

INDIAN RIVER SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING  
MONDAY, OCTOBER 25, 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 6:03 p.m.

Roll Call

Board Members present: Mr. Derek Cathell, Dr. Donald Hattier, Mr. Rodney Layfield, Ms. Madeline Moses, Mr. Gerald Peden, Mrs. Connie Pryor, Dr. Heather Statler, Mrs. Leolga Wright.

Board Members Absent: Mr. Scott Collins, Mr. Jim Fritz.

Executive Session

It was moved by Mr. Cathell, seconded by Dr. Hattier, to go into Executive Session at 6:04 p.m. for the purpose of discussing personnel, student hearings, negotiations, and litigation. The motion passed unanimously (8-0).

Reconvene - Regular Session at 7:02 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance/Presentation of Colors

Approval of Agenda – October 25, 2021

It was moved by Dr. Hattier, seconded by Mrs. Wright, to approve the agenda. The motion passed unanimously (8-0).

Approval of Minutes

Board of Education Regular Meeting Minutes – August 23, 2021.

It was moved by Mrs. Wright, seconded by Dr. Hattier, to approve the minutes as submitted. The motion passed unanimously (8-0).

Board of Education Regular Meeting Minutes – September 27, 2021.

It was moved by Mr. Cathell, seconded by Mrs. Pryor, to approve the minutes as submitted. The motion passed unanimously (8-0).

Board of Education Executive Session Meeting Minutes – September 27, 2021.

It was moved by Dr. Hattier, seconded by Mrs. Pryor, to approve the minutes as submitted. The motion passed unanimously (8-0).

### Visitors and Staff in Attendance

Jay Owens, Karen Blannard, Celeste Bunting, Kelly Dorman, Judi Brittingham, Renee Jerns, Tammy Smith, Charles Ruggiero, Chris Delgado, Cliff Toomey, Joe Booth, Pamela Webb, Bradley Layfield, Travis Bower, Brad Breasure, Mike Williams, Neil Stong, Kathleen Wilson, Melissa Kansak, Janet Hickman, Allisa Booth, Jason Macrides, Christy Kerr, Karen Clasuen, David Hudson, Sam Loughheed, Tara Thoroughgood, Linda Hockman, Molly Abbott, Lynn Baler, Daren Criswell, Corinne Elliott, Patricia Emmett, Richard Franco, Justine Hartshore, Dan Jones, Joshua Lee, Amy Mooney, Kevin Reid, Mark Throm, Chelsey Wharton, Jessica Yanez, Molli Abbott, Buck Simperts, Kathy Dulis, Daron Criswell, Kim Wills, David Waybright, Jake Buchler, Dale LePrad, Bath Tapia, Dante Tapia, Suzanne LoRusso, Brad Cowen, Dean Johnson, Chris House, Sarah Merlo.

### Special Recognition

#### 2021-2022 Special Education Ambassadors

- Molly Abbott - John M. Clayton Elementary
- Lynn Baker – Long Neck Elementary
- Daren Criswell – Indian River High School
- Jillian Dzurnak – Lord Baltimore Elementary
- Corinne Elliott – Howard T. Ennis
- Patricia Emmett – Selbyville Middle
- Richard Franco – So. De School of the Arts
- Justine Hartshore – Early Learning Center
- Dan Jones – Georgetown Elementary
- Joshua Lee – Millsboro Middle
- Amy Mooney – Sussex Central High School
- Kevin Reid – Phillip C. Showell Elementary
- Mark Throm – Georgetown Middle
- Chelsey Wharton – North Georgetown Elementary
- Jessica Yanez – East Millsboro Elementary

### Public Comments

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

Molli Carter spoke to the Board regarding the effects of masks on students in the district. She cited an incident her daughter experienced due to eye glasses "fogging up" from mask wearing. She urged the Board to stand up against mask mandates in schools.

Mr. Waybright, a retired Seaford School District building facilitator, offered to send the board members information regarding "white paper" used in HVAC systems to remove airborne contaminants.

