



GOVERNING BOARD MINUTES - Special Meeting

Meeting of Friday, May 22, 2020 5:30PM

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“Providing a strong educational foundation to all students who are in need of direction and support in learning English and finding their way in a new culture.”

Mission: Iftin Charter School provides students in grades TK-8 an academically rigorous, common core aligned curricula, supplemented with a technology intensive program in a student centered, safe and caring learning environment. ICS addresses the needs of a diverse group of students, their families and communities by building on the strengths of the students’ cultural heritage and life experiences. ICS students are educated and enlightened to become successful, lifelong learners and valuable members of the global community.

WELCOME GUESTS / CALL TO ORDER 5:42PM

Roll Call

Faisal Ali _____	President present
Joe Udall _____	Secretary present
Mulki Hersi _____	Treasurer present
Rahmo Abdi _____	Member present
Ibrahim Hassan _____	Member present

PUBLIC COMMENT

PUBLIC COMMENT— Anyone wishing to address the Board on agenda, non-agenda, and/or Closed Session items may do so. Individual speakers will be limited to three (3) minutes. Total public input on any one subject may be limited to fifteen (15) minutes, and may be extended at the discretion of the Board Chairperson. Comments on an agenda item may be taken when the agenda item is discussed by the Board. Comments on non-agenda items will be heard before the Consent Motion.

Faisal Ali: I would like to give this opportunity to the public that are joining us. If anyone would like to comment. Please welcome and let’s be mindful, if it’s not your turn to speak to mute yourself. After the public comment is complete, everyone else will be muted except for the board.

Joe Udall: For clarification, did our public comment change? For public comment, traditionally we would have public to comment on items on agenda in special meeting and non-agenda items would be held in regular meeting sessions. Are we limiting fifteen minutes for public comment?

Faisal Ali: We haven’t changed, as you can see it, while it may be limited to fifteen minutes, we have every intention to extend the time as long as we have public speakers. We would like to see more of the public participating.

Ahmed Abdi: Greetings, my name is Ahmed Abdi. I would like to thank the Board President Mr. Faisal Ali, Joe Udall, Secretary of the board, Mulki Hersi and other two members who are dear to all of us.

Ahmed Abdi: I would like to Thank also the School Administration led by Mr. Ali. Mr. Abdi, Operations Manager and Mr. Maslah for great efforts for bring back Iftin in the hands of the community. Before the SDCOE granted Iftin with a 5-year renewal. We were in despair, we all suffered due to uncertainties that the school might be closed. In addition to Covid-19, the challenges became great.



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Ahmed Abdi: Now, we are all celebrating and rejoicing to get our school back. Thanks again to everybody who participated in the efforts toward bring this noble goal. I would like to remind everyone the pain that we've gone through to get our school back and we should stay away from anything that will discord unity. It's time for us to go forward. Finally, my last comment on the agenda to create CEO, that person should be chosen on the basis of merit. Thank you all so much.

Faisal Ali: Do we have any other public comments?

Bashir Hassan: I am an Iftin parent and Iftin co-founder. First, I would like to express my happiness and excitement to share my deep appreciation for the victory made by Iftin team for the approval of 5 more years at San Diego County of Education. This is extraordinary and historic landmark.

If I go back in Iftin's history. Iftin became operational in 2006. The founding members worked hard for two prior years. Within those two years, we have developed and adopted the very policies and procedures that Iftin operates today. So, Iftin founders had a broad vision. We envisioned to have a secondary school, and growth with multiple sites.

I would like to comment on the action item on the agenda for hiring a CEO. This position we are discussing today, was adopted 15 years ago in the organizational structure. But this position was never implemented in the 15 years of Iftin's existence. I think we need a strong Iftin and we need it to grow and become a sustained institution.

A strong CEO, who can mobilize all the resources, can reach out all stakeholders, and envision academic growth and financial growth. To make Iftin a prestigious school in the years to come. So, I encourage the board to approve the action item. Thank you so much for listening.

Faisal Ali: Thank you Mr. Bashir. Do we have any other person? We will give an opportunity for anyone to speak.

Abdulkarim Warsame: Good evening, my name is Abdulkarim Warsame. I am a parent and former board member. I wanted to take this opportunity to address the board tonight.

