



# Innocademy

## Minutes for the Meeting of the Board of Directors

**May 16, 2024; 4:00 p.m.**  
**Innocademy - Upstairs Team Room**  
**8485 Homestead Drive**  
**Zeeland, MI 49464**

### School Mission Statement:

*Innocademy is an inclusive public school academy that prepares PreK-8<sup>th</sup> grade students to have a global mindset through whole child, Spanish language, and nature-rich learning.*

1. Call to Order: Laurie called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.
2. Attendance: Jessica Parker, Laurie Schmitt, Nick deVries, April Best, Abbie Petroelje (Abbie left meeting at 5 p.m.)
3. Public Comment on Agenda Items
4. Consent Agenda

- a. Agenda

Laurie proposed move to add 10b (discussion item on new board members) and to move action item 9 to happen after school report.

Abbie moved. Jessica second. Motion passed unanimously.

- b. Prior Meeting Minutes – April 18, 2024

Abbie moved. Jessica second. Motion passed unanimously.

5. Board and Staff Celebrations of the School

Jessica celebrated the appreciation of Miss Cindy at the Spring Concert last night. Joe celebrated the five hours he spent at Innocademy – really appreciated the passion and commitment of staff as well as the culture of the school. Abbie celebrated Miss Hilary's ability to see kids for who they are and how she makes room for individuality – really appreciate her wisdom and ability. April celebrated the showcase of artwork and the QR code with what students did in Connections. Nick celebrated the honoring of Miss Cindy last night and the creation of a culture that produces on the staff; Nick loved the

supportive energy towards Las Huellas last night. Dave celebrated the culture of Innocademy and how it differentiates us from other schools. Jessenia celebrated talking with two Las Huellas graduates who were both at the concert last night – hearing the biliteracy proficiency of the students because of the program was really encouraging. Enrollment has an accurate representation of who will be staying next year. Laurie celebrated the new format of the weekly newsletter – the fresh communication is really well done.

## 6. IES Report

### a. Enrollment Trends

Dave presented for Deb – new software available to show the last eleven years of enrollment. Highpoint was 333 students in 2018. We are 10 kids off our sweet spot. Focus moving forward is to hit that sweet spot. Start to ask questions about why we lose a handful of students at the end of every year. Nick put the data into an excel spreadsheet which showed that we are getting kids into middle school but then losing them in the middle of their time. It's a good foundation to start having positive discussions about what has been happening.

## 7. School Report

### a. LSSU Goals and Progress

Jessenia presented LSSU goals and Innocademy's progress.

Metric 1 - 2105 out of 3500 goal for positive acknowledgments (already have met this goal twice during the school year)

Metric 2 - conference attendance (whole school 91.6% attendance, elementary 94.6%, middle school 75%)

Metric 3 - student growth portfolio for TK-8 (print or digital)

Metric 4 - Nature offsite experiences (4 per teacher) has been met!

Nick asked a question about how we can celebrate/affirm the 7 habits that are core to Innocademy's whole child curriculum.

### b. Language Learning: Classic and LH

New "Sonrisas" curriculum feedback. TK-4th grade feedback appreciated the beauty of being able to adapt it to individual teaching practices. 5th-8th grade feedback revealed it was not large enough to be taught on a daily basis for 50 minutes – had to supplement with other resources.

Jessenia wants to work more closely with Mr. Brad on scoping and sequencing of the content.

### c. Middle School Update

Jessenia presented the changes in Middle School. 6th grade self-contained. 7th and

8th grade self contained within two teachers. Staff feedback felt the change was good especially with social and emotional challenges. Student feedback found it was difficult for LH and Classic were all together with class size and figuring out behavior norms. Overall students felt like they developed better relationships with staff.

Abbie shared how ZQuest does some crossover assimilation with Creekside to help with preparing for the transition to a bigger school eventually. Jessica wondered if we could address concerns with some data on what transitions look like for students. Jessenia wants to show families all the different ways students are being equipped by Innocademy with the life skills that are necessary for future changes.

How do we communicate the stories of student success once they leave Innocademy? Part of advertising and part of newsletter?

Miss Jessie's contribution to the school has had a positive impact on student culture especially with Middle School clubs and sports opportunities. What she's doing builds camaraderie and community that allows Middle Schoolers to distinguish themselves from elementary students.

d. TK/K Screener Update

Invited all students that made the roster and waitlist to have a screening. Currently have TK LH 15, K LH 22, K Classic 22

April wondered why the lack of interest in TK Classic. Dave shared how there will be two full day sections of Precademy being offered next year. Abbie asked what the percentage of students from Precademy end up at Innocademy. Would it be possible to give priority to Precademy families that would surpass the lottery system. Dave wants to know if this is possible.

