

INDIAN RIVER SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2021
SUSSEX CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM

MINUTES

Call to Order

President Rodney Layfield called the Regular Meeting of the Indian River School District Board of Education to order at 6:00 p.m.

Roll Call

Board Members present: Mr. Scott Collins, Mr. Rodney Layfield, Ms. Madeline Moses, Mr. Gerald Peden, Mrs. Connie Pryor, Dr. Heather Statler, Mrs. Leolga Wright.

Board Members Absent: Mr. Derek Cathell, Mr. Jim Fritz, Dr. Donald Hattier.

Executive Session

It was moved by Mr. Cathell, seconded by Mrs. Pryor, to go into Executive Session at 6:01 p.m. for the purpose of discussing personnel, student hearings, negotiations, and litigation. The motion passed unanimously (7-0).

Reconvene - Regular Session at 7:09 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Student Government

Sussex Central High School's student government representative, Harley Tidwell, reported on events occurring at Sussex Central High School.

Approval of Agenda – December 20, 2021

It was moved by Mr. Collins, seconded by Mrs. Pryor, to approve the agenda. The motion passed unanimously (7-0).

Approval of Minutes

Board of Education Regular Meeting Minutes – November 29, 2021.

It was moved by Mr. Peden, seconded by Mrs. Pryor, to approve the minutes as submitted. The motion passed unanimously (7-0).

Board of Education Executive Session Meeting Minutes – November 29, 2021.

It was moved by Mr. Peden, seconded by Mrs. Pryor, to approve the minutes as submitted. The motion passed unanimously (7-0).

Visitors and Staff in Attendance

Jay Owens, Karen Blannard, Celeste Bunting, Kelly Dorman, Judi Brittingham, Tammy Smith, Charles Ruggiero, Chris Delgado, Cliff Toomey, Joe Booth, Shawn Tidwell, Preston Lewis, Pamela Webb, Karen Clausen, Bradley Layfield, Travis Bower, Brad Breasure, Mike Williams, Neil Stong, Stephen Lovellette, Melissa Kansak, Janet Hickman, Allisa Booth, Jason Macrides, Christy Kerr, Karen Clausen, Maria Hazzard, Sam Lougheed, Tara Thoroughgood, Carisa Pepper, Linda Hockman, Molli Carter, Ken Fearn, Audrey Carey, Laura Morin, David Whitmer, Deanna Whitmer, Harry Gold, Rita Hughes, Ronald Lewis, Ashley Elksnis, Tamara White, Brian Pettyjohn, Alicia Carroll, Rich Carroll, Brad Cowen, Andrea Caggiano, DJ Long, Trevor Wilkins, Desiree Pilgrim, Kathy Dulis, Jason Pilgrim, Maria Lopez, Eric Hiller, Elizabeth Walter.

Public Comments

- Molli Carter spoke to the Board regarding the masking of students. Masks should be an individual's choice not mandated. She urged the Board to stand up against mask mandates in schools.
- Eric Hiller urged the Board to continue mask wearing in schools to protect students. He asked we listen to doctors and not politics regarding the mask mandate.
- Maria Lopez spoke to the Board regarding safety concerns at Selbyville Middle School. Her child was afraid when concerns arose of a possible shooting that was "supposed" to occur via social media.
- Ashley Elksnis expressed her concerns of mask mandates. She also expressed concerns regarding accuracy of information regarding vaccination from DPH.
- Alicia Carroll spoke to the Board about the mask mandate. Students are having anxiety and fatigue due to wearing masks all day at school. The district should be following accurate data regarding mask wearing and COVID -19.

It was moved by Mr. Peden, seconded by Mrs. Pryor, to extend Public Comments. The motion passed unanimously (7-0).

- Andrea Caggiano spoke to the Board regarding students natural immunity to COVID is inhibited due to wearing masks. She also asked about safety concerns regarding transgender student's choice of bathrooms as well as Common Core math teachings at Lord Baltimore Elementary.

