

INDIAN RIVER SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION SPECIAL MEETING
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2020
(Virtual via ZOOM)

MINUTES

Call to Order

President Rodney Layfield called the Special Meeting of the Indian River School District Board of Education to order at 5:30 p.m.

Roll Call

Board Members present: Mr. Anthony Cannon, Mr. Derek Cathell, Mr. Scott Collins, Dr. Leo Darmstadter, Dr. Donald Hattier, Mr. Rodney Layfield, Mr. Gerald Peden, Mrs. Connie Pryor, Dr. Heather Statler, Mrs. Leolga Wright.

Approval of Agenda – December 4, 2020

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

Public Comments

- JR Emanuele (IREA Rep). He would like the district to follow safety protocols to make sure we are keeping everyone safe. We as a district should be looking at the current COVID 19 data when making a decision regarding staff, students.
- Lora Maramonte. She is very pleased with Indian River School District's handling of COVID 19 protocols. She would like to see the district continue with the hybrid instruction, please consider safety implementation with regards to our special needs students.
- Anna Miller (IRSD Float Nurse). She would like to share the position of the nurses within the district. The schools nurses work is increasingly demanding due to the procedures involved with COVID 19 reporting. Please consider this when deciding to pause student attendance in school as the governor suggested.
- Angela Robbins. She wanted to express the importance of students remaining in school. Bouncing back and forth between hybrid and remote is very difficult for parents as well as students.
- Bill Novy. He feels students should remain in school. The remote learning doesn't benefit students. The district should base their decision on what works for our area not based on the entire state.
- Charlene Beam. She urged the district to not return to remote learning. As a parent of an elementary school child, she feels they need more in person instruction than older students in the district.
- Todd Mumford. He agrees with the previous speakers, children need to remain in school. He feels the spike in numbers are due to the increased amount of testing.

- Jude Anderson. She feels the district has done an amazing job regarding COVID-19. She works at a rehabilitation facility and sees the horrific effects of the virus. She urges the district to be cautious and put safety of the staff and students first.
- Deborah (IRSD Bus driver). She understands the dilemma parents are faced with during this pandemic. This disease has no conscience. District should be safe and remain very cautious.
- Ashley. She urged the district to remain open, do not shut down because students are struggling with remote learning.
- Molli. She would like the schools to continue with the hybrid learning model. This is vital for the well-being of our students.

New Business

“The issue of school closure/opening to be addressed at the Special Board meeting arose in the afternoon of December 3, 2020 based upon an announcement by the Governor. Discussion and/or action upon the issue could not be deferred because parents, student and staff must make plans immediately depending on the status of schools opening or closing.”

Dr. Owens shared with the Board the district’s COVID-19 data. Dr. Owens suggested the district move forward with the following:

A temporary transition to full-time remote learning for all students on Monday December 21 and Tuesday, December 22; and from Monday, January 4 through Friday, January 8. Hybrid learning for Grades PreK-12 will resume in the Indian River School District on **Monday, January 11**. All IRSD schools will continue to provide hybrid in-person instruction from Monday, December 7 through Friday, December 18.

Schools will be closed for Christmas break from December 23 through January 3.

It was moved by Dr. Hattier, seconded by Dr. Statler, to approve the superintendent’s recommendation for a temporary transition to full-time remote learning as presented. The motion passed unanimously (10-0).

Adjournment

President Layfield adjourned the meeting at 6:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rodney M. Layfield
 President
 Board of Education
 Indian River School District
 RML/JFO:jmt

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