



INLAND LEADERS CHARTER SCHOOLS

Board of Directors Meeting

13456 Bryant Street (BSC)

Yucaipa, CA 92399

October 19, 2020 @ 5pm in McKay Building

Teleconference: [Zoom link](#): Password: 031950

Vision: *The vision of the Inland Leaders is to sustain a high-quality community charter school founded upon innovative instruction and character education to create 21st-century leaders.*

Prospective Board member interviews prior to the main session

The current ILCS Board will interview candidates who are interested in two vacant community member positions to be voted on by the ILCS stakeholders in December of 2020.

Session started at 5:00 pm. There are 4 prospective board members in attendance for interviews. There are 2 spots available. One is to replace Dr. Stranger as the Board Chairman and the other is for a community member. ILCS is in Brown Act compliance which makes the meeting an open session. The election will be in December. The current Board members will determine which candidates will be on the ballot. The selection of the new Board members will be announced in January. The 1st candidate is Dr. Jason Jimenez. Dr. Jay ran a non-public school for about 3 years. He was at ILCS for about 6 years. He now runs 5 charter schools. He feels that he can bring perception and perspective of charter schools to the ILCS Board. The second candidate is David Massongill. He previously served as an ILCS board member for 12 years. He would like to now be a board community member. His profession is a financial advisor. He loves ILCS and feels blessed by the school. He would like to keep the finances conservative. The 3rd candidate is Paul Toomey who retired from the City of Yucaipa as the Director of Community Development. He helps to keep kids in college. He also works with the planning commission. The 4th candidate is Eli Gillespie. He has lived in Yucaipa for a long time and is a business owner. He is hoping to bring the support of alternative forms of education to the ILCS board. At this time, the board will now ask questions of the candidates. Mr. Wolfe says that he recommended other candidates but one person only wanted the position if that meant that their kids got a spot at ILCS. Mr. Wolfe informed them that that is not how it works. He wants to make sure that the candidates are aware of this. Mr. Gillespie said that he is not interested in having his kids attend. He loves ILCS and has some family that attends but his kids are homeschooled and that is what he and his wife want. They do homeschool and are happy with that. Mr. Gordon asked why any of them are interested in volunteering for a position that does not benefit them. Mr. Gillespie has observed California and it's direction with the teacher's unions and their political stands. He feels that the money shouldn't go towards politics. Alternative options are good. Mr. Toomey agrees with Mr. Gillespie's statement regarding what should be managed at home vs. at school. He believes in having valuable education and is happy to help our community. Mr. Massongill has a couple of points. First, is that the government loves to spend money and lots of it is wasted. Second, he likes to plan for a rainy day. He sees his role as a financial advisor as a benefit to ILCS. As a Christian, he loves to serve and feels that this is a great way to do that. Dr. Jimenez feels like ILCS is family. Leaving the school was tough. When a position on the board came up 2 years ago, it wasn't the right time but now it is. He has unfinished business. Mr. Wolfe asked Mr. Gordon if he has given the candidates a general overview of the school? Mrs. Mitchell commented to the candidates that ILCS puts kids first. She also said that ILCS has the best teachers. We have been able to retain these teachers thanks to the Pillars Program. The teachers have really stepped up. The WASC accreditation was about 2 ½ years ago. Mrs. Mitchell let them know that we are family at ILCS. The staff love the kids. The lady from WASC said that if she lived in Yucaipa, ILCS would be the school that she would choose. Mrs. Mitchell asked the candidates if they have an agenda? Mr. Massongill said that it will be impossible to replace Dr. Stranger. He does not have an agenda, he just misses ILCS. He misses the End Of Year awards, Cotillion and more. Mr. Toomey said that it is hard to think of an agenda. He wants to see ILCS achieve its agendas. Mr. Gillespie wasn't going to apply but he was talked into it. Dr. Jimenez does have an agenda and that is to get a high school for ILCS. Mr. Wolfe stated that he and Mr. Casavan don't have tons of extra time to attend events like SCAT, awards and others. He feels that it's important that at least one member is able to attend events. All of the candidates are available for such events. Mr. Casavan introduced himself and said that he has been on the board for 2 years now. The time sacrifice is well worth it. Everyone makes challenging decisions. Give an example of a challenging decision that you had to make. Mr. Toomey said that he has had to tell people no but has done it in a way that it didn't sound like he was telling them no. In a code enforcement situation he would offer ways to fix it. He has also had to deal with parents in Little League. Mr. Gillespie runs his own business. He manages people by hiring, training and managing them. COVID has been a challenge. Dr. Jay said that education has a lot of challenges with COVID and reopening. Finding the gaps and fixing them is a challenge. Mr. Massongill said that the finances aren't the

