

**REGULAR MEETING
OF THE
IDAHO VIRTUAL ACADEMY'S
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**Thursday
January 21, 2021**

7:00pm (MDT)

PRELIMINARY

A. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm (MDT).

B. ESTABLISH QUORUM

Quorum was established at 7:02 p.m.

C. ROLL CALL

<i>Seat</i>	<i>Occupant</i>	<i>Term</i>	<i>Present</i>	<i>Absent</i>
Position 1	Director Thompson	(7/24)	X	
Position 2	Director Shaver	(7/24)	X	
Position 3	Chairman Handeen	(7/22)	X	
Position 4	Director MacConnell	(7/23)		X
Position 5	Director Krein	(7/23)	X	

Positions and Terms pursuant to Policy 103.0

Others present at the meeting:

Kelly Edginton
Mike Groshong
Amanda Judd
Samantha Davis
Julie Kozlov
Sheila Shiebler
Lisa Stein
Amy White

II. COMMUNICATIONS

A. PROCEDURAL NOTE:

1. MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA – ACTION ITEM

Motion was made by Director Thompson to approve the Agenda.

Director Krein seconded the Motion.

Motion was approved unanimously.

B. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS/PUBLIC INPUT:

Non-agenda items: no individual presentation shall be for more than three (3) minutes, and the total time for this purpose shall not exceed fifteen (15) minutes. Ordinarily, Board members will not respond to presentations and no action can be taken. However, the Board may give direction to staff following a presentation.

No member of the public sought to make comment.

C. INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATION: Director's Report

Presentation of informational items at the discretion and selection of the Directors.

1. State February 15th Payment – Kelly Edginton

The Head of School and Finance Manager were contacted by the SDE a week and a half ago and met with them last Monday. Julie Oberle, SDE Finance Manager, explained to them that there is a provision in Idaho Code 33-5208 where a charter school cannot receive an increase of more than 30 support units from the prior year. A support unit is, roughly, a classroom. Last year, IDVA's support unit number was 100.38. This year, it is 189.18. Under the law, the SDE can pay only 130.38 for the Feb 15 payment. This leaves us 58.8 support units short in our funding, which is a significant amount of funding – approximately \$6.5 million dollars.

Julie was giving the school a heads up, and suggested that we should work with legislators on a bill for a temporary suspension of this aspect of the Code. She also said the school needs to ensure the bill will have an emergency provision for it to become law immediately and to make the revision retroactive to July 1. If the law can be changed to remove the support unit cap, the state will pay the additional support unit payment on schedule in the Feb 15 payment, or if it isn't passed in time for that, in the May payment.

Two schools fall under this law this year– IDVA and Inspire Connections Academy. IDVA is working with Inspire on addressing this issue.

K12/Stride Public Affairs took immediate action. Suzi Budge set up a meeting with Chairman Clow the same day of the SDE meeting. Chairman Clow is supportive. Suzi and Kelly drafted a bill and a statement of purpose. Suzi and Chairman Clow introduced the RS in committee this morning. The committee voted to take it to a hearing Monday. The Inspire director and Kelly will be testifying at that hearing.

Chairman Handeen indicated that he had already heard positive feedback associated with this bill from education committee members in his region.

Director Thompson offered to be there on Monday and offered willingness to present testimony. This will be presented in person.

2. IDVA 2 + 10 Board Presentation – Julie Kozlov

Samantha Davis reviewed the school’s financial status and financial reports with the Directors.

The projected enrollment (9 month average) increased 10% or 421 students versus prior forecast. Projected enrollment (9 month average) increased 2,676 students versus prior year showing 143% year over growth. Enrollment breakout: K-5 increased month over month 167 students, MS 181 students and HS 73 students.

Month over month increase in revenue of \$2 million driven by increase of 421 students and CARES Act funding of \$1.6 million. This is offset by expenses related to the enrollment increase within Student expenses (\$1.1 million), Management and Technology fees of \$.4 million and Special Education Services \$.2 million.

Forecast vs. Budget variance driven by increase of 2,214 students driving additional revenue of \$13.0 million. This is particularly offset by expenses related to the enrollment increase within Student Expenses, Management and Technology Fees and Special Education Services.

With regard to restricted funds, the goal is to use all restricted funding in FY21. Thereafter, the school will need to re-class excess expenditures from IDEA.

Month over month change driven K12 payments of \$.4 million and operational expenses of \$1.2 million. Partially offset by state and federal funding of \$1 million.

Cash flow commentary. The state pays basic formula funding five times per year. K12 proposed payment of \$.5 million in February that will pay open billed invoices from May and June of 2020. Additional title funds received in December were addressed.

Director Shaver expressed her appreciation for the job Ms. Davis was doing and her responsiveness to questions.

