

INDIAN RIVER SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING  
MONDAY, AUGUST 28, 2023  
INDIAN RIVER HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM

MINUTES

Call to Order

President Mrs. Wright called the Regular Meeting of the Indian River School District Board of Education to order at 6:10 p.m.

Roll Call

Board Members present: Mr. Derek Cathell, Mr. James Fritz, Mr. Ivan Neal, Ms. Madeline Moses, Mr. Gerald Peden, Mrs. Connie Pryor, Dr. Heather Statler, and Mrs. Leolga Wright.

Board Member Late: Dr. Donald Hattier (6:12 p.m.)

Executive Session

Mr. Fritz, seconded by Mrs. Pryor, moved to go into Executive Session at 6:11 p.m. for the purpose of discussing personnel, student hearings, negotiations, litigation. The motion passed unanimously (8-0).

Reconvene - Regular Session at 7:13 p.m.

Approval of Agenda – August 28, 2023

Mr. Fritz, seconded by Dr. Statler, moved to approve the agenda for August 28, 2023. The motion passed unanimously (9-0).

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Minutes

Board of Education Meeting Minutes – July 24, 2023

Dr. Statler, seconded by Ms. Moses, moved to approve the minutes as submitted. The motion passed unanimously (9-0).

Board of Education Executive Session Meeting Minutes – July 24, 2023

Dr. Statler, seconded by Ms. Moses, moved to approve the minutes as submitted. The motion passed unanimously (9-0).

Board of Education Meeting Minutes – July 27, 2023

Ms. Moses, seconded by Dr. Statler, moved to approve the minutes as submitted. The motion passed unanimously (9-0).

Board of Education Executive Session Meeting Minutes – July 27, 2023

Ms. Moses, seconded by Dr. Statler, moved to approve the minutes as submitted. The motion passed unanimously (9-0).

Board of Education Meeting Minutes – August 16, 2023

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

Board of Education Executive Session Meeting Minutes – August 16, 2023

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

Visitors and Staff in Attendance

Jay Owens, Jennifer Troublefield, Celeste Bunting, Renee Jerns, Kelly Dorman, Tammy Smith, Judi Brittingham, Cliff Toomey, Dan Mann, Preston Lewis, Allisa Booth, Christy Kerr, Sarah Green, Rick Evans, Brad

Breasure, Mike Williams, Monica McCurry, Jason Macrides, Kathleen Wilson, Barkley Heck, David Carter, Janet Hickman, Melissa Kansak, Neil Stong, Nika Reid, Walter Smith, Blair Catlin Brown, Cassie Queen, Suzanne Timmons, JR Emanuele, Brad Cowen, Shawn Tidwell, Molli Carter, Samuel Clark, Kim Taylor, Lisa Lasher, Dave Marvel, Maria Hazzard, Gloria Merz Steele, Adrienne Donaway, Brooke Darmstadter, Linda Zerbe, Shaunielle Henry, Nevin Clark, Jackie Clark, Alexis Vickers, Cheryl Layfield, Kim Layfield, Bradley Layfield, Jesse Bare, Leo Darmstadter, Kimberly Pettyjohn, Latasha White.

#### Public Comments

- Molli Carter spoke to the board regarding the positives of having cross country as a middle school sport in the district.
- Adrienne Donaway, a 15 year veteran and currently works in special education at Sussex Central spoke in support of Dr. Layfield. He is more dedicated to that school than anyone else and should be reinstated.
- David Marvel spoke to the board regarding Dr. Layfield's strong and positive character.
- Samuel Clark spoke to the board about his reasons for wanting to become a school district member representing district #5
- Kim Taylor spoke to the board about her reasons for wanting to become a school district member representing district #5.
- Lisa Lasher spoke to the board in support of Dr. Layfield returning to Sussex Central High School. He is of high character, she wants to know what the "situation" is so she can better understand why Dr. Layfield isn't the administrator at school.