8. Financial Report

a. May Report on April Financials

Will do budget amendment 3 next month. We are at 59% rather than 63%. Dave explained that technically we are where we should be at this time. Support services is down right now but will go up once we get to June. Expenditures are comparable with last year's. Credit card statement is much higher due to Capstone trip expenses – will be reconciled. Checks larger than \$1000 included Speech Therapy, MAPS participation, and Zeeland BPW.

Next year's budget preview. State of Michigan branches of government all will be giving more than in year's past. 10 more kids would alleviate all the budgetary issues. Want to compensate teachers well.

9. Action Items

- a. Motion to approve an additional +1 enrollment seat for each of TK LH, K LH, and K Classic.

Nick moved. Joe says we don't need to do this. Motion denied unanimously.

10. Discussion Items

- a. Board Results and Feedback

Self-evaluation and evaluation of IES. Now have 3 years of data to reflect on. Jessica commented on the opportunities to support the mission and vision of work of the teaching team. She's hoping to figure out ways to engage more often with teachers outside school hours.

Jessenia commented that the Mission and Vision is a SR team – offered for board members to pop into meetings if they are curious about supporting the staff in this particular aspect of the school.

One area of discussion has to do with HR personnel selection, training and evaluation (summary performance of evaluations). If our product is our teachers, then giving attention to their performance (in general not individual) matters. Marketing and Development – would like to see a more proactive plan. IES would like to invest in recruiting those 10 additional students. Marketing plan plus retention plan. Parents and staff are the best form of advertising. Transportation is a need. Could also improve attendance.

Potential to create a schedule for certain items to be discussed on a rotating basis.

- b. New board members update

Miss Cindy has shared her interest in becoming a board member. Nick could follow up with Chris. Next step is to give more information to Miss Cindy. Application then nomination (both forms sent to Jessenia). August would be the first effective date because there is no meeting in July.

11. LSSU Comment

Joe shared that he would highlight more details from the visitation report at a future date.

12. Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items

None.

13. Adjournment: meeting adjourned at 5:44 p.m.

a. Next Meetings:

2024-2025 Budget Hearing June 27, 2024, at 4:00 p.m.

Regular Board Meeting June 27, 2024, at 4:15 p.m.

Organizational Meeting June 27, 2024, at 5:00 p.m.

*This meeting is a meeting of the Board of Directors in public for the purpose of conducting the Academy's business and is not to be considered a public community meeting. There is a time for public participation during the meeting as indicated on the agenda.*

*Joseph Schwartz  
Board President  
6/27/24*

Minutes of all board meetings are available after approval by the Board at <https://innacademy.com> or by contacting:

*Jessenia Martinez, School Lead  
Innocademy  
8485 Homestead Dr.  
Zeeland, MI 49464*

Individuals wishing to address the Board of Directors will be recognized in accordance with Board policies regarding public comments. Individual comments are limited to no more than three (3) minutes each and total time allowed regarding agenda specific items is twenty (20) minutes and non-agenda items is fifteen (15) minutes. The Board will not verbally respond to any public comments at the time of the meeting but may refer comments to appropriate personnel for follow-up or respond itself in a timely manner.

Complaints or concerns regarding Board members or school employees associated with the academy shall first be addressed in writing and delivered to the Board President no less than five (5) days prior to the next regular Board meeting, or such complaints shall not be heard by the Board.

Those in attendance at this meeting are reminded that this is a meeting of the Board of Directors in public for the purpose of conducting academy business. It is not considered to be a public meeting. There is a specified time on the agenda for public comment regarding issues of importance to those in attendance.

The proposed minutes of this meeting will be available for public inspection at the office of the Board of Directors of Innocademy no later than eight (8) business days after the meeting. Approved minutes will be available at that office and at <https://innacademy.com/> no later than five (5) business days after the meeting at which they are approved (Open Meetings Act, P.A. 267).

Individuals with a disability who need a reader, amplifier, qualified sign language interpreter, or any other form of auxiliary aid or special service to participate in this meeting should contact Jessenia Martinez at 616-748-5637 at least two (2) days prior to the meeting.

Innocademy has provided notice of this meeting at:

8485 Homestead Dr.  
Zeeland, MI 49464