

INDIAN RIVER SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY, MARCH 22, 2021
INDIAN RIVER HIGH SCHOOL

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. Anthony Cannon, Mr. Derek Cathell, Mr. Scott Collins, Dr. Leo Darmstadter, Mr. Rodney Layfield, Mr. Gerald Peden, Mrs. Connie Pryor, Dr. Heather Statler, Mrs. Leolga Wright.

Board Member Late: Dr. Donald Hattier (6:06 p.m.)

Executive Session

It was moved by Mr. Collins, seconded by Mr. Cathell, 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 (9-0).

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

Approval of Agenda – March 22, 2021

It was moved by Mrs. Pryor, seconded by Mr. Collins, to approve the agenda. The motion passed unanimously (10-0).

Approval of Minutes

Board of Education Regular Meeting Minutes – February 22, 2021.

It was moved by Mrs. Pryor, seconded by Mr. Collins, to approve the minutes as submitted. The motion passed unanimously (10-0).

Board of Education Executive Session Meeting Minutes – February 22, 2021.

It was moved by Mrs. Pryor, seconded by Mr. Collins, to approve the minutes as submitted. The motion passed unanimously (10-0).

Public Comments

Mary Jane Short, retired IRSD teacher, spoke to the Board about the importance of students attending school full time. Students are suffering both mentally and academically. She referred to the current learning as “service learning”.

Bill Winkler asked the Board when the students are returning to school full time.

Carol Serman compared our district to private, Christian schools. These schools have students in the buildings full time. Our district should have students in school full time as well. She referenced the increase in suicide since students are not in school.

New Business

School Choice Applications 2020-2021 (March 2021)

It was moved by Dr. Hattier, seconded by Mr. Collins, to accept school choice applicants 2020-2021 (March 2021) as presented by Mr. Lewis. The motion passed unanimously (10-0).

School Choice Applications 2021-2022 (February 2021)

It was moved by Mr. Collins, seconded by Mr. Cathell, to accept school choice applicants 2021-2022 (February 2021) as presented by Mr. Lewis. The motion passed unanimously (10-0).

Recognition – 2020-2021 Educational Support

Nominee	School	Job Title
Gabrielle Bowden	Howard T. Ennis	Paraprofessional
Traci Bullis	East Millsboro	Paraprofessional
David Clark	Indian River	IT Technician
Ronna Cobb	Lord Baltimore	Paraprofessional/Bus Driver
Grace Cooper	Early Learning Center	Secretary
Elyce Dodd	Georgetown Elementary	Paraprofessional
Pam George	Sussex Central	IT Technician
Eddie Hearn	Phillip Showell	Fireman Custodian
Annette Hoffman	Long Neck	Behavior Intervention Paraprofessional
Melinda Justice	Georgetown Middle	Bilingual Secretary
Janice Love	North Georgetown	Paraprofessional
Emily Quillen	John M. Clayton	Paraprofessional
Dawn Schultz	SDSA	Paraprofessional
Jodi Stone	Selbyville Middle	Paraprofessional
Angela Wilkerson	Millsboro Middle	Nutrition Services Manager

Opportunities to Increase In-Person Learning Days

Dr. Owens shared with the Board an option of differentiated supports provided for students and families on Wednesdays and combining cohorts (when possible). Beginning the week of April 12, high school hybrid cohorts A and B will be combined, allowing hybrid students at Indian River and Sussex Central High schools to attend classes in person on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. Due to a high percentage of families opting for in-person instruction at our elementary and middle schools, we are unable to combine cohorts with the current three (3) feet social distancing guidelines. This will result in the continuation of in person learning two days a week in separate cohorts A and B.

Wednesday will continue to be a remote learning day for most students. The district will continue to explore ways to provide additional in-person instructional opportunities at the elementary and middle school levels. In addition, all staff will work in their school buildings on Wednesday rather than working remotely. This will give the district the opportunity to explore increased in-person learning opportunities for hybrid students in Grades K-12 who may need extra support. Schools will coordinate with teachers and families to determine which students may benefit from Wednesday in-person instruction.

It was moved by Dr. Hattier, seconded by Mr. Collins, to accept the recommended option to increase in person learning days as presented. The motion passed (8-2-0).

For the motion: Mr. Cannon, Mr. Cathell, Mr. Collins, Dr. Darmstadter, Dr. Hattier, Mr. Layfield, Dr. Statler, Mrs. Wright.

Against the motion: Mr. Peden, Mrs. Pryor.

2020-2021 District Calendar Changes (6.03 and 6.04 was amended to correct error on 3/12/2021)

- Change the Professional Learning Day originally scheduled for April 19, 2021 to April 21, 2021 and the Teacher Work Day originally scheduled for May 28, 2021 to May 26, 2021. As a result, April 19 and May 28 will now be regular school days for students and staff. April 21, 2021 and May 26, 2021 will serve as asynchronous instructional days for students.
- Change the last day of school for students in Grades PreK-11 to Friday, June 11, last day for teachers will be Tuesday, June 15 and the last day for paraprofessionals will be Friday, June 11.
- Change the SDSA Rock Band Performance from March 24, 2021 to April 1, 2021.

It was moved by Dr. Hattier, seconded by Mr. Collins, to approve the 2020-2021 district calendar changes as presented. The motion passed unanimously (10-0).

John M. Clayton Elementary – Installation of Poles/Lighting

It was moved by Dr. Hattier, seconded by Mr. Collins, to approve the installation of lighting/poles at John M. Clayton elementary school. The cost will be absorbed by First State Pickelball Club. The motion passed unanimously (10-0).

