway. There was also an amendment to the charter renewal. Our charter was coming up for renewal in summer 2022, but because of Covid, the state automatically extended all charter renewals an additional two years.

Joni Dunlap motioned to approve the renewal of the CUSD MOU. Kam Bull seconded, and the motion passed unanimously 6-0.

- 9.7 Discussion Discuss Update on Fremont Street Project 7:56 pm

Construction documents are being reviewed by DSA and CDE. We continue working with the architects on plan details. The state's grant funding amount hasn't changed. The project's estimated cost is still around \$26 million, with the soft costs seeming too high. Becky and Doris met with Nick Trover, an outside consultant offering construction management services to charters. At this point there's no need since CUSD is providing us with this support. Next step is developing a 5-year projections to determine Inspire's borrowing capacity.

- 9.8 Discussion/Action Consider Approval of Inspire Board Equity Resolution 8:03 pm

Evita North shared that staff gave feedback on the board's Equity Resolution at the retreat in August and students were able to give feedback in September. Currently Inspire's Equity Team is a group of teachers and the Principal that meet every two weeks. The Equity Club is totally student lead.

A formalized Equity Plan is what we need to determine next steps and for accountability. The Equity Team is tasked with creating the plan. The Equity Plan should be explicit and action oriented, but done carefully and thoughtfully. Perhaps we start with self-reflection. We want to articulate the correct thing for our community and don't want to impose trainings that will look performative if we don't have an action plan for following through. Perhaps the board's role moving forward is having an equity discussion during board meetings.

Joni Dunlap motioned to approve the board's Equity Resolution. Brian Boyer and Pat Macias seconded. The motion passed unanimously 6-0.

10. Announcements

Becky shared the confusion of which emails to use for sending board docs and notices to board

members - their Inspire emails or their personal emails. Better to use the Inspire emails whenever possible, and board members can set their preferences to forward them to a different email.

Pat Macias announced that MONCA is having a veteran's celebration this Friday.

11. Adjournment 8:38

