

Inspire School of Arts & Sciences Board of Directors

Regular Session – 6:30 pm

Monday, December 8, 2025

Room IC-6

The Board of Directors (“Board”) and employees of Inspire School of Arts and Sciences shall meet on the Inspire campus at 335 W. Sacramento Ave., Chico, CA, 95926. Members of the public who wish to access this Board meeting may do so in Room IC-6.

Members of the public who wish to comment during the Board meeting may do so during the “Public Comment” section of the meeting. 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 disrupt 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 the [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.

AGENDA

1. Call to Order

6:30 pm

2. Roll call of members

Juni Banerjee-Stevens, Chris Fosen, Pat Macias, Ron Pope, Bob White, Erin Whitney. Staff: Becky Brown, Beth Reid, Jen Josephson, Hannah Metzger, Jarrah Myles, Ken Hardy. Student: Jack Sheridan, Ysabel Parmeter, Jackson Smith, Phoebe Parks, Zee Zuercher, Ellie Carhart. Parent: Jess Sheridan.

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.

Board Chair Pat Macias asked if there was any public comment, there was none.

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

- 4.1 Consider Approval of November 17, 2025 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

Ron Pope moved to approve the Consent Calendar. It was seconded by Bob White. Ayes: Chris Fosen, Pat Macias, Ron Pope and Bob White. The vote passed unanimously 5-0.

Juni Banerjee-Stevens arrived at 6:35.

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

Phoebe Parks (Senior class treasurer) shared various ASB and Performing Arts upcoming activities:

- Upcoming Disney senior trip meeting
- Winter rally is this Friday Dec 12 honoring holiday traditions around the world.
- MONCA art show this Friday
- Spirit Week this week
- Finals week next week, ASB provides hot chocolate before school for free for students
- After winter break is the Annual Performing Arts Gala, followed by a dance called Gala after Gala with Gatsby theme, planned by students in an Enrichment class
- Big Fish is the musical coming this spring (Phoebe is asst. Costume and lighting designer).
First week of March
- Club calendar is being finalized for students
- Mondays ASB shares a slideshow called First Flight with communication about school events, and Mrs. Brown shares videos with snippets about students on “Wednesdays on the Wing”
- Potty Press also shares events and activities posted in the bathroom
- Class meetings are happening monthly during Advisory
- Senior quotes and ads being collected end of January
- Many participated in Chico Community Ballet’s A Very Chico Nutcracker last weekend

6. Teacher Report **6:45 pm**

Hannah Metzger - Science teacher. Students shared about SLEWS field trip (Students and Landowner Education and Watershed Stewardship program).

- Slideshow shares information and photos of a field trip to a cattle ranch in Bangor.
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- Brings science to life to understand climate change, biodiversity, and habitat restoration by reintroducing native plants. They hope to revisit so they can see the outcome of their work in the spring.
- Trip was the first of its kind for Inspire students, a success, and something they hope to expand. Debbie Travers made the connection for Becky, and Teachers Astengo, Peek, and Metzger volunteered to recruit a group.

7. **Foundation Report** **6:50 pm**

There was no one available to report.

Jen Josephson reports the Neverland Ball raised about \$27,000.

8. **Principal/Superintendent Report** **6:55 pm**

Becky Brown shared that December is a little quieter for staff, except finals for students and Nutcracker and ASB rally for Jarrah.

9. **Discussion/Action Items**

9.1 Discussion Discuss Inspire’s New Campus Construction Progress **7:00 pm**

Ken shared a presentation, including a photo with the roofed dance building (Building G), the forms for the modular building ready for pour, and the parking lot area taking shape. More footing is being bored this month, as well as the first lift on the parking lot, and curbs. The maker space in the back of IC21 was dismantled and packed up by Murdock for storage. In January the new modular buildings will arrive from Stockton and be placed by cranes. Everyone is pleased that so far they are on budget and on time.

