



## GOVERNING BOARD MINUTES Board Retreat Workshop

Meeting of Saturday, September 28<sup>th</sup>, 2019 09:00 AM  
Iftin Charter School Library  
5465 El Cajon Blvd. San Diego, CA 92115

*“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 K-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.

**BREAKFAST:** 9:00 – 9:30 am attended by 40 community members and staff

---

### WELCOME GUESTS / CALL TO ORDER 9:45 AM

---

#### Roll Call

---

Abdulkarim Warsame _____	President present
Joe Udall _____	Secretary present
Mulki Hersi _____	Treasurer present exit 10:30 (illness)
Rahmo Abdi _____	Member present
Faisal Ali _____	Member present
Ibrahim Hassan _____	Member present

Warsame: This meeting is to look at our past, share data, and prepare for our future. Thank you everyone for attending to help shape the future of Iftin Charter School.

### RETREAT SESSION

---

#### MC: Hussein Nur

Nur: We welcome you to our board retreat, and we look forward to you sharing with us your ideas. We have experts to help provide insight, and we will have a great day at Iftin Charter School. Throughout I will translate the presentations.

#### Introduction: Principal Ali Hori 9:30 - 9:45 am “5 More Years”

Hori: Thank you to everyone for attending, particularly our retreat speakers. We opened this school with 68 students, and some of you were there at that meeting. We wanted to keep our kids to get a good safe education. Now we have close to 400 students. Our parents trust us, and we are one team, with one goal. Our strategic plan involves determining ways to measure organizational success. We have improved our standing with the district, and this is all of our



## GOVERNING BOARD MINUTES

### Board Retreat Workshop

success. Many charter schools have a financial problem, but for us our budget is healthy and due to the success of our leadership. Our first priority is the charter renewal, and we will submit at the end of October. Our second priority is the LCAP, the plan for education. Our third priority is technology. (for further details, please see Principal's presentation.) Our 5 year enrollment is projected to be over 400 student in 2021, and 500 in 2023.

#### **I. Iftin Charter 1<sup>st</sup> Draft of Renewal Petition 9:45 – 11:30 am**

---

##### A. Joshua Eng– Charter Vision/ Financial Report

Eng: I will start with the website that shows the financial information of the school. The opening page shows the balance, the open payables, and the reports will show what we budgeted versus the actuals. You can get the ADA, which is how many students are at the school, and how often do those students attend school. There's an LCAP module, and how the school is planning their funds for each goal. Transitioning into the August report, we are running a positive budget outcome of 42K versus a budgeted deficit of 218K for a positive variance of 261K. Our numbers usually update the 15<sup>th</sup> of the next month. The 5-year FYP has a projected end balance at 4.6 million.

##### B. Abdi Mohamud– Assessment Data

Mohamud: In referencing questions I received about technology, currently we have a 1:1 ratio of computers to students. Every stakeholder can have access. Parents have access in our parent portal in Rm. 600. Iftin Charter has also increased communication with our parents, through a recorded message, and SchoolMessenger has been a success. I would like to open up our presentation for our comparison report. It's a 4-year comparison. (for further details, please see data presentation.) We have grown 6% in meeting standards in Mathematics. This is a great accomplishment.

Ali: What would you attribute to the 6% increase?

Abdi: Increased parent communication has helped build the importance of the test. Benchmark tests helped with the data, and targeted intervention with after-school and summer school did help. We are looking at 6 comparable schools, and will get their data and compare it to our own.

Warsame: Thank you for improving the school with the parent resource room.

##### C. Yolande Charles– Educational Plan

Charles: Thank you for welcoming me to Iftin. I will talk about where we are, and where we're going. We have adopted curriculum with Eureka Math, Reach for Reading, and Active Classroom. We also utilize IXL as an online program. We work with teachers with the motto: "Every child, every day." We have 4 expectations through NCUST: clarity, engagement, monitoring, and classroom culture. We are refining PBIS, and integrating restorative practices. Where we would like to go is studying the curriculum and resources, and see if it's positively impacting students. We would like to be a school of transformation. We need our teachers to visit the best schools, and shadow and bring those practices back. We want to develop a



## **GOVERNING BOARD MINUTES**

### **Board Retreat Workshop**

volunteer system for parents. Fully implementing a school-wide PBIS plan, and fully restorative practices. After school tutoring and programs will be best practices. That's where we would like to go with our instruction plan.

