

Board of Governors Special Meeting
Irvington Community Schools, Inc.

Tuesday June 30, 2020

Via Go-To-Meeting

Pursuant to article II, section 6 of the bylaws of Irvington Community School, Inc. (the “corporation”), a special meeting of the corporation’s Board of Governors was held on June 30, 2020, in a Go-To-Meeting virtual session.

Suzanne Koehler presided over the meeting and, finding that proper notice of the meeting had been given under IC 5-14-1.5 et seq., called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

The following board members were present and available to vote on matters presented to the board: Suzanne Koehler, Chair; Carrie Kriech, Vice-Chair; Christina Arrom, Secretary; Richard Berger, Treasurer; Keith Huehls, Member; Amy Johnson, Member; Jwan Davidson, Member; Jamie Scott, Member; and Jodi Lannan, Member.

ICS leadership in attendance included:

Tim Mulherin, Chief Executive Officer; Harold Allen, Chief Financial Officer; Chris Ashmore, Director of IT; Deanna Dehner, ICES Principal; Loryn Venekamp, ICMS Principal; and Jana Goebel IPA Principal.

Public attendance included:

Tammi Hughes, ICS Community Engagement Director; and a number of other public members attended virtually.

I. I. Opening Items

a. Record Attendance and Guests

Attendance was confirmed by roll call due to virtual session.

b. Call the Special Meeting to Order

With nine board members in attendance, KOEHLER observed there was a quorum present to transact business and called the special meeting to order.

c. Agenda and Meeting Process

KOEHLER directed any questions from the public be placed in the chat box and will be addressed after the Board of Governors discussion as time allows.

II. II. Academic Model Overview

a. Presentation of latest updates (Tim Mulherin)

KOEHLER provided a summary from when eLearning began in March 2020 to present day. MULHERIN provided an overview of the plans for eLearning, All in Model, and Hybrid Model. He reviewed some pros and cons for all models. MULHERIN stressed the importance of safety of all students and staff.

The Hybrid Model consists of two days a week in person (either Monday and Thursday in person or Tuesday and Friday in person), Wednesday will be an eLearning for all buildings to be disinfected, and two days of eLearning when not attending in person. It will consist of about 12-13 students per classroom when meeting in person. Some pros of the Hybrid Model are that of the 444 parent survey responses, there was a strong indication they wanted the Hybrid Model. Some cons of the Hybrid Model are that it is a new system which may take time to learn and get used to, there might be some stress on day care needs for some parents, and it may be more demanding for staff.

The All-In Model would be a full return to school Monday through Friday during usual hours. Some pros of the All-In Model include a sense of normalcy; students with social-emotional learning challenges should have better outcomes; having children in school as usual presents fewer daycare challenges for parents; and, it mirrors plans of other districts in Marion County. Some cons of the All-In Model are that, from a disease transmission standpoint, it is less safer for students and staff; it will be a harder transition to eLearning if the need to switch academic models occurs later in the school year; it would not allow for the federal recommendation of 6-foot social distancing spacing, although it would follow the Marion County Public Health Department recommendation of 3-6 feet social distancing spacing; and per the parent survey, 30% would be unsure of sending their children back to school.

The eLearning Model as a full option is not recommended since we do not have the tools nor the staff/teacher capacity. Additionally, per the parent survey, parents with younger children remain very concerned about having them attend in person under such uncertain circumstances.