9.2 Discussion/Action Consider Approval of 2024-25 Audited Actuals **7:15 pm**

Jen Josephson shared that the Audit report came back with zero findings.

Bob White made a motion to approve the 2024-25 Audited Actuals. Juni Banerjee Stevens seconded. Ayes: Juni Banerjee-Stevens, Chris Fosen, Pat Macias, Ron Pope, Bob White, and Erin Whitney. The vote passed unanimously 6-0.

9.3 Discussion/Action Consider Approval of 2025-26 First Interim Budget **7:30 pm**

Jen Josephson shared the first interim budget and needing to decrease the expected ADA to 273. Major revenues are CTE monies. We also got a block grant...Increases to benefit costs, yearly salary increases, STRS and PERS, and supplies due to inflation. Deficit of \$252,000. This doesn’t include costs like Murdock that we are using for the move, since these are not an annual expense. We knew we would take a hit to our reserves for the move.

Bob White made a motion to approve the 2025-26 First Interim Budget. Ron Pope seconded. Ayes: Juni Banerjee-Stevens, Chris Fosen, Pat Macias, Ron Pope, Bob White, and Erin Whitney. The vote passed unanimously 6-0.

9.4 Discussion/Action Supplemental Pay **7:45 pm**

Jen Josephson shared that this is something we've brought most years in November or December to the board to give to staff as a holiday bonus. This year with a deficit, Jen and Becky don't believe they can provide it this year. Staff was notified and the sentiment seems to be that while it's unfortunate, it's understandable. For next year, it's hard to say if we will be able to provide supplemental pay since there are unknown costs like PG&E and other expenses on a new campus. The board regrets this and hopes it can be brought back.

Bob White made a motion to approve the move to not give supplemental pay this year. Chris Fosen seconded. Ayes: Juni Banerjee-Stevens, Chris Fosen, Pat Macias, Ron Pope, Bob White, and Erin Whitney. The vote passed unanimously 6-0.

9.5 Discussion Discuss Reimagined Bell Schedule and Structure for 2026-27 **8:00 pm**

Becky Brown shared a design she has been working on that keeps with our missions while creating more flexible learning, including online options, for students. Inspired by the 1x8 schedule we used during the pandemic, this schedule allows for students to focus on fewer classes at a time to minimize stress and provide opportunities for deeper learning, hands-on and cross curricular projects, and more staff collaboration.

Chris Fosen asks how this would benefit teachers. Becky sees Friday afternoon as a larger chunk of time to collaborate and a smaller roster of students and number of classes at a time to carry, even though it's concentrated.

Jarrah is excited to re-envision the schedule, with its opportunities and potential problems. She's curious how our new facilities would fit with this model. She is wondering how prep time would happen. But she likes the concentrated classes and thinks students do also. She says change is good and exciting.

This would allow for attendance options: a full-time in-person option, a full time independent study option (via Edgenuity, which we would have a cap on), and hybrid option.

Juni Banerjee-Stevens thinks this is favorable for mental health - deep work and more connection. She wonders what the data is on hybrid learning.

Bob White thinks this is brilliant. He's evaluated courses who have changed to longer chunks of time and students appreciated it. Students have attention shifting and social load that wears them down, and teachers as well. Some teachers may need professional development to learn to teach longer chunks. This extended time goes well with project-based and experiential learning. Certain subjects, like math, may need the year-long course.

Ron Pope reminds us that our schedule at the inception of Inspire was considered radical.

Becky says now is the time to change since this is the reality of our students and parents.

Juni Banerjee-Stevens suggests collecting data on the online versus in-person learning, perhaps on executive functioning.

One question is if this is too much change at once, or the perfect time while we already have the location change.

Becky has discussed with many staff and students, and will bring this to the whole staff before returning to the board. She and Jen are working hard to figure out how to make this work with funding and all the details.

10. Announcements

Come to Inspire at MONCA craft fair Friday 6-8.

11. Adjournment

8:27.