New Sussex Central High School Construction Management Contract

It was moved by Mrs. Wright, seconded by Dr. Statler, to approve the New Sussex Central High School Construction Management Contract as presented. The motion passed unanimously (10-0).

Selbyville Middle School Track, Softball, and Baseball Uniforms

It was moved by Mrs. Pryor, seconded by Dr. Hattier, to approve the Selbyville Middle school track, softball, and baseball uniforms as presented. The motion passed unanimously (10-0).

Mountaire Class Action Lawsuit

There was no motion to vote.

Tax Relief Request #1

It was moved by Mrs. Wright, seconded by Mr. Cathell, to approve tax relief request #1. The motion passed (9-1-0).

For the motion: Mr. Cannon, Mr. Cathell, Mr. Collins, Dr. Darmstadter, Dr. Hattier, Mr. Layfield, Mr. Peden, Dr. Statler, Mrs. Wright.

Against the motion: Mrs. Pryor.

Tax Relief Request #2

It was moved by Mrs. Wright, seconded by Dr. Statler, to approve tax relief request #2. The motion passed (9-1-0).

For the motion: Mr. Cannon, Mr. Cathell, Mr. Collins, Dr. Darmstadter, Dr. Hattier, Mr. Layfield, Mr. Peden, Dr. Statler, Mrs. Wright.

Against the motion: Mrs. Pryor.

Old Business

Major Capital Planning

Dr. Owens updated the Board on the new Sussex Central High School. RYJ & Sons were awarded the contract for construction of the new Sussex Central high School. DelDot has only approved one entrance each on Patriots Way and Avenue of Honor, respectively.

Howard T. Ennis

Dr. Owens updated the board on Howard T. Ennis construction. Construction is ongoing with road cut-out building pads. Completion date is still scheduled for May, 2022.

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 March 8, 2021 Buildings & Grounds committee meeting.

Comprehensive School Safety

There was no report.

Finance

Mrs. Smith reviewed the financial reports.

Curriculum

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

DSBA Board of Directors

Mrs. Wright shared with the Board possible changes in board member terms. DSBA also discussed the opening of schools, and distribution of COVID vaccines.

DSBA Legislative

Dr. Hattier shared with the Board upcoming House Bill 92 (changing the term length of board members to four years).

Mary Bailey Scholarship

There was no report.

Special Education Task Force

There was no report.

Policy

First Readings: JHCS Wellness/Nutrition, GBCB Staff Conduct/Drug Free Workplace, GDP Support Staff Termination of Employment, EHAA Telecommunications Access

Mr. Collins presented the following policies for a first reading: JHCS – Wellness/Nutrition, GBCB – Staff Conduct/Drug Free Workplace, GDP – Support Staff Termination of Employment, EHAA – Telecommunications Access. He requested that any changes should be reported to the Policy Committee.

IREA Representative

JR Emanuele thanked the district for acknowledging teachers in the discussion of the remaining school year. This process has had mixed emotions for everyone involved in doing what is right for kids and teachers together. He also reminded everyone of the IREA fundraiser in March.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Owens shared his monthly activities with the Board.

Financial Reports

Regular Invoices for month ending February 28, 2021

It was moved by Mr. Cannon, seconded by Dr. Darmstadter, to approve the payment of the Regular Invoices for the month ending February 28, 2021. The motion passed unanimously (10-0).

Finance Committee

Mrs. Smith reviewed with the financial summaries, major and minor cap improvement financials for the month ending February 28, 2021.

Personnel Agenda for March 22, 2021

It was moved by Dr. Statler, seconded by Mr. Collins, to approve the Personnel Agenda for March 22, 2021. The motion passed unanimously (10-0).

Personnel Addendum for March 22, 2021

It was moved by Mr. Collins, seconded by Dr. Hattier, to approve the Personnel Addendum for March 22, 2021 excluding candidate No. 175. The motion passed unanimously (10-0).

It was moved by Dr. Hattier, seconded by Mr. Collins, to approve candidate No. 175 on the Personnel Addendum for March 22, 2021. The motion passed (9-0-1).

For the motion: Mr. Cannon, Mr. Cathell, Mr. Collins, Dr. Darmstadter, Dr. Hattier, Mr. Layfield, Mr. Peden, Mrs. Pryor, Dr. Statler.

Abstained: Mrs. Wright.

It was moved by Dr. Hattier, seconded by Mr. Collins, to approve the Personnel Addendum for March 22, 2021 excluding candidate No. 228. The motion passed unanimously (10-0).

It was moved by Mr. Collins, seconded by Dr. Hattier, to approve candidate No. 228 on the Personnel Addendum for March 22, 2021. The motion passed (9-0-1).

For the motion: Mr. Cannon, Mr. Collins, Dr. Darmstadter, Dr. Hattier, Mr. Layfield, Mr. Peden, Mrs. Pryor, Dr. Statler, Mrs. Wright.

Abstained: Mr. Cathell.

Student Hearing – Student No. 21-04

It was moved by Dr. Hattier, seconded by Mr. Collins, to approve the Hearing Officers' recommendations for Student No. 21-04. The motion passed (9-0-1).

For the motion: Mr. Cannon, Mr. Collins, Dr. Darmstadter, Dr. Hattier, Mr. Layfield, Mr. Peden, Mrs. Pryor, Dr. Statler, Mrs. Wright.

Abstained: Mr. Cathell.

Adjournment

President Layfield adjourned the meeting at 8:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Jay F. Owens, Jr. Ed.D.

Secretary

Board of Education

Indian River School District

Rodney M. Layfield

President

Board of Education

Indian River School District

RML/JFO:jmt