Kim Wills spoke to the Board about the mask mandates. She feels the district should be fighting this mandate. She feels the Secretary of Education should not be enforcing the mandate.

Sara Merlo, a concerned parent supported the mask mandate. She feels it is a much safer environment for her children.

Jake Buchler, a kindergarten teacher in the district, believes the district should retain its local control. This mandate affects both teachers and students. He feels the decision should be an individual's own choice.

#### New Business

##### School Choice Applications 2021-2022 (October 2021)

It was moved by Dr. Hattier, seconded by Mrs. Pryor, to accept school choice applicants 2021-2022 (October 2021) as presented by Mr. Lewis. The motion passed unanimously (8-0).

##### 2021-2022 Unit Count

Mrs. Smith shared with the Board the enrollment for the 2021 -2022 school year is 10,651 students. The total units are 830.58.

##### American Education Week – November 15-19, 2021

It was moved by Mrs. Wright, seconded by Mrs. Pryor, to approve the American Education Week Resolution: November 15-19, 2021 as presented by Dr. Jerns. The motion passed unanimously (8-0).

##### Sussex Central High School Cheer Competition Proposal

It was moved by Dr. Hattier, seconded by Mrs. Pryor, to approve the Sussex Central High School Cheer Competition Proposal as presented. The motion passed unanimously (8-0).

##### Water Filling Stations

It was moved by Dr. Hattier, seconded by Dr. Statler, to approve water filling stations in the district as presented by Mrs. Smith. The motion passed unanimously (8-0).

##### Indian River High School Utility Task Vehicle

It was moved by Mr. Layfield, seconded by Dr. Hattier, to approve getting additional quotes for a gas powered utility task vehicle. The motion passed (6-2-0).

For the motion: Mr. Cathell, Dr. Hattier, Mr. Layfield, Ms. Moses, Mr. Peden, Dr. Statler.

Against the motion: Mrs. Pryor, Mrs. Wright.

##### John M. Clayton Elementary Court Lighting

John M. Clayton Elementary Court Lighting was tabled to next month's board meeting.

### Bus Driver/Bus Aide Proposed Salary Scale

Bus Driver/Bus Aide Proposed Salary Scale was tabled until next month's board meeting.

### Homebound Instructor Pay

It was moved by Dr. Hattier, seconded by Mr. Cathell, to approve the change of homebound instructor's set hourly rate of \$34.65 to teacher's current hourly rate, as presented by Mrs. Bunting. The motion passed unanimously (8-0).

### Title IX Coordinator Responsibilities, 504 Coordinator Responsibilities, ADA Coordinator Responsibilities

Dr. Owens noted that districts are required to publicly name the persons who are responsible for

Title IX, 504, and ADA matters. For the 2021-2022 school year, Celeste Bunting is responsible for Title IX matters, P. Renee Jerns is responsible for 504 matters, and Joe Booth is responsible for ADA matters. It was moved by Mrs. Wright, seconded by Ms. Moses, to approve the Title IX, 504, and ADA responsibility appointments as presented. The motion passed unanimously (8-0).

### Vaccination or Testing Requirement

Dr. Owens shared with the Board the Department of Health's Emergency Regulation requiring all employees working in K-12 schools to be vaccinated against COVID-19 or participate in routine weekly testing beginning November 1, 2021. Data Service Center (DSC) will develop, implement and support a COVID-19 Vaccination and Testing Certification application that will be available for employee use.

### 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. The possible completion date has been moved to August 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 October 18, 2021 Buildings & Grounds committee meeting.

#### Comprehensive School Safety

Mr. Cathell shared with the Board that as of October 20, 2021 all schools have completed the 2021-2022 Campus Response Safety Plan.

## Finance

Mrs. Smith reviewed the financial reports.

## Curriculum

Dr. Statler reviewed the minutes from the October 18, 2021 Curriculum meeting.

## DSBA Board of Directors

No report.

## DSBA Legislative

Dr. Hattier shared with the Board updates from DSBA. There was much discussion on the need for more mental health programs/professionals in schools, school safety, pre-kindergarten work, more local school district authority, SAT testing not an accurate student performance tool.