challenge, it is SCAT that is the most challenging. Mr. Massongill described what SCAT is. Mr. Gordon explained a little bit more about what SCAT is. SCAT stands for Student Contract Accountability Team. Parents, teachers and Admin meet to discuss students attendance, grades and more. Mrs. Mitchell said that if nothing has worked with the SCAT meetings then the Board has to decide if the student is placed back in the lottery. It is tough love. This is why ILCS did summer school. Mr. Massongill said that since Mrs. Derksen is his sister, he would step out of the room for any decisions regarding her. Mr. Gillespie said that he does not have any questions right now but he will probably have a lot during the term. Mr. Gordon informed them that it is a four year term. Mr. Toomey asked what other items of discussion there may be other than SCAT and laying off employees? Mr. Casavan said the dress code. Mr. Massongill said that other than deferrals, there were 6 or 7 teachers that left and that is why the Pillars Program was created. Mrs. Mitchell said that the teachers are valued. Mr. Wolfe said that a high school has been intended and that the Board is not so conservative that they aren't thinking ahead. He said that Mr. Gordon is pushing ILCS forward. Mrs. Mitchell informed the candidates that the board is fiscally responsible. Mr. Gordon wants to support any mental health issues. Mr. Wolfe informed the candidates that the Board is financially liable. The Board wants to make sure that ILCS has everything that it needs.

OPEN SESSION @ 6:00 PM

A. Pledge of Allegiance (Gordon) Mr. Gordon is excited about the potential board members.

B. Roll Call (Gordon) Mr. Casavan, Mrs. Mitchell and Mr. Wolfe are in attendance. Dr. Stranger is not.

C. Student Council Report Makenzie Wagner the ILCS Secretary and Paige Audet who is the Vice President gave a quick report. There is a new design for the student council shirts. Spirit week was Oct. 12th-16th. There is a link for announcements for students. There is also an ILCS news letter.

D. Finance Committee Report (none)

E. Director's Report (Gordon) Mr. Gordon dedicated the meeting to Mr. Paul Roman who passed away a couple of weeks prior. He was the elective Karate instructor at ILCS. He will be missed. There have been 2 fathers from ILCS who have passed away. The Foundation is reaching out to the families. Mr. Wolfe asked if there is anything in place for these families and Mr. Gordon said yes, Mr. Perry has been contacted for mental health support as well. Mrs. Mitchell asked if money or things can be brought to the school for the families and Mrs. Reseigh said yes, that she has connections. Ms. Dawson is working with Olive Crest to do the kindness bags. ILCS has been moving towards the re-opening. It is going in stages. Child care at BSC has been eliminated by adding staff students to in class 4 days a week and doing staff kids club at CSC. This frees up BSC staff and space for English Learner students and those who have other needs. The Board memo that Mr. Gordon sent to the Board members describes it in more detail. Mrs. Mitchell asked if there is any way to get English Learner and SPED students on campus? Mr. Perry said yes. This is happening for those who choose it. There are currently 2 classrooms for these students. Mr. Wolfe asked about middle school and Mr. Gordon said no. Mr. Wolfe asked that since middle school isn't coming back yet, then are those classrooms going to be used for 3rd through 6th grade. Mr. Gordon said that hasn't been worked out because there would have to be 2 teachers per class. Mr. Wolfe wants to know if there is a way to split the students up based on learning levels? Mr. Gordon said that ILCS would need to have credentialed staff for this and all rooms would have to be disinfected. He does have an idea to use the student teachers that ILCS currently has. Mr. Wolfe asked if there have been any attendance issues and Mr. Gordon said that any of the attendance issues have been handled by Admin. Mr. Osborn said that they will SCAT even 8th graders this year and give them the option to either join on campus or they can have a SCAT meeting. Currently there are 20 7th and 8th graders who are on campus. Mrs. Mitchell asked if our county is still in the purple zone and Mr. Gordon and Mr. Osborn said yes. Mrs. Mitchell asked if the 7th and 8th graders are doing better on campus and Mr. Osborn responded yes. The 7th and 8th grade students who are on campus are based on need. Mr. Wolfe wants to know if ILCS is supporting parents as well? Mr. Osborn commented that having someone in class helps the students because they really only have in class work so parents don't really have to do much at home. Student computers are being monitored. Mrs. Mitchell asked if SCAT is on Zoom or in person and the answer is that it can be done either way. Dr. Urrea said that attendance is not really an issue at BSC. Some students are having issues with the extra work but those students will be staying for what's called extended day. Mr. Gordon went over the dashboard. Enrollment has dropped. There was 1 suspension and 2 major incidents. The funding for attendance/ enrollment is not an issue because the funding is based on last year numbers. The balance sheet looks strong. There are big checks from the Care Act that are coming. Most of this money goes towards supplies not staff. Mr. Wolfe asked if ILCS is still getting money and Mr. Gordon said that there will be some deferrals but ILCS will be ok. He doesn't see any issues as of yet. A lot of the Care Act money was spent on technology. Mr. Osborn said that the supplies have been fantastic and the teachers are doing a great job. Mr. Gordon said that there will be a distance learning initiative committee being put together.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION

The public may speak to any issue at this time of the meeting. Please sign in and indicate if you would like to speak to the Board on the sign-in form located on the table near the agendas. The Board is unable to deliberate or discuss items with the public that are not on the agenda. The Board Chairman will limit the length of time for comments to a reasonable period of time. NONE

DISCUSSION/ACTION SESSION

The Board will discuss and possibly take action on items listed in this section of the agenda.

- A. ACTION:** Board will accept the resignation of Dr. Robert Stranger as a member of the Board and recognize him for his years of service as a founder and advocate for ILCS. (Gordon)

Dr. Stranger's health requires him to resign. In January the Board will appoint a new Chairman. Mr. Gordon described his friendship with Dr. Stranger and said that Dr. Stranger set the tone that students come 1st. He will be missed. Mrs. Mitchell would like to know if the Board is doing a resolution and Mr. Gordon said yes. Mrs. Mitchell motions to accept the resignation of Dr. Robert Stranger as a member of the Board. 2nd- Mr. Casavan. Mr. Casavan-Yes, Mrs. Mitchell-Yes, Mr. Wolfe Yes. All approved, Motion passed 3/0

- B. ACTION:** Administration recommends an amended Independent Study [Policy](#) due to the Pandemic and programmatic changes with Distance Learning. (Osborn)

Mr. Gordon wants to discuss the independent study program. All students whether they are long term independent or short term, must attend zoom for peer to peer interaction. Families are trying to take long term independent study in order to take extended vacations. There hasn't been much success with the blending independent study and distance learning especially since students have to log in daily for class. Short term independent study will be issued for emergencies only. Short term independent study is not something that ILCS has to offer just as they cannot make it mandatory. Students who attend online regardless of their location are considered as being in attendance. Live interaction is part of the mandate. If a family moves out of state then ILCS is giving the family 2 weeks of distance learning for the transition to their new location. Mr. Wolfe asked that if a TK-2nd grade student does not show up for school then they are marked absent and Dr. Urrea answered, yes. Mr. Wolfe wants to know what was the policy in the past? Were students offered Independent Study and the answer is yes. However, Dr. Urrea feels that if ILCS offers Independent study, then they are encouraging parents to take vacation when students should be in school. Mr. Casavan feels that this is a perfect time to take vacations. Mr. Wolfe commented that some families just need a break. This has provided families with the opportunity to take a vacation. The pandemic is hard on families. Dr. Urrea said that looking at the data, kids that struggled in March didn't make any gains. They need to make a stand and help students learn. She feels that maybe the decision should be on a case by case basis. Mr. Wolfe feels that there should be a defined basis. He doesn't feel like there should be a case by case basis. He wants his kids in school but feels that the right is being taken away from the parents. Mr. Osborn commented that at CSC it is not taking away their education because they can still do the work by watching videos. If the student does not log in live, then they will receive an absence. If a student is on site but chooses to continue to not attend, then that parent can be asked to give up their students spot on campus to someone else who needs it. Dr. Urrea said that BSC does not offer distance learning options. She does not want to make it easy for parents to just take a trip. Mr. Gordon said that he will ask the teacher if the student is getting the work done and if not, it may be a SCAT issue. Mr. Osborn said that there are no packets. He just feels that there should be a policy in place. Mr. Wolfe said that he misunderstood the policy. He just wants students to be able to attend class via zoom. Dr. Urrea wants to discourage missing school. Mr. Casavan said that there is also teaching outside of school. Dr Urrea is thinking of the students who are struggling. Mr Wolfe does not feel that students who are not struggling should be penalized. Mr. Osborn asked Mr. Wolfe what he considered penalized? Mr. Casavan wants to know what BSC vs CSC days are? Mr. Wolfe wants to know if the days can be coded differently and Mr. Osborn said that there are codes. Mrs. Mitchell asked if this policy is just for this year and Mr. Gordon said yes. Mrs. Mitchell feels that if a student is on campus and chooses to be gone for 2 weeks then they should forfeit their spot. Mr. Casavan feels that these restrictions are beyond a parent's control. Mrs. Mitchell wants to know if this situation has come up and Mr. Osborn responded yes. He is coming up with ways to keep the seats full. Mr. Wolfe recommended that parents sign a contract that states that if there are a certain number of days missed, then they will lose their spot. Both campuses have different situations. Dr. Urrea stated that there are no state test results to go by but she feels that students need to be in their seats. Mr. Wolfe agrees that the kids should be in school. Mr. Osborn feels that it is harsh to say that a student will lose their seat and recommended that there is a formstack created for parents to submit. Mr. Gordon stated that there are students that might need that seat. Mrs. Mitchell recommended letting another student take that seat until the other student returns but Mr. Gordon reminded her that that will be mixing cohorts. Mr. Wolfe stated that as a parent, he would be mad to only get to come on campus while another student is gone on vacation. Mr. Casavan stated that students should either be given a packet or access to the work. Mr. Gordon said that they are trying to eliminate all of this. Mr. Wolfe asked if a student needs permission to access zoom and Dr. Urrea informed him that they do.