First, I would like to congratulate everybody for their hard work and fruitful efforts. Not to name names, but there were many moving parts. I would like to add that the SDCOE approved the same petition that were denied by SDUSD.

Both Charter offices produced staff reports. The difference, one charter office made the recommendations while the other didn't. The decision came from the board to grant Iftin 5 more years with an MOU that we will adhere to. I trust that my fellow board members will make the right decisions. What is good for the students, and what is in the best interest of Iftin Charter. I will conclude by saying thank you.

Faisal Ali: Thank you very much Mr. Abdulkarim. It's always good to hear from you and for participating as a former board member and someone who worked with the school.

CONSENT ITEMS

Faisal Ali: Let's start with the consent items. The meeting minutes for May 8, 2020. Do I have the motion to approve consent Items?

Joe Udall: So, moved

Rahmo Abdi: I second.

Faisal Ali: We are voting now

Joe Udall: Let's do a roll call vote

Motion Udall Second Abdi Ayes Udall Abdi Ali Hersi Hassan Nays N/A Abstain N/A Absent N/A



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DISCUSSION ITEMS

Faisal Ali: I just want to take this opportunity to thank everyone that helped the appeal process. This was really hard work and I know that admin has spent so much time and effort working on the documents and making sure everything was in order. I want to thank you on behalf of the board. We really appreciate you for everyone that was involved.

The public hearing presentation was organized beautifully, very professional, and well-thought-of. Our teachers, students, parents and community members were able to participate and their voices were heard.

Faisal Ali: Let's start with the Principal report. I would like to welcome Mr. Hori to give us his report.

Ali Hori: Good afternoon. Thank you, Board president, and all board members. Our current enrollment is 354. Due to the Covid-19 and school closures. Our staff continued to reach all of our families. Our teachers are providing distance learning and preparing learning packets. I want to thank our staff who delivered these educational materials in their homes.

As we know, there are some challenges to distance learning. Some families don't have the technical experience and are sometimes faced with difficulties. I am very pleased with how our staff goes above and beyond every day for our students. We will continue our best efforts, to ensure each child receives high quality instruction and support.

We finalized our SDEA MOU agreement for distance learning. I appreciate our administration team for their efforts and collaboration.

We are preparing our 2020-21 school year budget. Our discussion will continue and finalize the budget before June 30th.

We are pleased to hear the news of San Diego County Office of Education to grant our renewal appeal. Our community is very happy and excited about the next school year. I would like to specially thank, the admin team, Dr. Johnson, Cara, legal counsel and parents for their hard work and continued support. I appreciate all the individual who took part in creating this success.

On May 14, 2020, we received a letter from SDCOE Charter Division to notify our 5-year renewal term and was also sent to the State.

We are now preparing for the end of the year. 5th and 8th grade promotions are scheduled for June 12 and June 15. We are planning our outreach efforts for recruitment. We will broadcast our open enrollment through public radio and local newspapers. We will visit our neighborhoods, supermarkets, churches and mosques.

We are also working with SDUSD to make the transition to SDCOE smoothly. We have several scheduled meetings to discuss food services vended model and networking transition.

We are also working with the SDCOE Charter Division to develop the MOU agreement between Iftin Charter and SDCOE.

Thank you all of you. If you have any questions, I'm happy to answer.

Faisal Ali: Thank you very much Mr. Hori.

Faisal Ali: For housekeeping purposes, Mr. Ibrahim Hassan is in the meeting. He could not unmute himself. He is connected right now. I would like for Abdi to update the roll call and record his vote for the consent item.

Ibrahim Hassan: I was in the meeting, but I could not unmute myself. I vote yes for the consent item.

Faisal Ali: All board members are present in the meeting.

Bashir Hassan: I wanted to make a comment, but you couldn't hear me because I was muted. Can you hear me now?



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Faisal Ali: Yes, absolutely we can hear. Just to give everyone another opportunity. It looks like some people may have had some difficulties. It is very important that anyone who would like to comment to should do so. We will take your name and comments please.

Joe Udall: Mr. President, may I interject for few seconds?

Faisal Ali: Go ahead.