New Business

School Choice Applications 2021-2022 (December 2021)

It was moved by Dr. Statler, seconded by Mr. Collins, to accept school choice applicants 2021-2022 (December 2021) as presented by Mr. Lewis. The motion passed unanimously (7-0).

Mask Protocol Survey Results

Dr. Owens shared with the Board the mask protocol survey process. The preview phone call and email were sent to families on December 2, 2021. First phone survey was sent on December 6, followed by additional calls on December 8, 9, 10, 2021, to families who did not participate on previous phone attempts. The survey remained active until December 13, 2021 at 4:00 p.m. The survey for staff was sent on December 1, 2021 with additional calls on December 9, 10, 2021, who did not participate on previous phone attempts. This survey remained active until December 13, 2021 at 4:00 p.m.

Emergency Mask Regulation

Dr. Owens shared with the Board the Emergency Mask Regulation from Governor Carney, Department of Education (DOE), and Delaware Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS). They formally issued regulations that will extend the emergency masking requirement in public and private K-12 schools until February 8, 2022.

No motion was made to continue mask wearing or mask to become optional/strongly recommended following the February 8, 2021 mask requirement date.

2021-2022 Organizational Chart

It was moved by Mr. Collins, seconded by Dr. Statler, to accept the 2021-2022 Organizational Chart as presented by Dr. Owens. The motion passed unanimously (7-0).

Sussex Central High School Baseball Uniforms

It was moved by Mr. Peden, seconded by Ms. Moses, to approve the Sussex Central Baseball Uniforms as presented. The motion passed (6-1-0).

For the motion: Mr. Layfield, Ms. Moses, Mr. Peden, Mrs. Pryor, Dr. Statler, Mrs. Wright.

Against the motion: Mr. Collins

Town of Millsboro Reclaimed Water Proposal at Sussex Central High School

It was moved by Mrs. Wright, seconded by Mrs. Pryor, to approve a partnership with the Town of Millsboro for the Reclaimed Water Proposal at Sussex Central High School as presented by Mr. Booth. The motion passed unanimously (7-0).

Southern DE School of the Arts – Chesapeake Utilities Easement Agreement

It was moved by Mrs. Wright, seconded by Ms. Moses, to accept the Southern DE School of the Arts/Chesapeake Utilities Agreement including the \$5,000.00 disbursement as presented by Mr. Booth. The motion passed unanimously (7-0).

Indian River High School Sound System

It was moved by Mrs. Wright, seconded by Mrs. Pryor, to approve the purchase of a replacement outdoor sound system at Indian River High School. The motion passed unanimously (7-0).

Lord Baltimore Elementary Bridge Request

It was moved by Mrs. Wright, seconded by Dr. Statler, to proceed with the Lord Baltimore Elementary Bridge Request with the stipulation to not exceed \$10,000.00. The motion passed unanimously (7-0).

Howard T. Ennis Change Orders

It was moved by Mr. Collins, seconded by Ms. Moses, to approve the Howard T. Ennis Change Orders – (002) credit in the amount of \$40,812; (003) fee (addition) in the amount of \$5,332; (004) fee (addition) in the amount of \$2,886. The motion passed unanimously (7-0).

Howard T. Ennis Pool

It was moved by Mr. Collins, seconded by Ms. Moses, to table Howard T. Ennis Pool until a later date. The motion passed unanimously (7-0).

Howard T. Ennis Pool Manager Pay Rates

It was moved by Mr. Collins, seconded by Ms. Moses, to table Howard T. Ennis Pool until a later date. The motion passed unanimously (7-0).

Bus Driver/Bus Aide Pay Scale

It was moved by Mr. Collins, seconded by Ms. Moses, to approve the Bus Driver/Bus Aide Scale as presented. The motion passed unanimously (7-0).