Warsame: We welcome you, and we also want to see you get to make your way as you learn your position. I recommend we don't start the after school program too late, and because of our students being English learners, we need to start sooner.

Charles: My vision is it starts in the classroom. I want to get the most work with our teachers, and putting those strategies into the classroom. We also will look at the data from benchmarks, and if it's a true intervention program, we need to provide students what they need. My goal is into the classroom.

Hori: We do think it'll be important to start the after school program as soon as possible, and will address it at the next meeting.

D. Kathleen Dougherty/Ahmed Maani – Review Charter Renewal Petition

Maani: Today I stand before you as a consultant and I wrote the petition and Ms. Dougherty reviewed the petition through her experience. We worked on the petition throughout the year and this 300 page document highlights the vision and what Iftin is all about. We start the petition with the people. Starting with the board, we have high-level expertise. Our administration team has years of experience and degrees, and our teachers are highly qualified and parents support us. The 2<sup>nd</sup> is our policies and procedures, and on every side we have the right policy and procedure in place. When you have the people and policies, the third is the metrics or results. Many different metrics show positivity, such as the financials noted this morning, and the assessment side that was presented. When you look at Iftin from all the different lenses in a critical fashion, it is quite clear and evident that we are in a position for renewal. The draft is finished, and tell us more.

Dougherty: You as a board needs to approve the draft before it turns in, and will need a special meeting. We will work hard to make these changes, and get it to you in time to meet the deadline of the end of October. The first piece I have is that the academic achievement is measured to demonstrate whether a charter school is reauthorized. After speaking with Charter Office, they reminded us to follow their board policies when reviewing the petition. As a past superintendent and Charter School reauthorizer, there are the questions I focus on: is the academic program a success? Is the school organization effectively lead and managed? Is the school being operated prudently? Is the school faithful to the terms of its charter and MOU? I took a petition review sheet, and I was reading the draft that we would enhance. I looked throughout and there are 3 categories: exceeded, met, or failed to meet. I was very tough on the first draft of petition, and made comments on the petition. Your vision statement is great, but it might need enhancing for the next 5 years. There will be repetition in the petition, because the elements overlap. (please see 1<sup>st</sup> draft petition review.) One of the best parts of the petition involves a description of how learning best occurs. In terms of leaving items up for



## **GOVERNING BOARD MINUTES**

### **Board Retreat Workshop**

interpretation, I suggest you be more explicit. I will meet with admin and give more suggestions about how to update some of these missing pieces.

Warsame: The charter school office is looking for diversity. In the past, we have shown what we have done to advertise to the community. What do we do to demonstrate?

Doughtery: You write in the petition “we will.” You can write your advertisements in other languages. I haven’t looked at your enrollment policies, but analyzing those practices and putting flyers where students will see them in multiple languages and open houses. I know in your attendance policy you have parents have to attend an orientation and sign acknowledging it, then by having open houses might address some of these issues considering diversity.

E. Dr. Joseph Johnson – National Center for Urban School Transformation

Johnson: It is a pleasure to be here with you today. In my work I’ve had opportunities to work with many organizations, and boards set the vision. Good boards are specific about what they want to see for their school. They give that specific vision to the director, and that individual has the responsibility to lead the team to accomplish that. I hope that it’s an expectation that is high, and the children here are brilliant. They have great capacity to succeed. We should want and expect that the children who leave Iftin will go to high school and college and succeed and become whatever they wish to become in life. Whatever other goals you implement, such as attendance, will improve as you implement educational success. Families want a school where they see academic success. Parents also want a school where their kids will be safe, physically and emotionally. Your data shows that that’s already happening. It’s our role at the NCUST to support Mr. Hori in helping the school achieve the goals you specify. When you work together on that LCAP, then our goal is to support your director, your teachers, and your leadership team in achieving academic success. That is our focus, and it’s a focus because for 14 years we have studied schools across the school that has achieved great success for the diverse students they serve. As we look at those places that are successful, one of the important things we see that strong schools benefit from having strong boards that keep a sense of stability. If the goals are always changing, it’s hard to maintain success and keep things growing. You have established a good positive direction, to keep the same course, but you should continue to expect solid growth in the direction you have specified. You should continue to ask where’s the data that we’re moving in the right direction. As long as that data’s there, you should feel confident that you are providing the kind of leadership to have Iftin succeed in years to come. Our goal is more than just to see Iftin’s charter renewed, but that’s just getting to first place. We want to see a homerun! We want to see Iftin become one of the strongest schools in San Diego and California. Your children are capable and we are honored to work with you. It starts with what you want for your school, and we will work with your administration to make that happen.