The ICS Leadership Team strongly recommends the Hybrid Model. GOEBEL, VENEKAMP and DEHNER each explained what their bell schedule would look like to start the school year. GOEBEL shared that IPA's schedule would be from 8:30 a.m. – 4:45 p.m. and clubs would participate for the last hour. VENEKAMP shared that ICMS's schedule would 7:30 a.m. arrival in the gym; no more than 125 students daily in the building; 80-minute block period to allow for sanitizing protocols; locker visits limited to twice a day, with four class periods a day of English, Arts, Math, Social Studies plus one culture; coordinated bathroom breaks; lunch in advisory with no movement from classrooms; clubs in the middle of the day hosted by staff with 6-8 students for 30 minutes; dismissal at 3:30 p.m.; and teacher office hours from 3:30 -4:15 p.m. If there are sports, the gym would be open from 4:30 pm – 6 pm. KOEHLER asked how many students in the classroom and VENEKAMP replied about 13 and staff is coordinating with families between buildings for schedules. DEHNER shared that the ICES Hybrid Model would include two Physical Education and culture classes on a rotating basis, extending time between classes to disinfect; core Math and Reading will be twice a day; Social Studies will be eLearning only; daily recess will occur but with a limited group size; dismissal will be at 3:15 p.m.; and office hours will be after 4:15 p.m. MULHERIN concluded that there may be enrollment risks either way we go, as no model is perfect, but safety is

the most critical consideration, and therefore the leadership team's recommendation is the Hybrid Model for the start of the 2020-2021 school year.

b. Call for resolution

First to motion to consider the Hybrid Model was made by KRIECH and second to motion was made by BERGER.

c. Discussion

HUEHLS asked if anyone checked with parents on the Hybrid Model having it two consecutive days versus how it is proposed. MULHERIN responded that internally they discussed which days would be best for in person, and the leadership team did not want a student to be out of the classroom for 5 consecutive days, as this lack of in-person continuity is hard on children and not optimal for learning. KOEHLER asked what about wearing masks. MULHERIN responded that there is a safety plan being developed by the leadership team and it has not been determined yet. SCOTT asked how the technology recollection went and are we prepared to do it again. DEHNER responded that it went much better than expected, and that approximately five Chromebooks per building were not yet returned. Additionally, DEHNER added that ICES now has enough computers to be one-one with the students. HUEHLS asked if there are going to be temperatures taken. MULHERIN responded that it will be addressed in the safety plan that is being developed, but that it will be hectic to take temperature of all students daily which may also cause a delay in getting students into the building, and therefore will likely leave that responsibility with the parents. KOEHLER asked if there were any further questions, and concluded there were none, then opened it up for public questions submitted in writing and read aloud by KRIECH. Question from the public included would families with students in different schools attend different days. DEHNER responded we're trying to make that happen and we are also considering cousins. VENKAMP added that we are also considering accommodating families that carpool together. Another question asked if high school student groups would be divided by freshman, sophomore, etc. GOEBEL responded that majority of the classes are not divided by grade level so that would not change. Another question asked if there will be more sick days if staff members present COVID-19 symptoms. MULHERIN answered that we are having those discussions now with the Marion County Public Health Department, the Indiana State Department of Health, and Community Health Network. DEHNER added that there has been discussion about how long students have to be out and we'll be more accommodating in documenting absences per guidance from the Indiana Department of Education. ICS will not have perfect attendance awards this school year so as not to encourage students coming to school when they are sick. Another question asked how will Special Education students receive instruction. DEHNER responded that we will be providing these educational services as usual and by law for every student with an Individualized Education Plan. MULHERIN added that ICS will be hiring a social worker. KRIECH said there were several questions from the public regarding face masks, hand sanitizing, etc. and that all those considerations will be articulated in the School Reopening Safety Plan. Another question from the public addressed whether the YMCA would once again be providing before and after care services for ICES and ICMS (after care only). MULHERIN confirmed that these services will be in place as usual. Additionally, the YMCA will have its own safety measures we will be adhering to as well. The final question asked by the public to be fielded during the meeting inquired about high ability students being grouped together. DEHNER

responded that ICS will do the best it can under the circumstances to accommodate this request.

- d. Determination of ICS Academic Model BOG (See vote matrix)
KOEHLER roll call to move to Hybrid Model. One opposed. Motion carried to start the academic year with the Hybrid Model. Of note, staff will continue to work on the COVID-19 School Reopening Safety Plan.

III. Closing Items

- a. Adjourn Meeting (See vote matrix)
First to motion adjournment was made by JOHNSON, second was made by SCOTT. The meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m. The next regular Board of Governors meeting will take place on August 25, 2020.