

Ivy Hawn Board Meeting

May 20, 2026

MINUTES

Rob Wyatt called meeting to order at 6:00

ATTENDEES:

Daniel Conard, Rob Bitler, Emilie Schmitz, Julie Yadanza, Robert Wyatt, Chadley Ballantyne, Matt DeFibo, Lacey Lassiter, Dr. Snezhana Zheltoukhova, Robert Baldwin

Public Comment

None

PAC Update

Updated on upcoming events and fundraising totals
Banner sales have begun for the coming year
Feedback surveys to be sent
PAC Board of Directors to be voted on at next PAC meeting (5/21/2026)

Leadership League

Beach and park cleanup scheduled for Summer break
Leadership League switching to Service League for the next school year

Approve Prior Minutes

- Motion to Approve 4/23/2026 Board Meeting minutes – Rob Bitler
- Motion Seconded – Daniel Conard
 - Amendment needed – include Rob Wyatt in “Against” vote in Motion to Approve the Zahn quote
- Motion to Approve Amended 4/26/2026 Board meeting minutes – Rob Bitler
- Motion Seconded – Daniel Conard
- Motion passed unanimously

Board Secretary Report

No emails needing a response

Treasurer Report

Rob Bitler reviewed the monthly financial reports for April

- Motion to accept the Treasurer report as presented – Daniel Conard
- Motion Seconded – Chadley Ballantyne
- Motion passed unanimously

Principal Update

Mr. Scitney to be the Board staff liaison in the upcoming year
Water Meter Update
Meeting occurred between Ivy Hawn administration and Lake Helen officials to clarify expectations. Lake Helen has requested that the Equestrian Center be utilized for overflow parking for after school events. Further meetings regarding parking to occur.
Next year is accreditation through Cognia, board input and actions will be vital

Committee Updates

Finance Committee:

- Motion to discuss proposed budget – Rob Bitler
- Motion Seconded – Emilie Schmitz
 - Motion rescinded after discussion
- Motion to approve proposed budget– Rob Bitler
- Motion Seconded – Emilie Schmitz
- Motion passed unanimously

Future Planning Meeting: No Updates

Policy and Procedure Committee:

Meeting to discuss update to the board's procurement policy occurred and remains a work in progress.

Technology Committee: No Updates

Principal Evaluation: No Updates

Teacher Retention and Recruitment: No Updates

High School Exploratory:

Rob Bitler read the following into the record:

“Over the last 6 months we have been working very hard on future plans for an Ivy Hawn high school. During this time our two guiding principles were to create the best possible experience for these new students while also preserving what we have built for our K-8 students and staff. After considering various models and evaluating the funding restrictions, and in order to stay true to these two guiding principles, we have made the determination that there are other items we need to prioritize to be better prepared for future growth. This is not a decision we take lightly and will be evaluating the various ways we can continue to adapt and open our school to more students in the future. Please reach out directly to Ms. Suhr or myself with any questions.”

This committee will be disbanded moving forward.

Old Business

None

New Business

Board Meeting Evaluations were reviewed:

- The Board was notified by Rob Bitler that there is a conflict of interest between another, existing Board member. For clarity, the conflict of interest does not pertain to Rob Bitler himself.
- Motion to Approve Board Member Evaluations – Rob Bitler
- Motion Seconded – Emilie Schmitz
- Passed Unanimously

Candidates for Second 3-year term were discussed:

- Motion to Approve Second 3-Year Term for Robert Baldwin, Lacey Lassiter – Rob Bitler
- Motion Seconded – Daniel Conard
- Passed Unanimously

Interviews were conducted with 3 prospective Board members:

- Brian Kushner
- Elizabeth Graves
- Razvan Berindean

- Motion to approve Elizabeth Graves as a new Board member – Daniel Conard
- Motion Seconded – Rob Bitler
 - Yes(6) – Rob Bitler, Emilie Schmitz, Robert Wyatt, Chadley Ballantyne, Matt DeFibo, Lacey Lassiter
 - No(4) – Daniel Conard, Julie Yadanza, Dr. Snezhana Zheltoukhova, Robert Baldwin

Election of Officers for 26-27 School Year:

- Motion to Nominate and Approve Rob Wyatt as Board Chair – Daniel Conard
- Motion Seconded – Rob Bitler
- Passed Unanimously

- Motion to Nominate and Approve Rob Baldwin as Board Vice Chair – Rob Bitler
- Motion Seconded – Daniel Conard
- Passed Unanimously

- Motion to Nominate and Approve Rob Bitler as Board Treasurer – Julie Yadanza
- Motion Seconded – Daniel Conard
- Passed Unanimously

- Motion to Nominate and Approve Danny Conard as Board Secretary – Rob Bitler
- Motion Seconded – Emilie Schmitz
- Passed Unanimously

Adjourn

- Motion to adjourn – Rob Bitler
- Motion seconded – Emilie Schmitz
- Motion passes unanimously

Meeting Adjourned at 8:29 PM

Next Board meeting set for June 25th at 6:00 PM