Joe Udall: I really recommend that moving forward with virtual meeting where we see each other. I think video will be helpful.

Rahmo Abdi: I absolutely agree.

Faisal Ali: I know the option is available. I'm on my computer now. We will discuss this further moving forward.

Faisal Ali: I included the action items into our discussion, so that the board can deliberate, reach a consensus and make sure everyone is informed. I acknowledge the issues we had in the past, which has been really long time. We didn't have any issues in the first 10 years, but in the last 5 years, every administration was trying their best. Trying to address and resolve the concerns of the district. But unfortunately, it kept coming back. This resulted in staff turnover and inconsistent leadership.

For the last 3years, when Mr. Hori returned. He and his team worked tirelessly. Thanks to him for all he has done to bring the school back in the right direction. I believe in the past; the school has relied heavily on consultants which resulted in the lack of continuous progress.

One of the things people would say is, it's going to be expensive to hire a CEO. I think that this is a fair statement. In the year 2018-19, we spent \$467,750 in Education consultant. I know some of them are very important. We need to have someone work with the principal, the school needs that support right now. We need to have this structure at the top in place for our school, to ensure everything runs smoothly.

Also, I don't remember any meaningful fundraising or grants applied by the school. We are often reacting to issues, it's time to be proactive. I would like for every board member to weigh-in on this decision tonight, which will be a consensus. Thank you very much.

Joe Udall: Thank you for your explanation on this agenda item. I think that you hit on couple of the items, that I am a thousand percent in agreement with. Strategically plan and be more proactive, fund raise and lessen our use of consultants. I think that will be a positive part of moving forward for us as an organization. With Mr. Hori's presentation earlier, adding on a high school. As we add a high school, this job will be very instrumental.

The one thing I would advise the board is that as I read through the job description. Two thoughts are in my head. I think we need to bolster a bit and there needs to be an administrative credential required, not just preferred. We need to also think about special education, a topic that has hindered us in the last five years. We need to make this program shine.

I know that we also need to develop this plan of MOU with the county. I am interested in hearing from the County of what they say in terms of their expectation of our organization. I am in favor of tabling this item, until we have the MOU discussions. Like I said, I think we need to bolster the qualification of the CEO. Whomever we try to hire to move us in the right direction.

Ibrahim Hassan: Thank you Mr. Board President. As Bashir, Co-Founder mentioned. The founders had a broad vision to create elementary, secondary and high school. This time need to have good leadership, we need to make improvements. This position is very important for the school, I agree with all speakers before me. We need a strong Ifin.

Rahmo Abdi: I would like to start by thanking all of you for this discussion. I believe this decision is long overdue, but I'm glad we are having this on the agenda. You all hit every point and that is why we are in this position. Our school principal is doing a great job keeping our school safe and focusing on the academics. We need to assist him. This position will ease some of the responsibility of our principal. I agree with this position if we can move forward with it tonight.



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Mulki Hersi: Sorry, I was muted. I am in support of this position CEO. Our school needs a strong leadership. I would like to congratulate all the hard work and efforts to be granted 5-year renewal.

Faisal Ali: Thank you very much Mulki. I appreciate everyone's comments about this issue.

Action Item

A. Approve the hiring of Iftin Charter School Chief Executive Officer

Motion Abdi **Second** Ibrahim **Ayes** Abdi Hassan Ali Hersi **Nays** Udall **Abstain** N/A Absent

B. Approve Ad-Hoc Committee to recruit CEO

Motion Ibrahim **Second** Hersi **Ayes** Abdi Hassan Ali Hersi **Nays** N/A **Abstain** Udall Absent

Closed Session

PUBLIC EMPLOYEE PERFORMANCE EVALUATION: Pursuant to paragraph (1) of subdivision (b) of Government Code section 54957. Principal (1)

Advance Planning

The next regularly scheduled Governing Board Retreat is to be held **on Friday, May 29, 2020** at 5:30 pm.

Adjournment 7:18 pm

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the Office of Iftin Charter School at (619)265-2411. Notification of 48 hours prior to the meeting will enable the School to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to that meeting (28 CFR 35.102.35.104) Additional questions can be sent to Board Secretary, Joe Udall, at mrudalliftin@gmail.com