

INDIAN RIVER SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING  
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2023  
SUSSEX CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM

MINUTES

Call to Order

President Mr. 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, Rodney Layfield, Ms. Madeline Moses, Mr. Gerald Peden, Mrs. Connie Pryor, Dr. Heather Statler, and Mrs. Leolga Wright.

Board Member Absent: Scott Collins

Executive Session

Mrs. Pryor, seconded by Mrs. Wright, moved to go into Executive Session at 6:01 p.m. for the purpose of discussing personnel, student hearings, negotiations, litigation. The motion passed unanimously (9-0).

Reconvene - Regular Session at 7:15 p.m.

Approval of Agenda – February 27, 2023

Ms. Moses, seconded by Dr. Hattier, moved to approve the agenda for February 27, 2023. The motion passed unanimously (9-0).

Presentation of Colors/Pledge of Allegiance

Student Government

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

Approval of Minutes

Board of Education Meeting Minutes – January 23, 2023

Mrs. Wright, seconded by Mr. Cathell, moved to approve the minutes as submitted. The motion passed unanimously (9-0).

Board of Education Executive Session Meeting Minutes – January 23, 2023

Mrs. Wright, seconded by Mr. Cathell, moved to approve the minutes as submitted. The motion passed unanimously (9-0).

Visitors and Staff in Attendance

Jay Owens, Karen Blannard, Jennifer Troublefield, Celeste Bunting, Renee Jerns, Kelly Dorman, Tammy Smith, Judi Brittingham, Charley Ruggiero, Preston Lewis, Allisa Booth, Christy Kerr, Sarah Green, David Hudson, Rick Evans, Brad Breasure, Mike Williams, Bradley Layfield, Monica McCurry, Jason Macrides, Kathleen Wilson, Pam Webb, Janet Hickman, Maria Hazzard, Brad Breasure, Neil Stong, Nika Reid, Linda Hockman, JR Emanuele, Blair Catlin Brown, Cassie Queen, Suzanne Timmons, Melissa Kansak, Brad Cowen, Walter Smith, Cliff Toomey, Shawn Tidwell, Mark Dufendach, Glen Rolfe, Christina Wright.

Public Comments

- Christina Wright, parent of a John M. Clayton elementary student, spoke to the Board regarding an assault on her son by a Highroads student. She feels there should be "Justice for All" students attending school to feel safe and secure. The student involved in the assault of her son should be held more accountable for their actions.

## New Business

### School Choice Applications 2022-2023 (February 2023)

Dr. Hattier, seconded by Ms. Moses, moved to accept 2022-2023 school choice applicants (February 2023) as presented by Mr. Lewis. The motion passed unanimously (9-0)

### School Choice Applications 2023-2024 (February 2023)

Ms. Moses, seconded by Dr. Statler, moved to accept 2023-2024 school choice applicants (February 2023) as presented by Mr. Lewis. The motion passed unanimously (9-0)

## Donations

Dr. Hattier, seconded by Mr. Cathell, moved to accept the donations of \$500.00 monthly from St. Martha's Episcopal Church, \$3,500 from Banks Wine and Spirits, \$4,207 from Millville Boardwalk, \$2,000 from Cordrey Charities as presented. The motion passed unanimously (9-0).

## Uniforms – Indian River High School Boys Volleyball and Boys Tennis

Dr. Hattier, seconded by Ms. Moses, moved to accept the uniform requests for the Indian River High School Boys Volleyball and Boys Tennis as presented. The motion passed unanimously (9-0).

## New Howard T. Ennis Board Change Orders, Notifications, Allowances

Mr. Booth notified the Board of change allowances in the amounts of \$12,542, \$21,302, and \$9,000 for the new Howard T. Ennis building as presented by Mr. Booth. Dr. Hattier, seconded by Ms. Moses, to approve these change orders. The motion passed unanimously (9-0).

