

INDIAN RIVER SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING  
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 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 6:00 p.m.

Roll Call

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

Executive Session

Dr. Statler, seconded by Mrs. Pryor, 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 7:09 p.m.

Approval of Agenda – September 25, 2023

Mrs. Pryor, seconded by Ms. Moses, moved to approve the agenda for September 25, 2023. The motion passed unanimously (9-0).

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Minutes

Board of Education Meeting Minutes – August 28, 2023

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

Board of Education Executive Session Meeting Minutes – August 28, 2023

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

Visitors and Staff in Attendance

Jay Owens, Karen Blannard, Celeste Bunting, Renee Jerns, Kelly Dorman, Tammy Smith, Judi Brittingham, Tara Thoroughgood, Jennifer Troublefield, Cliff Toomey, Dan Mann, Preston Lewis, Joe Booth, Walter Smith, Shawn Tidwell, Allisa Booth, Christy Kerr, Sarah Green, Rick Evans, Brad Breasure, Mike Williams, Monica McCurry, Jason Macrides, Kathleen Wilson, Pam Webb, David Carter, Janet Hickman, Melissa Kansak, Neil Stong, Nika Reid, Blair Catlin Brown, Cassie Queen, Suzanne Timmons, JR Emanuele, Brad Cowen, Bob Blyman, Samuel Clark, Nevin Clark, Daisey Taylor, Kim Taylor, Joshua Loose, Latosha White, Kim Pettyjohn, Pam Long, Japayl Knight, Destinee Sousa, Shelia Hall, Alisa Jernigan, Julius Jacobs, Temira Wise, Desiree Pilgrim, Jason Pilgrim, Annie Mitchell, Lorraine Tomlin, Rebecca Hagan, Pastor Briddell, Nanette Maull, Bishop Roland Mifflin, Kittie Rehrig, Emily Wright, Monica Wheatley, Matt Eskridge, Priscilla Schoolfield, Penny McCray, Shaunielle Henry, Darlene Bolor, Darnice Bolor, Annie Mitchell.

Student Government

Indian River High School's student government representative, Wilson Velasquez, reported on events occurring at Indian River High School.

Recognition

- Project Aware Partner Schools – Long Neck Elementary, Sussex Central High School, Millsboro Middle
- Delaware National Guard – Principals Mike Williams, Dr. David Carter, Matthew Keller and Superintendent Dr. Owens

## Public Comments

- Joshua Loose spoke to the board regarding adding indoor track to Indian River High School this year or next year.
- Daisey Taylor spoke to the Board regarding the strong character of Mr. Samuel Clark. He is the face of the community, overcame many obstacles that made him a stronger person. Mr. Clark has applied for the Indian River School District board position representing district #5.

## New Business

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

Both Mrs. Kimberly Taylor and Mr. Samuel Clark addressed the board regarding why they would be asset to the Indian River School District as a board member serving district number 5.

Mr. Fritz asked each board member to state the address in which they reside. Mrs. Taylor stated her address as 176 East Mill Pond Drive Selbyville, DE and Mr. Samuel Clark stated his address as 24284 Berry Road Frankford, De 19945.

Ms. Moses, seconded by Mrs. Pryor, moved to appoint Mrs. Taylor to IRSD Board of Education District #5. The motion passed (6-3-0).

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

Against the motion: Dr. Hattier, Mr. Peden, Mrs. Wright.

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

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

### National School Lunch Week Resolution October 9-13, 2023

Mr. Cathell, seconded by Ms. Moses, moved to approve the National School Lunch week Resolution: October 9-13, 2023 as presented by Mr. Toomey. The motion passed unanimously (9-0).

### National School Bus Safety Week Resolution: October 16-20, 2023

Dr. Hattier, seconded by Mr. Cathell, moved to approve the National School Bus Safety week Resolution: October 16-20, 2023 as presented by Mr. Tidwell. The motion passed unanimously (9-0).