#### New Business

##### Appointments for Indian River School District Board of Education District #5 – Ms. Kimberly L. Taylor, Mr. Samuel Clark

Dr. Hattier, seconded by Mr. Fritz, moved to appoint Mr. Clark to IRSD Board of Education District #5. The motion failed (5-1-3).

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

Against the motion: Mr. Cathell

Abstained: Ms. Moses, Mr. Neal, Mrs. Pryor

Ms. Moses, seconded by Mr. Neal, moved to appoint Mrs. Taylor to IRSD Board of Education District #5. The motion failed (5-2-2).

For the motion: Mr. Cathell, Ms. Moses, Mr. Neal, Mrs. Pryor, Dr. Statler.

Against the motion: Mr. Peden, Mrs. Wright

Abstained: Mr. Fritz, Dr. Hattier

Dr. Statler, seconded by Dr. Hattier, moved to table discussion and voting until next month's board meeting. The motion passed unanimously (9-0).

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

Mr. Cathell, seconded by Dr. Hattier, moved to accept 2023-2024 school choice applicants (August 2023) as presented by Mr. Lewis. The motion passed unanimously (9-0).

#### Public Comments

Ms. Gloria Steele, a paraprofessional at Sussex Central High School, read a text regarding her support of Dr. Layfield at Sussex Central High School.

##### 2023-2024 School Resource Officer Contract

Mr. Cathell, seconded by Ms. Moses, moved to accept the School Resource Officer Contract for the 2023-2024 school year as presented. The motion passed unanimously (9-0).

### 2023-2024 Nutrition Services Meal Prices

Ms. Moses, seconded by Dr. Hattier, moved to approve the 2023-2024 Nutrition Services Meal Prices as presented by Mr. Cliff Toomey. Mr. Toomey noted that the student lunch meal prices have remained the same for 19 years. The motion passed unanimously (9-0).

### Sussex Central High School Change Orders

Dr. Statler, seconded by Ms. Moses, moved to accept the Sussex Central High School Change Orders totaling \$196,272 as presented by Mr. Joe Booth. The motion passed unanimously (9-0).

### Indian River High School Girls Volleyball Uniforms

Dr. Hattier, seconded by Dr. Statler, moved to accept the Indian River High School Girls Volleyball Uniforms as presented by Mrs. Smith. The motion passed unanimously (9-0).

### Sussex Central High School JV Boys Soccer Uniforms

Dr. Hattier, seconded by Dr. Statler, moved to accept the Sussex Central High School JV Boys Soccer Uniforms as presented by Mrs. Smith. The motion passed unanimously (9-0).

### Middle School Additional Sports

Dr. Statler, seconded by Dr. Hattier, moved to approve the addition of Middle School Sports of Cross Country at Selbyville Middle School as presented. The motion Passed. (7-2-0)

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

Against the motion: Mr. Fritz, Mr. Peden.

### Bus Driver Pay Rates

Dr. Hattier, seconded by Mr. Neal, moved to approve the bus driver pay rates as presented by Mrs. Smith. The motion failed (4-5-0).

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

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

### Impact Fees – Board Resolution

Dr. Hattier, seconded by Mrs. Pryor, moved to accept the impact fees-board resolution (this enables Sussex County to use the voluntary school assessment to address the impact of residential development on school capacity) as presented by Mrs. Smith. The motion passed unanimously (9-0).

### Tax Relief Requests

Mr. Fritz, seconded by Dr. Hattier, moved to approve the tax relief requests as presented. The motion passed (7-2-0).

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

Against the motion: Mr. Peden, Mrs. Pryor

### 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 greenhouse is scheduled to be completed next week. Repairs to the pool have begun. The ribbon cutting is expected in early October.

#### G.W. Carver Consent Update

Dr. Thoroughgood shared with the board the following:

- On July 17<sup>th</sup>, Dr. Rhen visited SCHS to review Carver students' files to monitor students' progress and programming plans. Afterward, she attended the Board Retreat/Equity Training led by Dr. Adolph Brown.