Ms. Kozlov provided additional comments. The financial documentation was prepared with the full expectation that the funds and state support will be received for all units. There was some hedging with the February payment on support units by pushing the forecast receipt of funds to May.

The parties stood for questions.

D. INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATION: Board/Staff Discussions

Board and staff discuss items of mutual interest.

1. Head of School Report – Kelly Edginton

Ms. Edginton presented the Directors with her Head of School Report.

Calendar Updates:

- January 21: Semester 2 begins
- January 25-29: School Choice Week
- January 29: Virtual Spelling Bee
- February 18: Board Meeting

Spring ISAT plans – the Head of School noted that the SDE is allowing remote ISAT this spring, and they asked her to review draft remote testing documents they had prepared and to provide feedback. The HOS reviewed the documents and provided feedback. The Assessment and Accountability Director was very receptive and planned to make some changes based on the feedback. In addition to other feedback, the HOS noted that throughout the draft documentation, the SDE made it very clear that they expect face-to-face testing even for virtual schools. The HOS expressed the following concerns with this.

- Many virtual schools have a large number of new students. IDVA, for example, has twice as many students as last year. For all virtual schools, in terms of face-to-face testing, this will mean increased testing days and/or larger testing venues – much larger with social distancing requirements. To exacerbate the matter, site capacity has been drastically reduced. Where IDVA used to be able to test 30 students at a time, right now, under state health requirements, the

school could only test 8 student with 2 proctors for a total of the maximum 10 per gathering. Schools do not necessarily have to comply with the less than 10 group size, but many sites do, meaning the school would not be able to test in a large group. IDVA, and other virtual schools, have used college campuses for testing sites in the past. Some colleges may require COVID testing prior to being on campus.

- Staff refusing to proctor, or staff not being unable to proctor because of sickness (a doctor friend of IDVA’s Testing Coordinator said the second shot has a tendency to make people sicker than the first). School administration is worried that second rounds of vaccines would happen about the same time as testing. A number of IDVA’s new staff came to us, so they wouldn’t have to put themselves out there where the virus could be lurking. Some have medical conditions. The concern about staff refusals is a real one.

The Assessment and Accountability Director was receptive. He said: “for schools in a virtual setting, the fact that students are generally online and may be dispersed around the state is itself a rationale for online testing that should be supportable this year.”

Ms. Edginton indicated that she will keep the Board advised about the progress with ISAT testing issues.

Ms. Edginton stood for questions.

III. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS (These items require a vote by the Directors)

All matters listed under the Consent Agenda are considered by the Board to be routine, and will be approved/enacted by the Board in one motion in the form listed below. Unless specifically requested by a Board member for further discussion, or removed from the agenda, there will be no discussion of these items prior to the Board voting on them.

- 1. Approval of Minutes of December, 2020 Regular Meeting**
- 2. Approval of December 2020 Monthly Invoices**
- 3. Approval of K12 Invoices**
- 4. Approval of December 2020 Check Register for Website Posting**
- 5. Approval of December Financial Report**
- 6. Enrollment Report**

Motion was made by Director Thompson to approve the Consent Agenda Items, as presented.

Motion seconded by Chairman Handeen.

Motion approved, unanimously.

IV. SCHEDULED FOR ACTION.

A. BUSINESS ITEMS (Requiring Approval Vote)

1. Banking Issue Continued Discussion – Kelly Edginton and Samantha Davis.

a. LGIP Account – Samantha Davis.

b. National Credit Card (See Bank Presentation 1- Nov, 2018)

The Board engaged in a continuation of the discussion about use of D.L. Evans for banking and the issues that have occurred during this use.

Discussion included credit card problems, issues with fees and interest offsetting fees and the possible use of a money market account that would increase interest. This would require more processing and does not fix the credit card problems.

Discussion included a potential return to the LGIP. The variable monthly interest rates were reviewed, all of which were significantly better than D.L. Evan's interest rates. Ms. Edginton reviewed what she had learned about the LGIP from her discussions with Mr. Wegner. He found it very easy to use and to move money in advance of cash flow needs. These funds are not FDIC due to the amounts.

Discussion addressed the possible use of a national credit card, and having the administrative team research what options are available and information relating to rewards, annual fees and related considerations.

Counsel indicated her research regarding banking options for other schools. No other school was identified using D.L. Evans.

Director Thompson indicated his displeasure with the situation and how long this has gone on. He commented his disbelief, given the amount of money the school is putting into this banking institution. He indicated that he reached out to an acquaintance at the Bank of Idaho to discuss these problems, and indicated a desire to formalize discussions with Bank of Idaho as a possible alternative to the problems the school has been experiencing.

Chairman Handeen also expressed that it is time to consider looking elsewhere. D.L. Evans is not going to change their operating policies, which means the problems will not go away. He indicated a desire to try to stay with an Idaho-based bank without having the types of issues they have been

having.

