

Idaho Connects Online School
Governing Board Meeting Minutes

Board Meeting ICON

Fri, November 8, 2019 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM MDT

5680 E Franklin Road Nampa, Idaho or

Please join my meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.

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I. Call to Order Chairman High

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 PM MT. Trustee Reents, Trustee McMahon, Business Manager Dorian Bell, Alex Tijerina and Head of School Vickie McCullough were in attendance.

Approval of Agenda

Trustee Reents brought forth a motion to approve the Agenda as presented. Trustee McMahon gave the second with all in favor and the motion was passed.

Old Business - Review and Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes

Trustee McMahon brought forth a motion to approve the meeting minutes as presented. Trustee Reents gave the second with all in favor and the motion was passed.

II. Public Comment

The floor was opened for public comment. No one brought forth any comment to share.

III. Reports and Discussions

A. Director's Report

None at this time.

B. Head of School Report

The HOS gave an update to the School Improvement Initiatives outlined in the packet given to the Board during the August 9th, 2019 Board Meeting.

- *To have access to high quality state required courses*

The HOS explained this is to be revision and revamping of our content. This initiative has not begun yet due to the needed focus on another important initiative, however the HOS believes work on this will begin toward the end of November.

- to have those courses taught by highly qualified teachers

We are utilizing the Charlotte Danielson Framework for Teaching, specifically domain 3D - Feedback to students and 3E - Demonstrating flexibility and responsiveness. The HOS explained this has been the focus of staff development since the beginning of the school year and that focus is why we have not moved on to content development. The HOS explained that while the staff has made significant improvements to provide more constructive and informative feedback, we are not ready to wrap up this initiative quite yet. The HOS explained the tools provided to the staff to provide quality feedback in multiple ways.

- to have high student expectations, free from bias, with support tools and resources available to you to meet expectations

This initiative is driven by the rollout of the Personalized Learning Program and though we do have a segment of students in the Pilot PLP, we must wait to roll out the PLP to a larger student segment until after the course design has been addressed.

- to have timely and meaningful feedback to your work that will further support your learning

We are still actively working on this initiative as mentioned.

- to have knowledge of where you stand in relationship to your high school diploma

This initiative is in process. The goal was to have students know where they are and what they need to graduate and we have met that benchmark with 100% accuracy. We are also providing one-on-one counselling sessions between our 10th and 12th grade student population and our school counselor for college and career readiness. After the conference, the counselor sends out a posting

to all the staff to let them know the results of the meetings as another tool for the teachers to help open and drive meaningful conversations with these students. We are also keeping a formal document in the student's file to help us monitor and evaluate how we might best support the student.

- to have access to dual credit courses to help support your post high school goals

We are working exclusively with CWI to provide dual credit courses to our student population because;

1. We needed a small place to start
2. We needed a feeder school and CWI's student population closely aligns to our school's student demographics
3. They are located near us and work well with us

Our staff must work with CWI to be certified to teach dual credit courses in order to meet CWI's requirements for college credit. The HOS detailed the teachers and dual credit courses being provided by ICON, the courses we hope to offer in the future and the stipend received by the teachers who have or will go through the 6 month process to be dual credit instructors. These teachers are mentored by the HOS for ICON content and by CWI for college content.

The HOS explained this program works well and we are continuing to pursue it because it is no cost to ICON to provide these courses other than the stipend and because these courses give our students a sense of accomplishment and success as well as allowing them to see that college can be an attainable goal. Part of the success of this program is having the content delivered through our platform, so the students do not have to adjust to having the course delivered through other means or platforms. The HOS further explained how CWI helps ICON make additions and adjustments to our content to meet the requirements of a college level course.

Chairman High noted what the HOS is doing regarding improving teacher feedback is important and questioned if there is more the Board could do to assist the HOS, like bringing in an outside consultant to look at the feedback.

The HOS gave further detail as to why and how she developed these initiatives using her own knowledge and experience as well as the Congruence Model and the 5-step problem solving process.

The HOS reiterated that the school "Vision" needs a makeover. It should be redesigned to be more focused on student success.

The HOS discussed student activity reports generated from the OW platform. The reports show when our students are actively engaged with the content.

The activity report details:

61% school between 8am - 4pm

32% school between 4pm - Midnight

7% school between Midnight - 8am

Most school activity occurs on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday

These metrics, while not surprising, show how much schooling is taking place while we are not available and need to be taken into consideration when we are redesigning our courses.

