

INDIAN RIVER SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING  
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2021  
INDIAN RIVER 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. Derek Cathell, Mr. Jim Fritz, Dr. Donald Hattier, Mr. Rodney Layfield, Ms. Madeline Moses, Mr. Gerald Peden, Mrs. Connie Pryor, Dr. Heather Statler.

Board Members Absent: Mr. Scott Collins, Mrs. Leolga Wright.

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 (8-0).

Reconvene - Regular Session at 7:10 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Student Government

Indian River High School's student government representative, Emma Rickards, reported on events occurring at Indian River High School.

Approval of Agenda – November 29, 2021

It was moved by Mr. Fritz, seconded by Mrs. Pryor, to approve the agenda. The motion passed unanimously (8-0).

Approval of Minutes

Board of Education Regular Meeting Minutes – October 25, 2021.

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

Board of Education Executive Session Meeting Minutes – October 25, 2021.

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

Board of Education Workshop Meeting Minutes – November 1, 2021.

It was moved by Dr. Hattier, seconded by Mr. Cathell, 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, Tammy Smith, Charles Ruggiero, Chris Delgado, Cliff Toomey, Joe Booth, Shawn Tidwell, Preston Lewis, Pamela Webb, Bradley Layfield, Travis Bower, Brad Breasure, Mike Williams, Neil Stong, Stephen Lovellette, Melissa Kansak, Janet Hickman, Allisa Booth, Jason Macrides, Christy Kerr, Karen Clausen, David Hudson, Sam Lougheed, Tara Thoroughgood, Linda Hockman, Molli Carter, Ken Fearn, Sally Craig, Nika Reid, Walter Smith Jr., Audrey Carey, Amy Johnson, Allison Weist, Madelyn Weist, Lynn Baker, Lori Hudson, Brad Breasure, Chad Dorey, Erin Dorey, JC Dorey, Isabelle Dorey, Taliyah McCray, Emma Rickards, Kiley Harant, Serenity Phillips, Lenny Brittingham, Ashley Bennett, Hail Bennett, Tori Rogster, Kim Rogster, Jeff Bunting, Sylvia Baker, Dean Baker, Sam O'Shields, Theresa O'Shields, Desiree Pilgrim Jason Pilgrim, Craig Simms, Chase Simms, Mya McDonald, Kathy Dulis, Sizanne Timmons, Desiree Budeshaim, Chris Budesheim, Taylor Hevner, Caroline Hevner, Ronald Lewis, Marisa Hockman, Greg Hockman, Jamaal Bivens, Laura Morin, Mike Morin, Kelsie Morin, Jenn Hurd, Joe Hurd, Natalia Hurd, Jake Buchler.

#### Special Recognition

##### 2021-2022 Educational Support Professionals

- Cassie Queen - John M. Clayton Elementary
- Lynn Baker – Long Neck Elementary
- Jamaal Bivens – Indian River High School
- Ashley Bennett – Lord Baltimore Elementary
- Chris Budesheim – Howard T. Ennis
- Amy Johnson – Selbyville Middle
- Esque Hodge – So. De School of the Arts
- Dan Shively – Early Learning Center
- Gwendolyn Gillespie – Georgetown Elementary
- Eddie Bowen – Millsboro Middle
- Randy Ramirez – Sussex Central High School
- Tara Richards – Phillip C. Showell Elementary
- Lenny Brittingham – Georgetown Middle
- Maria Rodriquez – North Georgetown Elementary
- Colette Press Spady – East Millsboro Elementary
- Sylvia Baker – Indian River Educational Complex

#### Public Comments

- Molli Carter spoke to the Board regarding the effects of masks on students in the district. She cited where her son was disciplined by being separated from classmates in another room for not wearing a mask. She urged the Board to stand up against mask mandates in schools.

- Alicia Carroll, a parent in the district, spoke to the Board about the mask mandate. Her daughter has been suffering from anxiety, headaches, sore throat due to wearing the mask at school. She urged the district to “Follow the Science” and end students wearing masks in school.
- Rebecca Dean, a parent from Cape Henlopen District, she shared with the district the date of a peaceful protest against mask mandates on December 4, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
- Jake Buchler, a kindergarten teacher in the district, believes we should stop being afraid to “speak up”. He feels the decision to vaccinate/not vaccinate should be an individual’s own choice.
- Ashley Elder, parent in the district, disagrees with the mask mandate.
- Kelsey Morin, student at Indian River High School, spoke to the Board about getting headaches, depressed due to mask wearing in school.