Retired Paraprofessional Substitute Teacher Pay

It was moved by Mr. Collins, seconded by Mrs. Wright, to approve the long term paraprofessional substitute teacher pay in the amount of \$150.00 per day. The motion passed unanimously (7-0).

Tax Relief Request

There was no motion made.

Old Business

New Sussex Central High School/Major Capital Planning

Dr. Owens reviewed with the Board the most recent updates regarding the new Sussex Central High school.

Howard T. Ennis

Dr. Owens updated the board on Howard T. Ennis construction with an anticipated completion date of August 30, 2022.

GW Carver Consent Update

Dr. Brittingham shared with the Board the most recent updates on GW Carver Academy.

Committee Reports

Buildings & Grounds

Mr. Booth reviewed the minutes from the December 13, 2021 Buildings & Grounds committee meeting.

Comprehensive School Safety

No report.

Finance

Mrs. Smith reviewed the minutes from the December 13, 2021 Finance Committee meeting.

Curriculum

No report.

DSBA Board of Directors

No report.

DSBA Legislative

No report.

Special Education Task Force

No report.

Policy

First Readings

JO - Student Cumulative Records

EEAB – Bus Transportation Scheduling Times

Mr. Collins presented the following policies for first readings: JO - Student Cumulative Records and EEAB – Bus Transportation Scheduling Times. He requested that any changes should be reported to the Policy Committee.

IREA Representative

JR Emanuele, IREA representative, thanked the board members who attended the annual meet and greet held on December 14, 2021. He also reminded the board of the annual scholarship fundraiser on March 11, 2021 at the Millsboro Senior Center.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Owens shared his monthly activities with the Board.

Financial Reports

Finance Committee

Mrs. Smith reviewed with the financial summaries, major and minor cap improvement financials for the month ending November 30, 2021.

Financial Summaries for month ending November 30, 2021

It was moved by Mr. Collins, seconded by Mrs. Pryor, to approve the Financial Summaries for the month ending November 30, 2021 as presented by Mrs. Smith. The motion passed unanimously (7-0).

Detail Information for month ending November 30, 2021

It was moved by Mr. Collins, seconded by Dr. Statler, to approve the Detail Information for the month ending November 30, 2021 as presented by Mrs. Smith. The motion passed unanimously (7-0).

Major Capital Improvements for month ending November 30, 2021

It was moved by Mr. Collins, seconded by Ms. Moses, to approve the Major Capital Improvements for the month ending November 30, 2021 as presented by Mrs. Smith. The motion passed unanimously (7-0).

Minor Capital Improvements for month ending November 30, 2021

It was moved by Mr. Collins, seconded by Mrs. Pryor, to approve the Minor Capital Improvements for the month ending November 30, 2021 as presented by Mrs. Smith. The motion passed unanimously (7-0).

Student Activity Funds

It was moved by Mr. Collins, seconded by Mrs. Wright, to approve the \$500.00 disbursement to Robotics for battery purchase. The motion passed unanimously (7-0).

Personnel Agenda for December 20, 2021

It was moved by Mr. Collins, seconded by Ms. Moses, to approve the Personnel Agenda for December 20, 2021. The motion passed unanimously (7-0).

Personnel Addendum for December 20, 2021

It was moved by Mrs. Wright, seconded by Mr. Collins, to approve the Personnel Addendum for December 20, 2021. The motion passed unanimously (7-0).

Contractual Agenda for December 20, 2021

It was moved by Mrs. Pryor, seconded by Mrs. Wright, to approve the Contractual Agenda for December 20, 2021. The motion passed unanimously (7-0).

Student Hearing

Student No. 22-31

It was moved by Mrs. Wright, seconded by Ms. Moses, to accept the hearings officer recommendation for Student No. 22-31. The motion passed unanimously (7-0).

Public Comments

Melissa Walter spoke to the Board about the effects of COVID with our very vulnerable senior population.

Adjournment

President Layfield adjourned the meeting at 8:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

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

RML/JFO:jmt