Nadia (community member/parent): We need that help with technology to get our kids ready for high school. How do we get that help?

Johnson: As a part of a plan, it includes increasing access to technology, and it won’t be simple, but when the board sets the goal, and directs the administration to pursue that, we can put in



## GOVERNING BOARD MINUTES

### Board Retreat Workshop

place a plan to make that happen. We some schools where they make sure every student has access to an iPad or chrome book. You don't do it all in one step, but the more you are improving student success it will help with everything else. If you're getting good strong average daily attendance, the more you as a community that every child gets to school every day, then that increases the money the state provides, which could increase the technology budget.

Hassan: STEM program sounds like it's needed in Iftin.

Johnson: A huge percentage of jobs will be involved with STEM. Those areas are growing tremendously at San Diego State.

Abdi: I suggest we get a strong parent organization to encourage these programs.

#### **II. Stakeholder Dialogue 11:30– 12:00 pm**

---

A. Abdulkarim Warsame, Iftin Board President

Nadia (parent): We really really really need a high school. Students struggle after they leave here. What about an Iftin Charter High School? We also need a modern school.

Fadumo (parent): I encourage us to think about how do we make the students come first. We need a common goal and we're happy the school is at a good place right now. We need to support administration and we could reach better than where we are. I've compared other schools and Iftin is the best place for my students. I also think we need a high school. We also need to improve our special education department.

Ahmed (staff): I agree with what the parents said previously, and we need extensions of the sports, library, and STEM program. We are going forward and at a good place right now.

Mohamed (community member/founding member): He brought his kids to this school, not knowing how successful this school would be. We can understand how this would be if an English speaker goes to Somalia, and opens a school: it would be a risk. That students who started this school have successful careers and professions. The most needed area is the cooperation of teachers, parents, and administration. We need to send students here ready to learn. And communicate with the teachers and administration about how their kids are doing.

Ali (community member): Much has been said, but we move forward with parents and administration looking at what's the best interest of the school. We need to make sure students are properly accessed for special education. And that the parents fulfill their role bringing students to school ready to learn and be disciplined. Less technology and television at home would be helpful.

Abdukater (parent): I do have some recommendations. 1.) Those children going to high school should have math, reading, and science clubs. Those options can be provided Fridays. We want our kids one step ahead going into high school.



## GOVERNING BOARD MINUTES Board Retreat Workshop

Zaynab (parent, staff): I was helping with outreach, and we went to City Heights area and shared information in English and Somali. Do you have a high school or students with special needs in your plan?

Ayan (staff): I recently moved from Boston, and our school compares favorably to other schools in the neighbor.

### III. Conclusions 12:00 – 12:30 noon

---

- A. Ali Hori, Iftin Principal
  - i. Recognition and Closing Remarks

Hori: My job as a principal is to ensure the safety of all students so they can achieve their goals. If we work together as parents, teachers, and admin we can help our students succeed. We are working on an after school program that will begin soon and we will notify everyone the details. I would like to thank everyone, especially those who make my job easier.

- B. ICS Board Members

### Lunch 12:30 – 1:00 pm

---

### IV. Advance Planning

---

The next regularly scheduled Governing Board Meeting is to be held on **Friday, October 11<sup>th</sup> 2019** at 5:30 pm in the Iftin K-8 Library at 5465 El Cajon, Blvd San Diego.

### VI. Adjournment 2:10 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](mailto:mrudalliftin@gmail.com)*