Minutes of Imboden Area Charter School

The regular August Board Meeting held at 6:00 PM on August 31, 2023 at Imboden Area Charter School, 800 Beech St. Black Rock, Arkansas.

Board members present were Scott Rorex, Johnny Sykes, Mike McLeod, and Blake Clements. School Director Matthew Wells was also present.

Vice- President Blake Clements called the meeting to order.

School Director Matthew Wells report:

* Enrollment is looking good with 65 at this point
* Mr. Wells discussed the open house that was held August 11th, 2023. The Open house went rather well with many families attending.
* Mr. Wells presented the preliminary budget for the 23-24 school year. The budget does have shortfalls, and we anticipate having to dip into savings this year. Budget shortfalls can be attributed mostly to the move and to the increase in salaries for all employees. Mr. Wells has moved as many expenses as possible to federal programs funds, however some expenses simply cannot be charged to federal programs. Enrollment is key here, and a larger population of students will offset the higher costs of operating. In addition, Mr. Wells will be scheduling a meeting with a grant writer to explore additional funding opportunities. Motion made by Mike McLeod and seconded by Johnny Sykes to approve the preliminary budget. Motion passed 4 to 0.
* Mr. Wells explained to the board that he felt changes need to be made to the tutoring program. Tutoring has been Monday and Tuesday evenings from 3:15 to 4:45pm weekly. The bus route currently does not allow the bus to return to school until 5:15pm, therefore creating a problem with provision of transportation. Secondly, with a considerably tighter budget, the costs of providing two days of tutoring is a significant strain on the budget. Mr. Wells advised to alter the tutoring schedule and provide tutoring on Mondays only from 3:15 to 5:15pm. It is the goal of the district to continue providing tutoring yet remain fiscally responsible. Motion made by Blake Clements and seconded by Johnny Sykes to make the suggested changes to tutoring. Motion passed 4 to 0.
* Lastly, Mr. Wells asked the board to enter executive session to discuss personnel. Motion made by Blake Clements and seconded by Mike McLeod to enter executive session. Motion passed 4 to 0. Mr. Wells explained that there had been some concerns regarding Mrs. Scales and her classroom management. Several parents had contacted Mr. Wells regarding concerns. Mr. Wells has had conversations with Mrs. Scales regarding the matter, yet the issue seems to persist. Mr. Wells sought the board’s recommendation on how to handle the situation. Board members suggested if the problem persists, a written probationary period should be implemented and furthermore dismissal is an option. Mr. Wells will meet with Mrs. Scales again tomorrow to discuss the board’s recommendations.

Action Agenda:

Motion made by Blake Clements and seconded by Mike McLeod to approve the action agenda. Motion passed 4 to 0.

Consent Agenda:

Motion made by Johnny Sykes and seconded by Mike McLeod to approve the consent agenda. Motion passed 4 to 0.

Motion made by Scott Rorex and seconded by Blake Clements to adjourn the meeting. Motion Passed 4 to 0.

Meeting adjourned at 7:00 pm.

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Scott Rorex, Secretary Date