Motion was made by Chairman Handeen to direct Directors Thompson and Shaver to enter into preliminary discussion and research with the Bank of Idaho and/or any other Idaho Bank to address the possible banking needs of the school.

Motion seconded by Trustee Shaver.
Motion approved, unanimously.

The administrative team is also directed to bring a one-page document comparing interest rates and information regarding the LGIP, as well as information from national credit card research, including fees, interest and rewards.

2. K5 Handbook (K5 Progress Reports and Report Card Revisions) – Kerri Brown

In Ms. Brown's absence, the presentation was made by Ms. Edginton. A track-changes revision copy was provided to the Directors. Ms. Edginton detailed the proposed changes relating to the OLS Gradebook.

Ms. Edginton stood for questions.

Director Shaver made reference to a desired change to be made on Page 13, relating to plagiarism. Ms. Edginton indicated that she would take this issue back to the team to revisit, and then bring any change of this nature back to the Board for consideration.

Motion was made by Chairman Handeen to approve the Handbook edits, as presented.

Motion seconded by Director Krein.
Motion approved, unanimously.

3. Lecertua Charter Administrator Application – Attestation and Approval

Ms. Edginton explained the Application process and the necessities for Ms. Lecertua's application. She detailed, and had provided to the Directors, all materials relating to this request. She needs to have the Board approve the Attestation documentation and the Board's letter.

Motion was made by Chairman Handeen to approve the Attestation and Approval for Ms. Lecertua's application for Charter Administrator credentialing.

Motion seconded by Director Shaver.
Motion approved, unanimously.

4. Lecertua Charter Administrator Application – Board Letter Approval

Motion was made by Chairman Handeen to approve the Board Letter Approval for Ms. Lecertua’s application for Charter Administrator credentialing.

Motion seconded by Director Krein.
Motion approved, unanimously.

5. 2021-2022 Calendar Approval

Ms. Edginton presented the Directors with the draft 2021-22 school calendar for approval. The draft had been provided to the Directors in their Board packet. The proposed calendar starts a bit later than the current year. This is due to the timing of Labor Day being later in the calendar year. Otherwise, the calendar is essentially the same format as this current school year. While we would have liked to have the school year end prior to Memorial Day, the late Labor Day prevents this goal.

Director Krein made a request that the administrative team color code the published calendar differently than how it is being presented to the Board. She would like one color for all days without school, regardless of reason – for ease of reading. Ms. Edginton agreed that this was a good idea and would make it easier for families to read.

Motion was made by Director Krein to approve the 2021-2022 school year calendar, as presented.

Motion seconded by Director Shaver.
Motion approved, unanimously.

6. 2021-2022 School Start Schedule Approval

Ms. Edginton presented the Directors with the proposed school start schedule, which coincides with the now approved school calendar for the 2021-2022 school year.

Motion was made by Chairman Handeen to approve the 2021-2022 school year start schedule, as presented.

Motion seconded by Director Krein.

Motion approved, unanimously.

7. **Schweitzer Engineering Laboratories Donation – STEM Scholarship or portion thereof**

Ms. Edginton introduced the subject matter of this donation to the school. Schweitzer Engineering has a program where employees may select a school for a corporate donation. A parent of a 2020 graduate and a second parent of a current student selected IDVA for their designated school for donation. This is a \$200.00 donation.

The proposed action is that these funds be moved to the school's scholarship fund, and that the committee consider a STEM type of scholarship for these funds.

Ms. Edginton stood for questions and discussion ensued between the directors about use for the scholarship fund and a potential STEM diploma recognition. The Directors requested that a thank you be sent to Schweitzer, as well as each of the parents who designated the school.

Motion was made by Director Thompson to accept the donation, and to move the funds from the donation to the school's scholarship fund for the scholarship committee to consider use of the funds for a STEM-type of scholarship.

Motion seconded by Director Shaver.

Motion approved, unanimously.

8. **\$23,000 Request from Safe & Drug Free Fund – Tutor Me for 1,150 students, 2nd semester**

Ms. Edginton presented a request to the Directors to use a portion of the Safe and Drug Free fund to provide for a tutoring program for a segment of students. There are funds from this year that are available for use, as well as carryover from last year. Even with this request of \$23,000, there will be additional funds remaining in the fund for things such as the prevention conference and similar expenditures that are related and have been done in the past.

Ms. Edginton addressed learning loss from last spring, and in general, the historical problem the school has had with students, especially new students to the school who are behind from where they should be. Tutoring, in general, is expensive. Ms. Edginton sought out three quotes and searched out various costs and options.

