

INDIAN RIVER SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING  
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 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. Scott Collins, Mr. Jim Fritz, Dr. Donald Hattier, Mr. Rodney Layfield, Ms. Madeline Moses, Mrs. Connie Pryor, Dr. Heather Statler, Mrs. Wright.  
Board Member Absent: Mr. Gerald Peden.

Executive Session

It was moved by Dr. Hattier, 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 (9-0).

Reconvene - Regular Session at 7:05 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Agenda – September 27, 2021

It was moved by Mr. Collins, seconded by Mrs. Pryor, to approve the agenda. The motion passed unanimously (9-0).

Approval of Minutes

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

It was moved by Mr. Collins, there was no second motion to approve the minutes as submitted.

Board of Education Executive Session Meeting Minutes – August 23, 2021.

It was moved by Mr. Collins, seconded by Ms. Moses, to approve the minutes as submitted. The motion passed unanimously (9-0).

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, Pamela Webb, Allisa Booth, Jason Macrides, Christy Kerr, Jenna Argo, David Hudson, Sam Loughheed, Tara Thoroughgood, Beth Illian, Suzanne Timmons, Glenn Rolfe, Jalissa Cannon, Molli Carter, Jason Pilgrim, Desiree Pilgrim, Cassie Queen, Shawn Tidwell, Sara Gum, Jack Gum, Joe Bakomenko, Mike Smith, Linda Bean, Rita Schrider.

### Public Comments

Molli Carter spoke to the Board regarding the Department of Education providing an accurate number of COVID cases in Delaware schools. She urged the Board to stand up against mandates put into place by the Governor.

### New Business

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

It was moved by Mr. Collins, seconded by Dr. Hattier, to accept school choice applicants 2021-2022 (September 2021) as presented by Mr. Lewis. The motion passed unanimously (9-0).

#### DelDot Traffic Impact Study (New Sussex Central High School) and Future DelDot Projects

Shante' A. Hastings, Deputy Secretary and Chief Engineer for Delaware Department of Transportation, shared with the Board the upcoming DelDot projects for Sussex County, Delaware as well as the traffic impact study for the new Sussex Central High School.

#### 2021-2022 Enrollment Update

Dr. Owens shared with the Board the latest enrollment numbers for the 2021 -2022 school year. The district has 10,675 students enrolled.

#### COVID Leave Extension

Mrs. Bunting shared with the Board the State's COVID Leave extension. The State will fund up to 10 days of paid COVID leave and funding for COVID leave will include costs for substitutes that are needed to cover absences due to COVID. The State's funding for COVID leave and associated costs will expire December 31, 2021. Mrs. Bunting requests the Board approval retroactively to July 1, 2021 for 12 month employees and August 31, 2021 for 10 month employees. It was moved by Dr. Hattier, seconded by Mrs. Pryor, to accept the COVID leave extension as presented by Mrs. Bunting. The motion passed unanimously (9-0).

#### In School COVID Testing

There was no motion made.

#### Architect Schematic Design for the New Sussex Central High School

It was moved by Dr. Hattier, seconded by Ms. Moses, to approve the architect schematic design for the new Sussex Central High School which identifies alternates as presented. The motion passed unanimously (9-0).

#### Selbyville Middle School Greenhouse and Garden Request

It was moved by Dr. Hattier, seconded by Mrs. Pryor, to approve the Selbyville Middle School Greenhouse and Garden Request and to increase the shed size as requested. The project will be funded by Selbyville Middle School 509 funds. The motion passed unanimously (9-0).

Town of Millsboro Spray Irrigation Request for the New Sussex Central High School

Mr. Booth reviewed with the Board the Town of Millsboro's spray irrigation request for the new Sussex Central High School.

Sussex Central High School Girls Basketball Uniforms

It was moved by Dr. Hattier, seconded by Mrs. Wright, to approve the Sussex Central High School Girls Basketball uniforms as presented. The motion passed unanimously (9-0).

Retired Teacher Substitute Pay

It was moved by Dr. Hattier, seconded by Mr. Cathell, to approve the retired substitute pay increase to \$200.00 per day as presented by Mrs. Bunting. The motion passed unanimously (9-0).

Tax Relief Requests

It was moved by Dr. Hattier, seconded by Mr. Cathell, to approve Tax Relief Request #1 as presented. The motion passed (7-2-0).

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

There was no motion made for Tax Relief Request #2.

2021 -2022 Indian River School District Organizational Plan

It was moved by Mr. Collins, seconded by Ms. Moses, to approve the Indian River School District Organizational Plan as presented. The motion passed unanimously (9-0).

National School Lunch Week Resolution: October 11-15, 2021

It was moved by Mr. Collins, seconded by Ms. Moses, to approve the National School Lunch Week Resolution: October 11-15, 2021, as presented by Mr. Toomey. The motion passed unanimously (9-0).