- The Community Advisory Board meetings are scheduled for the upcoming school year. The first meeting will be October 12<sup>th</sup>.
- In addition, the Equity Steering Committee meetings are scheduled. The first meeting will be on October 19<sup>th</sup>.
- Dr. Rhen is tentatively scheduled for another site visit on September 27<sup>th</sup> .

#### Committee Reports

##### Buildings and Grounds

Mr. Fritz reviewed the minutes from the August 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023 meeting.

##### Comprehensive School Safety

Mr. Cathell shared with the Board that HB201 was passed regarding firearms on school property.

##### Finance

Dr. Hattier reviewed minutes from the August 14<sup>th</sup> meeting.

##### Curriculum

Dr. Jerns and Mrs. Dorman shared the 2023 Assessment Summary Data for the district with the Board.

##### DSBA Board of Directors

No report.

##### DSBA Legislative

No report.

##### Special Education Task Force

No report.

#### Policy

##### First Readings

Dr. Owens presented the following policy for a first reading: GBCB Staff Conduct Drug & Alcohol-Free Workplace. He requested that any changes can be reported to the Policy Committee.

##### Second Readings

Ms. Moses, seconded by Dr. Hattier, moved to approve the following policies as second readings: GCD.1 Fingerprinting of New Employment Applicants, J – Indian River School District Athletics. The motion passed unanimously (9-0).

##### IREA Representative

Ms. Blair Caitlin Brown welcomed everyone back to school.

##### Superintendents Report

Dr. Owens shared with the Board his monthly activities.

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

Mrs. Smith reviewed the financial summaries, major and minor capital improvement financials for the month ending July 31, 2023.

Dr. Hattier, seconded by Mr. Fritz, moved to accept the financial summaries for the month ending July 31, 2023. The motion passed unanimously (9-0).

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

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

Major Capital Improvements for month ending July 31, 2023

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

Minor Capital Improvements for moth ending July 31, 2023

Ms. Moses, seconded by Dr. Hattier, moved to approve the Minor Capital Improvements for the month ending July 31, 2023 as presented by Mrs. Smith. The motion passed unanimously (9-0).

FY '20 Construction Audit

Mrs. Smith reviewed the FY '20 construction audit with the board.

FY '24 Preliminary Budget – Indian River School District

Mr. Peden, seconded by Ms. Moses, moved to approve the FY '24 Preliminary Budget – Indian River School District as presented by Mrs. Smith. (\$61.7 M with 847.7 units). The motion passed unanimously (9-0).

FY '24 Preliminary Budget – Howard T. Ennis

Ms. Moses, seconded by Dr. Hattier, moved to approve the FY '24 Preliminary Budget – Howard T. Ennis as presented by Mrs. Smith. (\$15,986,222). The motion passed unanimously (9-0).

Financial Position Report

Ms. Moses, seconded by Dr. Hattier, moved to approve the financial position report as presented by Mrs. Smith. The motion passed unanimously (9-0).

Financial Position Report

as of July 1, 2023

**Forecast Period:** Q1-2024

**District:** Indian River

Description	Actual Unencumbered	Encumbered	Projected Income 7/1 to 10/15	Projected Available Income through 10/15	Projected Salary 7/1 to 10/15	Projected Non- Salary 7/1 to 10/15	Projected Expenditures through 10/15	Projected Available Balance 10/15	Projected 1 month Local Payroll
Local Expenses	\$14,675,772.08	\$407,823.28	\$7,549,000.00	\$22,632,595.36	\$10,941,000.00	\$2,008,031.74	\$12,949,031.74	\$9,683,563.62	\$3,200,000.00
Div II	\$2,215,102.92	\$509,864.24	\$0.00	\$2,724,967.16	\$0.00	\$644,758.78	\$644,758.78	\$2,080,208.38	
Div III	\$1,067,306.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,067,306.00	\$1,067,306.00	\$0.00	\$1,067,306.00	\$0.00	
Cash Option	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Other	\$1,931,072.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,931,072.00	\$140,000.00	\$0.00	\$140,000.00	\$1,791,072.00	
<b>Total Discretionary Fund Revenue</b>	<b>\$19,889,253.00</b>	<b>\$917,687.52</b>	<b>\$7,549,000.00</b>	<b>\$28,355,940.52</b>	<b>\$12,148,306.00</b>	<b>\$2,652,790.52</b>	<b>\$14,801,096.52</b>	<b>\$13,554,844.00</b>	

Use of Facilities Request

Use of John M. Clayton Elementary gymnasium by Lighthouse Christian School from November 6, 2023 to February 19, 2024 for basketball games and practices.