## Georgetown Elementary Outdoor Freezer Request

Mr. Cathell, seconded by Dr. Hattier, moved to approve the Georgetown Elementary outdoor freezer request in the amount of \$30,085.00 as presented by Mr. Booth. The motion passed unanimously (9-0).

## Long Neck Elementary School Sign Request

Dr. Hattier, seconded by Ms. Moses, moved to approve the Long Neck Elementary school sign request in the amount of \$34,762 as presented by Mr. Booth. The motion passed unanimously (9-0).

## Millsboro Reclaimed Water Match Grant

Mr. Cathell, seconded by Dr. Hattier, moved to approve the Millsboro Reclaimed Water match grant totaling \$49,700 with Millsboro matching the shared \$24,850 portion. The motion passed unanimously (9-0).

## Construction Change Order Procedures

Dr. Hattier, seconded by Mr. Cathell, moved to approve the construction change order procedures as presented. The motion passed unanimously (9-0).

## Budgetary and Contract Approval Procedures

Dr. Hattier, seconded by Dr. Statler, moved to approve the budgetary and contract approval procedures as presented. The motion passed unanimously (9-0).

## Litigation #23-01

Dr. Hattier, seconded by Ms. Moses, moved to follow the attorney's recommendation on this one. The motion passed (8-0-1).

For the Motion: Mr. Cathell, Mr. Fritz, Dr. Hattier, Mr. Layfield, Ms. Moses, Mrs. Pryor, Dr. Statler, Mrs. Wright  
Abstained: Mr. Peden

## Old Business

### Major Capital Planning

Dr. Owens gave an update on the new Sussex Central High School construction project.

## Howard T. Ennis

Howard T. Ennis pool is expected to be completed by April 2023.

## G.W. Carver Consent Update

Dr. Brittingham shared with the board the following highlights:

- It is almost time for our end of the second marking period report to Dr. Rhen for the Former Carver Students. This report is in progress by the school special education coordinators and will be submitted on February 15, 2023.
- The IRSD will hold the next Community Advisory Board meeting on February 9, 2023 via Zoom from 4-6PM.
- Georgetown Elementary School administration (Mr. Hudson and Ms. Murphy) shared a brief update on parts of their Equity Plan for the 2022-2023 school year.

## Committee Reports

### Buildings and Grounds

Mr. Fritz reviewed the minutes from the February 13, 2023 meeting.

### Comprehensive School Safety

Mr. Cathell reported to the Board that following schools have completed the tabletop exercises (Lord Baltimore, East Millsboro, Georgetown Elementary, Georgetown Middle, North Georgetown, Selbyville, Middle, Early Learning Center, Long Neck). ALERT training was completed at Millsboro Middle School on January 31, 2023.

### Finance

Dr. Hattier reviewed meeting minutes from February 13, 2023 meeting.

### Curriculum

Dr. Statler shared with the Board the minutes from the February 13, 2023 meeting.

### DSBA Board of Directors

No meeting.

### DSBA Legislative

No meeting.

### Special Education Task Force

Dr. Statler shared with the Board upcoming Spring activities for special education. March 1, 2023 – Spread the Word, March 21, 2023 Special Education Awareness.

## Policy

### First Readings

G CBD – Professional Leaves of Absence

DJF – Travel Authorization Expenses

GBI – Indian River School District Employee Recognition Policy

Dr. Owens presented the following policies for first readings: G CBD – Professional Leaves of Absence

DJF – Travel Authorization Expenses, GBI – Indian River School District Employee Recognition Policy

He requested that any changes can be reported to the Policy Committee.

### Second Readings

KH – Gifts from the Public

CB – School Superintendent

CBG – Evaluation of the Superintendent

JFE – Pregnant Students

Dr. Hattier, seconded by Dr. Statler, moved to approve the following policies as second readings: KH – Gifts from the Public, CB – School Superintendent, CBG – Evaluation of the Superintendent, JFE – Pregnant Students. The motion passed unanimously (9-0).