*It was moved by Mr. Fritz, seconded by Dr. Hattier, to extend Public Comments an additional 15 minutes. The motion passed unanimously (8-0).*

- Jen Hurd asked the Board to “Step Up” and stop the mask mandate in our schools.
- Richard Morin, feels the masks make students sicker because it doesn’t help to build their immune system. The masks do not stop the virus.
- Joe Hurd, feels we are instilling fear in our students with the mask mandates.

### New Business

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

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

#### Class Size Waiver FY’21

It was moved by Dr. Hattier, seconded by Mr. Fritz, to approve the class size waivers as presented. The motion passed (7-1-0).

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

Against the motion: Mrs. Pryor

#### East Millsboro Elementary

- Kindergarten section I – 24 students
- Kindergarten section II – 25 students

#### Long Neck Elementary

- 1<sup>st</sup> grade section I – 25 students

- 1<sup>st</sup> grade section II – 25 students
- 2<sup>nd</sup> grade section I – 24 students
- 3<sup>rd</sup> grade section I – 23 students
- 3<sup>rd</sup> grade section II – 23 students
- 3<sup>rd</sup> grade section III – 23 students

Phillip C. Showell Elementary

- Kindergarten section I – 23 students
- 1<sup>st</sup> grade section I – 25 students

Southern Delaware School of the Arts

- 3<sup>rd</sup> grade section I – 23 students
- 3<sup>rd</sup> grade section II – 23 students

Quidel & Test to Stay

There was no motion made.

Mask Mandate/Parent Survey

It was moved by Dr. Hattier, seconded by Mr. Fritz, to approve the distribution of the Parent Survey with additional wording as presented. The motion passed (7-1-0).

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

Against the motion: Mr. Peden.

December 22, 2021 – District Calendar Consideration

It was moved by Mrs. Pryor, seconded by Mr. Fritz, to change December 22, 2021 from a 12-month employees report to work to 12-month employees do not report to work. The motion passed unanimously (8-0).

Indian River High School Utility Task Vehicle

It was moved by Mr. Cathell, seconded by Dr. Hattier, to approve the purchase of the 2022 Polaris UTV Ranger 570N Utility Task Vehicle in the amount of \$18,041.60. The motion passed unanimously (8-0).

Howard T. Ennis Pool Retention

The Board asked for additional information regarding the pool retention and further discussion at the next Buildings & Grounds meeting in December.

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.

It was moved by Dr. Hattier, seconded by Mr. Fritz, to approve the Howard T. Ennis furniture purchase in the amount of \$796,449.18. The motion passed unanimously (8-0).

### GW Carver Consent Update

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

### Committee Reports

#### Buildings & Grounds

Dr. Hattier reviewed the minutes from the November 8, 2021 Buildings & Grounds committee meeting.

#### Comprehensive School Safety

Mr. Cathell shared with the Board that as of November 23, 2021 five of our schools have completed the required tabletop exercises.

#### Finance

There was no report.

#### Curriculum

Dr. Statler reviewed the minutes from the November 8, 2021 Curriculum meeting.

#### DSBA Board of Directors

No report.

#### DSBA Legislative

Dr. Hattier shared with the Board updates from DSBA.

#### Special Education Task Force

No report.

### Policy

#### Second Readings: BD – School Board Meetings

##### EE.1 Bus Driver and Bus Aide Salary Increases

Dr. Owens presented the following policies for second readings: BD – School Board Meetings and EE.1 – Bus Driver and Bus Aide Salary Increases. It was moved by Dr. Hattier, seconded by Dr. Statler, to approve the second reading of BD – School Board Meetings and EE.1 – Bus Driver and Bus Aide Salary Increases as presented. The motion passed unanimously (8-0).

### IREA Representative

Jason Pilgrim, IREA representative, shared with the Board the Annual Meet and Greet on December 14, 2021 at the Millsboro Senior Center beginning at 5:30 p.m. IREA is looking forward to the re-opening of contract negotiations with teachers, paraprofessionals, secretaries, custodians.

### Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Owens shared his monthly activities with the Board.

### District Calendar Changes

- Cancellation of Long Neck Elementary Choral Concert on January 20, 2022
- Change Selbyville Middle School Holiday Band Concert from 6:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. on December 6, 2021
- Change Selbyville Middle School National Junior Honor Society Induction from December 13, 2021 to December 14, 2021.
- Change Indian River High School Band Concert from December 14, 2021 to December 16, 2021.
- Change Indian River High School Honor Society Induction from November 17, 2021 to a date to be determined in the Spring of 2022.
- Addition of English Learners Family Literacy Night at Long Neck Elementary 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
- Cancellation of North Georgetown Elementary Holiday Concert on December 17, 2021.
- Addition of North Georgetown Elementary Holiday Family Engagement on December 15, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

It was moved by Dr. Hattier, seconded by Mr. Cathell, to approve the district calendar changes as presented. The motion passed unanimously (8-0).