The program Ms. Edginton is recommending is a program that K12 has as

a pilot in a number of affiliated schools. She is hearing positive feedback. They are proposing an extremely good deal for the product. They are willing to work with the school on pro-rata costs due to the mid-year consideration, and are proposing a \$5/month per child charge, providing up to 8 hours for each of those identified children. This would be a license agreement not by a specifically identified child. In this manner, if a student does not attend or is not interested in participating, a different student can use the license. The tutors do have background checks and they are required, at minimum, to have a degree in the subject matter for which they are providing tutoring. A student can work with different tutors or can arrange to work regularly with the same tutor.

Ms. Edginton thinks this proposal would be a great opportunity to try out this program while also providing a much needed service to students.

Ms. Edginton would do a survey as to families that would be interested, and believes it would be appropriate to prioritize students who have the greatest need.

Ms. Edginton stood for questions. She addressed questions relating to K12's affiliate program, the knowledge of the K12 curriculum, students versus licenses.

Motion was made by Director Shaver to authorize the School's Administration to utilize up to \$23,000 of funds for "Tutor Me," as proposed, for tutoring services, and that less can be expended if there is less interest than the number of licenses proposed with use of \$23,000 of funds.

Motion seconded by Chairman Handeen.
Motion approved, unanimously.

B. BUSINESS ITEMS (Informational)

1. College and Career Advisor Presentation – Lisa Stein

Ms. Stein presented the Directors with a detailed presentation about her role in the College and Career Advising Program. During the presentation, she detailed the steps that she is taking to expand the program to be more in line with a typical large high school in a brick and mortar setting.

Ms. Stein addressed her objectives in working with the program and the school's students. This included students exploring their interests and dreams, addressing college and career resources for students and families to utilize, making students/families understand the connection between

schooling and various career options and fostering a culture within the school that promotes student's next steps, whether they be college or some other technical program or career options.

Ms. Stein addressed the various manners in which communication occurs with students/families, both in group opportunities and settings, as well as individual advising. Other resources are available to students/families, including the program newsletter and the program website. These latter two considerations provide details and links to various resources for families.

Ms. Stein has put together a College and Career Speaker Series. She is always looking to expand the series with additional speakers. Her goal is to have speakers from various post-graduation options – 4 year universities/colleges, community colleges, technical programs and military presentations.

In one-to-one advising, Ms. Stein addressed examples of the various tools and discussions that occur. She works with students in taking career surveys that aid them in understanding their interest areas and how those interests may tie into a future career. She explores career options and pre-requisites for such options with students. She aids in college research and financial aid issues and general post-graduation life plans.

Ms. Stein indicated that she would like to expand program offerings in the area of scholarships and financial aid. She would like to bring in speakers to present to families on this subject matter as is done in the College and Career Speaker Series.

In addressing a desire to increase educational offerings relating to financial aid and scholarships, Ms. Stein also indicated a number of other projects that she would like to explore in expanding the program. She would like to have open office hours, a better manner in which to assist with college applications, more presentations from College and Career Speaker Series, Financial Aid and Scholarships, Counselor Connect and Assemblies. She would like a more targeted outreach for one-on-one advising, and would like to implement plans for an Apply Idaho Month in the fall of 2021.

Ms. Stein stood for questions relating to the program.

C. POLICY READINGS (Requiring an approval vote)

No Business Scheduled or Held.

D. PERSONNEL REPORT (Requiring an approval vote)

1. Request to Work Outside LEA

Ms. Edginton presented the Directors with the request. Information had also been presented to the Board in its packet.

Motion to approve the request to work outside the LEA, as presented was made by Chairman Handeen.

Motion seconded by Director Thompson.
Motion approved, unanimously.

E. INSTRUCTION AND CURRICULUM.

No Business Scheduled or Held.

F. PUPIL SERVICES.

No Business Scheduled or Held.

VI. INFORMATIONAL/DISCUSSION ITEMS

No Business Scheduled or Held.

VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

No Executive Session Scheduled or Held.

VIII. ACTION, IF ANY, TO BE TAKEN SUBSEQUENT TO EXECUTIVE SESSION.

No Action was Scheduled or Held.

IX. BOARD MEMBER INPUT FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS AND INFORMATION SOUGHT BY BOARD MEMBERS.

- Directors reiterated the issues previously discussed in the meeting.
- Directors also referenced a future subject matter relating to Ms. Lecertua's work on the graduation tracks for students.
- Directors would like to have a graduation plans update when information is known.
- Directors will want to discuss in the near future the issues of the summer in-person meeting and whether or not that will be occurring or if it will have to be a virtual meeting.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Director Thompson made a motion for the meeting to be adjourned.

Motion seconded by Director Krein.

Motion approved, unanimously

Meeting was adjourned at 8:29 pm MDT.

Submitted this day, January 21, 2021.

Mike Groshong, Board Clerk