#### IREA Representative

Mr. Emanuele shared with the Board the 7<sup>th</sup> annual IREA scholarship fundraiser will be March 10, 2023 at the Millsboro Senior Center, IREA is looking forward to working on the 2023-2024 calendar.

#### Superintendents Report

Dr. Owens shared with the Board his monthly activities.

#### District Calendar Changes

Mrs. Pryor, seconded by Dr. Hattier, moved to approve the following district calendar changes/additions: (1) Change East Millsboro Elementary Spring pictures from March 8, 2023 to March 10, 2023; (2) Remove the Lord Baltimore Elementary Music Program 3<sup>rd</sup> grade performance on March 23, 2023 and add the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade performance to the Lord Baltimore Spring Concert performance for grades 4-5 on May 18, 2023. The motion passed unanimously (9-0).

#### Financial Summaries for month ending January 31, 2023

Mrs. Smith reviewed the financial summaries, major and minor capital improvement financials for the month ending January 31, 2023. Dr. Hattier, seconded by Mr. Cathell, moved to accept the financial summaries for the month ending January 31, 2023. The motion passed unanimously (9-0).

#### Detail Information for month ending January 31, 2023

Mr. Fritz, seconded by Dr. Hattier, moved to approve the Detail Information for the month ending January 31, 2023 as presented by Mrs. Smith. The motion passed unanimously (9-0).

#### Major Capital Improvements for month ending January 31, 2023

Dr. Hattier, seconded by Mrs. Pryor, moved to approve the Major Capital Improvements for the month ending January 31, 2023. The motion passed unanimously (9-0).

#### Minor Capital Improvements for month ending January 31, 2023

Dr. Hattier, seconded by Mr. Cathell, moved to approve the Minor Capital Improvements for the month ending January 31, 2023. The motion passed unanimously (9-0).

#### 2023 Spring Student Activity Funding

Dr. Hattier, seconded by Dr. Statler, moved to approve the 2023 student activity funding for \$168,991.00 as presented by Mrs. Smith. The motion passed unanimously (9-0).

#### Field Trip Requests

- Overnight trip by SMS VEX Robotics team on April 26-30, 2023 to Dallas, TX
- Overnight trip by SCHS HOSA on June 20-25, 2023 to Dallas, TX
- Overnight trip by MMS Cheerleading on August 21-24, 2023 to Honesdale, PA
- Overnight trip by IRHS HOSA on June 20-25, 2023 to Dallas, TX

Dr. Hattier, seconded by Mrs. Pryor, moved to approve the field trip requests as presented. The motion passed unanimously (9-0).

#### Personnel Agenda for February 27, 2023

Mrs. Pryor, seconded by Ms. Moses, moved to approve the Personnel Agenda for February 27, 2023 as presented by Mrs. Bunting. The motion passed unanimously (9-0).

#### Personnel Addendum for February 27, 2023

Mrs. Pryor, seconded by Mr. Cathell, moved to approve the Personnel Addendum for February 27, 2023 as presented by Mrs. Bunting. The motion passed unanimously (9-0).

Contractual Agenda for February 27, 2023

Dr. Hattier, seconded by Ms. Moses, moved to approve the Personnel Addendum for February 27, 2023 as presented by Mrs. Bunting. The motion passed unanimously (9-0).

Student Hearing No. 23-86

Mr. Cathell, seconded by Mrs. Pryor, moved to accept the hearing officer's recommendation for student hearing No. 23-86. The motion passed unanimously (9-0).

Public Comments

- Christina Wright, parent of a John M. Clayton elementary student, spoke to the Board again regarding the assault on her son by another student. She asked the following questions: Why is the offender not punished?, Why homebound instruction?, Why does my son have to change schools? Why is the public not told about Highroads? Why didn't the Highroads staff see the incident? Every teacher should be trained to deal with Highroad students. We should hold the offenders accountable.

Adjournment

President Layfield adjourned the meeting at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rodney M. Layfield  
President  
Board of Education  
Indian River School District

Jay F. Owens  
Superintendent  
Board of Education  
Indian River School District

RML/JFO:jmt