Mrs. Mitchell motions to come back with more ideas for the Independent Study policy. 2nd- Mr. Casavan. Mr. Casavan-yes, Mrs. Mitchell-yes, Mr. Wolfe-yes. All approved. Motion passed.

TRAINING/WORKSHOP

The ILCS Board is provided with training or information in a workshop or session that does not involve any actionable

items.

- A. TRAINING:** Board will be trained on [Conflict of Interest](#) policies and laws including the Political Reform Act, Corporations Code, Government Code Section 1090, and the appearance of impropriety.
Mr. Gordon went through a slideshow presentation of the Conflict of Interest laws and regulations. He also reviewed the 1090 government code.

APPROVE CONSENT CALENDAR

All matters listed under the consent calendar section are considered by the Board to be routine and will be enacted in one motion.

- A. September 2020 Check Register** [Sept 2020 Check Register](#)
- B. September 21, 2020 Board** [minutes](#)
- C. Approval of purchases/services/contracts/MOUs over \$10,000:**
a. Pro Series Restaurant Range 60" for CSC Kitchen \$11,400.20. Additional labor cost for installation, unknown at this time.
- D. Acceptance of donations- None**
a. None
- E. New Hires**
a. Certificated
i. Emily Heires, Substitute Teacher

b. Classified
i.
- F. Resignations**
a. Certificated
i. Sierra Hemphill, Substitute Teacher
b. Classified
i.
- G. Business Functions**
- H. Special Requests**

Mr. Casavan motions to approve the consent calendar A-H. 2nd-Mrs. Mitchell. Mr. Casavan-yes, Mrs. Mitchell-yes, Mr. Wolfe-yes. All approved. Motion passed 3/0

RATIFICATIONS None

CLOSED SESSION

A.

None

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mrs. Mitchell thinks that there are some good candidates. She is hoping that after the election that some sanity will come back and get the kids back in school.

Mr. Casavan agrees that they are good candidates. He said thank you to everyone for all of their hard work.

Mr. Wolfe has a question about Dr. Jimenez's agenda regarding a high school. Mr. Gordon has said that the state is currently against charter schools. Is there any chance for a high school? Mr. Gordon said that it is much more difficult in today's environment but not impossible depending on support at the local board levels.

Mrs. Mitchell asked if it is possible to bypass the local level and Mr. Gordon said "no."

The next meeting will tentatively be held on Nov. 16th @ 5:00pm @ BSC.

ADJOURNMENT 7:36 pm

Board Secretary

Date