Dr. Hattier, seconded by Mr. Cathell, moved to approve the use of facility request as presented. The motion passed unanimously (9-0).

Field Trip Request

Overnight trip by Sussex Central FFA on September 14-17, 2023 to Springfield, MA.

Mr. Cathell, seconded by Dr. Hattier, moved to approve the use of facility request as presented. The motion passed unanimously (9-0).

### Executive Session

Mr. Pryor, Seconded by Dr. Hattier, moved to return to executive session at 8:54 p.m. The motion passed unanimously (9-0).

*Dr. Statler left the board meeting at 9:20 p.m.*

### Reconvene Regular Session

Mr. Cathell, seconded by Dr. Hattier, moved to reconvene regular session at 9:34 p.m. The motion passed unanimously (8-0).

### Bus Driver Pay Rates

Dr. Hattier, seconded by Mr. Neal, moved to approve the bus driver pay rates to reflect the State of Delaware bus driver base pay regulation/step one of \$22.50 per hour. The motion passed unanimously (8-0).

### Personnel Agenda for August 28, 2023

Dr. Hattier, seconded by Ms. Moses, moved to approve the Personnel Agenda for August 28, 2023 excluding personnel agenda items #2, #3, #9 as presented by Mrs. Bunting. The motion passed unanimously (9-0).

Dr. Hattier, seconded by Mr. Cathell, moved to approve Personnel Agenda item #2 on the Personnel Agenda for August 28, 2023. The motion passed (6-1-1).

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

Against the motion: Ms. Moses

Abstained: Mrs. Pryor.

Mr. Peden, seconded by Dr. Hattier, seconded by Mr. Cathell, moved to approve Personnel Agenda item #3 on the Personnel Agenda for August 28, 2023. The motion failed (4-3-1).

For the motion: Mr. Cathell, Mr. Fritz, Dr. Hattier, Mr. Neal.

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

Abstained: Mrs. Wright.

Mr. Peden, seconded by Dr. Hattier, seconded by Mr. Cathell, moved to approve Personnel Agenda item #9 on the Personnel Agenda for August 28, 2023. The motion failed (4-4-0).

For the motion: Mr. Cathell, Mr. Fritz, Dr. Hattier, Mr. Neal.

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

### Personnel Addendum for August 28, 2023

Dr. Hattier, seconded by Mr. Cathell, moved to approve the Personnel Addendum for August 28, 2023 as presented by Mrs. Bunting. The motion passed unanimously (8-0).

### Contractual Agenda for August 28, 2023

Dr. Statler, seconded by Mr. Collins, moved to approve the Contractual Agenda for August 28, 2023 as presented by Mrs. Bunting. The motion passed unanimously (8-0).

### Proposed Chief Custodian Contract

Dr. Hattier, seconded by Mrs. Pryor, moved to approve the proposed chief custodian contract as presented by Mrs. Bunting. The motion passed unanimously (8-0).

### Public Comments

- Brooke Darmstadter spoke to the Board with regards to Sussex Central High School. She is upset that the public has heard nothing regarding the administration at the high school. This is not fair to both parents and students, she wants reassurance about sending students back to school.
- John Wells, teacher and coach at Sussex Central High School spoke to the board regarding the positive character and strong leadership Dr. Layfield has instilled at the school. He is "one of us".

Adjournment

Mr. Fritz, seconded by Ms. Moses, motioned to adjourn the meeting at 9:51 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

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

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

LTW/JFO:jmt