Other activity metrics given were:

57% of our High School students school between 8-4

8% of our High School students school on the weekends

70% of our Middle School students school between 8-4.

These metrics lend to the belief that the Middle School content may not need as much redesign as the High School courses to meet our vision of “Freely Scheduled” instructional opportunities.

Chairman High and the HOS discussed the pros and cons of resource allocation on the individual student need vs. the larger statistical metrics. The HOS explained individual students’ schedules can be in flux from one week to the next and how the student schooling reports are available to our teaching staff.

The HOS stated her belief that the data suggests that because a significant portion of our student population is taking advantage of our flexible schedule as noted in our vision, there needs to be changes made in our critical tasks.

The HOS detailed the current results of our entry survey. The biggest reason students say they come to us is our flexibility, followed by health reasons, seeking a traditional school alternative and referrals and how those results drive our facilitation of teaching and learning to our student population.

The HOS covered the performance gap between student achievement test results and what the State wants from us; providing the Board with the metrics on our proficiency rates from last spring and the goals to meet or exceed the state averages this spring. Trustee McMahon questioned the difference between these results and the previous discussion regarding the school’s core curriculum meeting State requirements. The HOS explained that while the content meets State requirements, the student proficiency results are a different set of metrics and have always been low. The HOS suggested one

reason the test results are low compared to what we believe the students have learned with ICON may be because of the time-consuming travel to the testing facilities followed by 6 tests all taken in one day. The HOS will be looking into these factors in the spring to confirm this possibility and forwarded the possibility of a mismatch between our content and the assessment, or the testing location and testing schedule.

Chairman High questioned whether we need to spend resources motivating students. The HOS informed the Board that the State K-12 Education Taskforce has approved a recommendation to address student social & emotional issues and self-efficacy and suggested the State may soon provide resources and money to assist schools with this recommendation.

Trustee Reents wondered if a mixed model instead of a pure virtual model would make a difference in our results. The HOS responded that there is research showing validity in blended model schools, however it is most beneficial to the students in small communities.

The HOS detailed the various changes being instituted to address the mismatch previously mentioned, including coding treatment students differently in the state reports to not have them counted against us in the state metrics, focusing on core work and domain 3 and moving our PLP from pilot to practice. With the Board's permission, the HOS would like to hire contracted people all over Idaho to meet with and provide testing to our students between March 1st and May 15th in a more test friendly environment. The HOS would also like to find and utilize some kind of interactive Graduation Planning Tool to help the students visualize their roadmap to graduation.

Trustee Reents suggested providing a pilot group of students bigger monitors to see if it would make a difference.

The HOS stressed the most important consideration in focusing on these initiatives is to address student achievement.

Trustee McMahon noted that like most schools, we do not teach to the test. The HOS agreed but did acknowledge that we made sure the topics of the tests are included in our essential standards.

C. Discussion Items

Charter Renewal Process

Policy Review and Process Survey Instruments

IV. Business (Action Items)

Business Manager Bell reported on the Board Package provided to the Board. Chairman High requested some plan to move forward with the investment plan once the HOS and the Business Manager have something in mind, possibly emailing the Board to have a quick Board meeting to discuss the specific instruments selected for consideration. Mr. Bell confirmed with the Board that the most important concern when selecting these instruments would be cash protection.

Trustee Reents brought forth a motion to move forward with Schwab to manage the cash surpluses as they can provide more options than a traditional bank and to notify the Board once those investing options have been identified. Trustee McMahon seconded with all in favor and the motion passed.

Trustee Reents proposed a process to review ICON policy by subject area as opposed to attempting to review all the policies at once and have the Board Chair assign a board member to review a section of the policy in conjunction with the HOS, reporting back to the Board with their findings or suggestions. After discussion regarding this process Chairman High asked Trustee McMahon if he would be willing to review the first section and Trustee McMahon agreed.

Trustee Reents brought forth a motion to this affect and Chairman High seconded with all in favor and the motion passed.

Charter Renewal and Surveys were tabled until the next meeting in January.

V. Adjournment

Trustee Reents entered the first motion to adjourn with a second by Chairman High. The motion carried and meeting was adjourned at 3:47 PM.

Minutes Approved by the Board of Directors on 1/10/2020.