

AMENDED
INDIAN RIVER SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION WORKSHOP MEETING
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2022
GEORGE W. CARVER BUILDING CAFETERIA

Call to Order

President Mr. Rodney M. Layfield called the Workshop Meeting of the Indian River School District Board of Education to order at 7:00 p.m.

Roll Call

Board Members present: Mr. Derek Cathell, Mr. Scott Collins, Mr. Jim Fritz, Mr. Rodney Layfield, Mr. Gerald Peden, Mrs. Connie Pryor, Dr. Heather Statler, Mrs. Leolga Wright.

Board Member Absent: Dr. Donald Hattier, Ms. Madeline Moses.

Approval of Agenda – November 16, 2022

Mr. Collins, seconded by Mr. Cathell, motioned to approve the agenda for November 16, 2022. The motion passed unanimously (8-0).

Public Comments

There were no public comments

New Business

Community Advisory Board – Updates

- **Charlotte King** - Acknowledge and endorse the work of the Community Advisory Board and the Consent Order at IRSD Board meetings. Talk about the Consent Order at meetings with teachers and staff; bring forward to faculty and staff the issues and priorities for change.
- **Margaret Hopkins** - District administrators and staff model language and follow the direction of the board. What is the Board's position on diversity, equity, and inclusion; and your position on racial slurs and discrimination? We sent a letter on October 18, 2022 requesting your position and have not received a response. The community advisory board is requesting a written response.
- **Gloria Duffy** - District administrators and staff model language and follow the board's direction. In the best interest of our students, we request the board issue a statement that states the importance of using language that shows respect and support for diversity, equity and inclusion. Individual IRSD board members made statements to the media about the importance of diversity, equity, and inclusion. A statement from the Board is needed. Will the board make such a statement and engage in training on the use of appropriate language to avoid racial slurs and racial macroaggressions?

- **Karen Maull** - We applaud the work of your Equity Steering Committee, we want to know that you are supportive of their work, including the community-based focus groups. Do you support their work? Will you discuss their work at your board meetings to show your interest and support?
- **Molli Carter** - We would like the board to be informed on IRSD data re: "closing the gap" and know you are holding the administration accountable for work to improve student performance/test scores, graduation rates and reduce suspensions of minority students. We would like the district to provide interventions, including after-school programs to improve student performance, prevent drop out/increase graduation rates and reduce suspensions.
- **Ivan Neal** - Survey results show that some students cannot participate in after-school activities. During the advisory board's discussion this Summer with the administration, we understood that activity buses would be in place in the Fall.
- **Marjorie Belmont Burns** - We need more diversity in faculty, staff and administration. IRSD is a district with a majority of minority students, we need more teachers who look like the students they teach. We recommend IRSD implement a *Grow Our Own Program* to attract and recruit IRSD students to become teachers. An area for improvement identified by the survey is encouraging all students to take honors classes and other advanced classes. What is the criteria for taking honors classes and other advanced classes and is this communicated to ALL IRSD parents and students?
- **Barbara Malone** - Survey data shows that faculty and students would like teaching materials and resources that reflect the diversity of students in the district. We request an update on IRSD's implementation of House Bill 198. How are Career Paths developed for students, and who monitors this? The overall graduation rate for IRSD is lower than the State of Delaware; lower for African American students, and much lower for Hispanic students.

Freedom of Information Act

House Bill 293

School Training – School Board Liability, School Board Member Roles, Responsibilities, Powers & Duties, and Best Practices

Mr. James F. McMackin, attorney from Morris James LLP, provided board training for Indian River School District board members. Mr. McMackin addressed the following topics:

- House Bill 293
- Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)
- School Board Liability, roles, responsibilities, powers, duties, and best practices

Adjournment

President Ms. Rodney M. Layfield adjourned the meeting at 9:27 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jay F. Owens, Ed.D
Secretary
Indian River School District
Board of Education

Rodney M. Layfield
President
Indian River School District
Board of Education

RML/JFO:jmt