### Financial Reports

#### Finance Committee

Mrs. Smith reviewed with the financial summaries, major and minor cap improvement financials for the month ending October 31, 2021.

#### Financial Summaries for month ending October 31, 2021

It was moved by Dr. Hattier, seconded by Mr. Cathell, to approve the Financial Summaries for the month ending October 31, 2021 as presented by Mrs. Smith. The motion passed unanimously (8-0).

#### Major Capital Improvements for month ending October 31, 2021

It was moved by Mrs. Pryor, seconded by Mr. Cathell, to approve the Major Capital Improvements for the month ending October 31, 2021 as presented by Mrs. Smith. The motion passed unanimously (8-0).

Minor Capital Improvements for month ending October 31, 2021

It was moved by Mr. Cathell, seconded by Dr. Hattier, to approve the Minor Capital Improvements for the month ending October 31, 2021 as presented by Mrs. Smith. The motion passed unanimously (8-0).

Fiscal Year 2022 Final Give Back Plan

Indian River School District – 953600

Alternative Reduction Plan FY 22

Give-Back Owed			
Indian River 95-36-00			\$1,899,129.41
Howard T. Ennis 95-43-00			\$135,940.22
Total Owed			\$2,035,069.63

**Indian River 95-36-00**

Personnel Give-Back Plan			
Positions	Qty	Value	Total
Assistant Superintendent	1	\$124,895.00	\$124,895.00
Supervisor	1	\$92,140.00	\$92,140.00
Teaching Positions	20.12	\$74,196.00	\$1,492,823.52
Total Personnel Give-Back			\$1,709,858.52

Additional Give-Back Plan	
State Professional Development - 05205	\$52,000.00
State Technology Block Grant	\$71,870.00
State All Other Costs - 05165	\$65,400.89
Total Additional Give-Back	\$189,270.89

**Howard T. Ennis 95-43-00**

Additional Give-Back Plan	
State All Other Costs - 05165	\$135,940.22
Total Additional Give-Back	\$135,940.22

<b>Total Give-Back</b>			\$2,035,069.63
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It was moved by Mr. Cathell, seconded by Dr. Hattier, to accept the Fiscal year 2022 final give back plan as presented by Mrs. Smith. The motion passed unanimously (8-0).

Use of Facility Request

- Use of John M. Clayton Elementary School Gymnasium by Lighthouse Christian School on the following dates: December 2, 3, 6, 7, 9, 10, 13, 14, 16, 2021; January 3, 4, 6, 7, 10, 13, 14, 18, 20, 21, 24, 25, 27, 28, 31, 2022; February 3, 4, 7, 8, 10, 11, 14, 17, 2022 from 3:45 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

It was moved by Mr. Cathell, seconded by Ms. Moses, to approve the use of facility request as presented. The motion passed unanimously (8-0).

### Field Trip Requests

- Overnight trip by Sussex Central High School Baseball team on March 12-16, 2021 to Myrtle Beach, SC.

It was moved by Mr. Fritz, seconded by Mrs. Pryor, to approve the field trip as presented. The motion passed unanimously (8-0).

### Personnel Agenda for November 29, 2021

It was moved by Mr. Fritz, seconded by Dr. Hattier, to approve the Personnel Agenda for November 29, 2021, excluding candidate No. 59. The motion passed unanimously (8-0).

It was moved by Mr. Cathell, seconded by Mr. Fritz, to approve candidate No. 59 on the Personnel Agenda for November 29, 2021. The motion passed (7-0-1).

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

Abstained: Mrs. Pryor

### Personnel Addendum for November 29, 2021

It was moved by Mrs. Pryor, seconded by Ms. Moses, to approve the Personnel Addendum for November 29, 2021, excluding candidate No. 7, No. 8, No. 10. The motion passed unanimously (8-0).

It was moved by Mrs. Pryor, seconded by Ms. Moses, to approve candidate No. 7, No. 8 on the Personnel Addendum for November 29, 2021. The motion passed (7-0-1).

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

Abstained: Mrs. Pryor.

It was moved by Mr. Fritz, seconded by Mrs. Pryor, to approve candidate No. 10 on the Personnel Addendum for November 29, 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.

### Contractual Agenda for November 29, 2021

It was moved by Dr. Hattier, seconded by Mr. Cathell, to approve the Contractual Agenda for November 29, 2021. The motion passed unanimously (8-0).

### Public Comments

No comments.



Adjournment

President Layfield adjourned the meeting at 9:41 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