

INDIAN RIVER SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 16, 2023  
INDIAN RIVER HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM

Call to Order

President Mrs. Leolga T. Wright called the Board Meeting of the Indian River School District Board of Education to order at 6:02 p.m.

Roll Call

Board Members present: Mr. Derek Cathell, Mr. Jim Fritz, Dr. Donald Hattier, Mr. Gerald Peden, Mrs. Connie Pryor, Dr. Heather Statler, Mrs. Leolga Wright.

Board Member Absent: Mr. Ivan Neal

Board Member Late (6:05 p.m.): Ms. Madeline Moses.

Approval of Agenda – August 16, 2023

Dr. Hattier, seconded by Dr. Statler, motioned to approve the agenda for August 16, 2023. The motion passed unanimously (7-0).

Executive Session

Mrs. Wright motioned the start of executive session at 6:03 p.m. to review a personnel agenda and personnel addendum for August 16, 2023.

Reconvene Regular Session at 7:15 p.m.

Roll Call

Board Members present: Mr. Derek Cathell, Mr. Jim Fritz, Dr. Donald Hattier, Ms. Madeline Moses, Mr. Gerald Peden, Mrs. Connie Pryor, Dr. Heather Statler, Mrs. Leolga Wright.

Board Member Absent: Mr. Ivan Neal

Public Comments

Mrs. Brooke Darmstadter, parent of Sussex Central High School students, spoke to the Board about the email she sent to each board member. She shared abbreviated sections of the email and addressed her concerns with the environment at the high school. The speculation surrounding the investigation of the high school administrators is unsettling. Kids need to be protected in school and not be subject to administrative misconduct. She reviewed the staff code of ethics, parents of students at Sussex Central High School need to be informed if staff members are violating these policies. The district needs to make an attempt to reassure parents the school administration are the best they can be for students and staff. The district doesn't need to be silent on this matter.

Pam Long, parent of a Sussex Central High School student, spoke to the Board regarding the administrators at the school. She is upset that they have been on paid administrative leave since May due to a potential legal investigation. Her child shared with her that the climate at the school is terrible. She does not agree with the "good ole boy" mentality regarding this matter, we deserve transparency.

Personnel Agenda for August 16, 2023

Dr. Statler, seconded by Dr. Hattier, moved to approve the Personnel Agenda for August 16, 2023 excluding personnel agenda items #6 and #30 as presented by Mrs. Bunting. The motion passed unanimously (8-0).

Dr. Statler, seconded by Dr. Hattier, moved to approve Personnel Agenda item #6 on the Personnel Agenda for August 16, 2023. The motion failed (5-3-0).

For the motion: Mr. Cathell, Mr. Fritz, Dr. Hattier, Dr. Statler, Mrs. Wright.

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

Dr. Hattier, seconded by Dr. Statler, moved to approve Personnel Agenda item #30 on the Personnel Agenda for August 16, 2023. The motion failed (4-4-0).

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

Against the motion: Ms. Moses, Mr. Peden, Mrs. Pryor, Mrs. Wright.

Personnel Addendum for August 16, 2023

Dr. Statler, seconded by Dr. Hattier, moved to approve the Personnel Addendum for August 16, 2023 as presented. The motion passed unanimously (8-0).

Adjournment

President Wright adjourned the board meeting at 7:27 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

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

Leolga T. Wright  
President  
Indian River School District  
Board of Education

LTW/JFO:jmt