## Special Education Task Force

Dr. Statler shared with the Board that on October 26<sup>th</sup> they will be meeting with parent groups at 6:00 p.m. at the Early Learning Center.

## Policy

### First Reading

#### BD – School Board Meetings

#### EE.1 – School Bus Driver and School Bus Aide Salary Increase

Dr. Owens presented the following policies for first readings: BD – School Board Meetings, EE.1 – School Bus Driver and School Bus Aide Salary Increase. He requested that any changes should be reported to the Policy Committee.

### Second Reading

#### IGDF Student Fundraising

Dr. Owens presented the following policy for a second reading: IGDF – Student Fundraising. It was moved by Dr. Hattier, seconded by Mrs. Wright, to approve the second reading of IGDF – Student Fundraising as presented. The motion passed unanimously (8-0).

## IREA Representative

Linda Hockman, IREA representative, thanked the Board for the teachers being able to work in their classrooms vs. a full day of professional development on November 5, 2021.

## 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 September 30, 2021.

### Financial Summaries for month ending September 30, 2021

It was moved by Dr. Hattier, seconded by Mr. Cathell, to approve the Financial Summaries for the month ending September 30, 2021 as presented by Mrs. Smith. The motion passed unanimously (8-0).

### Major Capital Improvements for month ending September 30, 2021

It was moved by Dr. Hattier, seconded by Ms. Moses, to approve the Major Capital Improvements for the month ending September 30, 2021 as presented by Mrs. Smith. The motion passed unanimously (8-0).

### Minor Capital Improvements for month ending September 30, 2021

It was moved by Mr. Cathell, seconded by Dr. Hattier, to approve the Minor Capital Improvements for the month ending September 30, 2021 as presented by Mrs. Smith. The motion passed unanimously (8-0).

### Field Trip Requests

- Overnight trip by Sussex Central High School Wrestling team on December 3-4, 2021 to Owings Mills, MD.
- Overnight trip by Sussex Central High School Wrestling team on December 10-11, 2021 to Delmar, MD.
- Overnight trip by Sussex Central High School Wrestling team on December 18-19, 2021 to Newark, DE.
- Overnight trip by Sussex Central High School Wrestling team on December 28-30, 2021 to Shillington, PA.
- Overnight trip by Sussex Central High School Wrestling team on January 14-15, 2022 to Berlin, MD.
- Overnight trip by Sussex Central High School Wrestling team on January 21-22, 2022 to Middletown, DE.
- Overnight trip by Indian River High School Band & Choir on April 10-13, 2022 to Williamsburg, VA (this replaces the original overnight trip approved in July 2021)

It was moved by Dr. Hattier, seconded by Ms. Moses, to approve the field trips as presented. The motion passed unanimously (8-0).

### Personnel Agenda for October 25, 2021

It was moved by Mrs. Wright, seconded by Mrs. Pryor, to approve the Personnel Agenda for October 25, 2021, excluding candidate No. 53. The motion passed unanimously (8-0).

It was moved by Mr. Cathell, seconded by Mrs. Wright, to approve candidate No. 53 on the Personnel Agenda for October 25, 2021. The motion passed (7-0-1).

For the motion: Mr. Cathell, Mr. Fritz, Dr. Hattier, Ms. Moses, Mr. Peden, Mrs. Pryor, Dr. Statler.

Abstained: Mr. Layfield

Personnel Addendum for October 25, 2021

It was moved by Mrs. Pryor, seconded by Ms. Moses, to approve the Personnel Addendum for October 25, 2021, excluding candidate No. 2. The motion passed unanimously (8-0).

It was moved by Mrs. Pryor, seconded by Ms. Moses, to approve candidate No. 2 on the Personnel Addendum for October 25, 2021. The motion passed (7-0-1).

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

Abstained: Mr. Cathell

Public Comments

No comments.

Adjournment

President Layfield adjourned the meeting at 8:44 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