National School Bus Safety Week Resolution: October 18-22, 2021

It was moved by Mr. Collins, seconded by Mr. Cathell, to approve the National School Bus Safety Week Resolution: October 18-22, 2021, as presented by Mr. Tidwell. The motion passed unanimously (9-0).

Old Business

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.

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 September 13, 2021 Buildings & Grounds committee meeting.

#### Comprehensive School Safety

Mr. Cathell shared with the Board that as of September 1, 2021 all school assessments have been completed.

#### Finance

Mrs. Smith reviewed the financial reports.

#### Curriculum

Dr. Statler reviewed the minutes from the September 13, 2021 Curriculum meeting.

#### DSBA Board of Directors

Mrs. Wright shared with the Board an overview of the Disabled Veterans School property tax credit. She also shared an overview of the cost incurred with special education lawsuits in the State of Delaware schools.

#### DSBA Legislative

Next meeting will be held on October 6, 2021.

#### Special Education Task Force

Dr. Statler shared with the Board that the week of October 25, 2021 is Disability Awareness week. The Special Education Ambassadors will be recognized at next month's board meeting.

### Policy

#### First Reading

##### IGDF Student Fundraising

Mr. Collins presented the following policy for a first reading: IGDF – Student Fundraising. He requested that any changes should be reported to the Policy Committee.

#### Second Reading:

##### J - Athletic Policy

Mr. Collins presented the following policy for a second reading: J - Athletic Policy. It was moved by Mr. Collins, seconded by Dr. Hattier, to approve the second reading of J – Athletic Policy as presented. The motion passed unanimously (9-0).

#### IREA Representative

Suzanne Timmons, IREA representative, thanked the Board for their approval of the COVID leave extension. IREA is looking forward to re-opening negotiations as it pertains to salary and benefits.

### Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Owens shared his monthly activities with the Board.

### District Calendar Changes

- Addition of Sussex Central High School Winter Concert on December 13, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.
- Deletion of North Georgetown Elementary "Make a Difference Day Yard Sale" on October 23, 2021.

It was moved by Mr. Collins, seconded by Dr. Hattier, to approve the district calendar changes as presented. The motion passed unanimously (9-0).

### Financial Reports

#### Finance Committee

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

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

It was moved by Dr. Hattier, seconded by Mr. Cathell, to approve the Financial Summaries for the month ending August 31, 2021 as presented by Mrs. Smith. The motion passed unanimously (9-0).

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

It was moved by Mr. Collins, seconded by Mr. Cathell, to approve the Major Capital Improvements for the month ending August 31, 2021 as presented by Mrs. Smith. The motion passed unanimously (9-0).

#### Minor Capital Improvements for month ending August 31, 2021

It was moved by Mr. Collins, seconded by Dr. Hattier, to approve the Minor Capital Improvements for the month ending August 31, 2021 as presented by Mrs. Smith. The motion passed unanimously (9-0).

#### ESSERF Minor Cap Waiver

It was moved by Dr. Hattier, seconded by Mr. Collins, to accept the ESSERF Minor Cap Waiver as presented by Mrs. Smith. The motion passed unanimously (10-0).

#### Disabled Veterans School Property Tax Credit

It was moved by Dr. Hattier, seconded by Mrs. Wright, to approve the Disabled Veterans School Property Tax Credit as presented by Mrs. Smith. The motion passed unanimously (9-0).

#### Preliminary Budget Proposal FY'22 – Indian River School District

It was moved by Dr. Hattier, seconded by Mr. Cathell, to approve the preliminary FY 2022-Indian River School District with a \$229,815,393.00 recommended budget as presented by Mrs. Smith. The motion passed unanimously (9-0).

Preliminary Budget Proposal FY'22 – Howard T. Ennis

It was moved by Mr. Collins, seconded by Dr. Hattier, to approve the preliminary FY 2022-Howard T. Ennis with a \$13,424,444.00 recommended budget as presented by Mrs. Smith. The motion passed unanimously (9-0).

Personnel Agenda for September 27, 2021

It was moved by Mr. Collins, seconded by Mr. Cathell, to approve the Personnel Agenda for September 27, 2021, excluding candidate No. 172. The motion passed unanimously (9-0).

It was moved by Mr. Collins, seconded by Mr. Fritz, to approve candidate No. 172 on the Personnel Agenda for September 27, 2021. The motion passed (8-0-1).

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

Abstained: Mrs. Wright

Personnel Addendum for September 27, 2021

It was moved by Mr. Cathell, seconded by Mr. Collins, to approve the Personnel Addendum for September 27, 2021. The motion passed unanimously (9-0).

Contractual Agenda for September 27, 2021

It was moved by Mr. Collins, seconded by Mr. Cathell, to approve the Contractual Agenda for September 27, 2021. The motion passed unanimously (9-0).

Public Comments

Mr. Layfield congratulated the staff at Southern Delaware School of the Arts for their recognition as a Blue Ribbon School.

Adjournment

President Layfield adjourned the meeting at 9:00 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