### DHSS and Howard T. Ennis Fence Request

Mr. Fritz, seconded by Dr. Hattier, moved to accept the DHSS and Howard T. Ennis fence request in the amount of \$10,799 (the total cost is \$21,598 half paid by IRSD and half paid by DHSS) as presented by Mr. Booth. The motion failed (4-5-0).

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

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

### John M. Clayton Elementary Football Light Poles Removal

Mr. Fritz, seconded by Dr. Statler, moved to approve the removal of the John M. Clayton Elementary Football Light Poles Removal as presented by Mr. Booth. The motion passed unanimously (9-0).

### Indian River High School Back Entrance Fence Quotes

Dr. Hattier, seconded by Dr. Statler, moved to accept the quote of \$4,320 for the Indian River High School Back Entrance Fence as presented by Mr. Booth. The motion passed unanimously (9-0).

### Sussex Central High School Change Orders District Requested

Dr. Hattier, seconded by Mr. Fritz, moved to accept the Sussex Central High School Change Orders District Requested amounts of \$150,900, \$2,684, \$16,262 as presented by Mr. Joe Booth. The motion passed unanimously (9-0).

### Sussex Central High School Change Order Notifications

Dr. Hattier, seconded by Ms. Moses, moved to accept the Sussex Central High School Change Order Notification of \$3,193 as presented by Mr. Booth. The motion passed unanimously (9-0).

### Sussex Central High School JV Girls Soccer Uniforms

Mr. Cathell, seconded by Ms. Moses, moved to accept the Sussex Central High School JV Girls Soccer Uniforms as presented by Mrs. Smith. The motion passed unanimously (9-0).

### Sussex Central High School Girls Volleyball Uniforms

Dr. Hattier, seconded by Mr. Cathell, moved to accept the Sussex Central High School Girls Volleyball Uniforms (black in color) to be worn on 3 game occasions for the 2023-2024 school year. The motion failed (4-2-3).

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

Against the motion: Mr. Fritz, Ms. Moses

Abstained: Mr. Peden, Mrs. Pryor, Dr. Statler

### Old Business

#### Major Capital Planning

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

#### Howard T. Ennis

Dr. Owens shared with the board the ribbon cutting is scheduled for October 3, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.

#### G.W. Carver Consent Update

Dr. Thoroughgood shared with the board the following:

- By the end of this week, all Carver students will complete an Achieve 3000 Reading inventory assessment and a Springboard phonic screener to assess each student's reading skills. IEP Teams will review the data and determine whether instructional service adjustments are necessary to improve Reading skills.
- Dr. Rhen is scheduled for a site visit on September 27<sup>th</sup>. A schedule has been sent to building administrators in preparation for her visit.
- Another reminder that the Community Advisory Board will meet on October 12<sup>th</sup>.  
In addition, the Equity Steering Committee meeting will meet on October on October 19<sup>th</sup>.

### Committee Reports

#### Buildings and Grounds

Mr. Fritz reviewed the minutes from the September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023 meeting.

#### Comprehensive School Safety

Mr. Cathell shared with the Board that the school safety assessments have been completed by the school constables.

#### Finance

Dr. Hattier reviewed minutes from the September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023 meeting.

#### Curriculum

Dr. Statler reviewed the minutes from the September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023 meeting.

#### DSBA Board of Directors

Mrs. Wright shared with the Board the September DSBA meeting discussions. Transportation is a statewide issue. There is a nationwide shortage of teachers, paraprofessionals. Discipline in the schools was addressed as well.

#### DSBA Legislative

No report.

### Special Education Task Force

Dr. Statler shared with the board the planning for the Special Education Week (October 23-27, 2023).

### 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.

#### First and Second Reading

Dr. Hattier, seconded by Dr. Statler, moved to approve the following policy as a first and second reading: IKA – Grading Systems. The motion passed unanimously (9-0).

### IREA Representative

Mrs. Suzanne Timmons thanked everyone who helped finalize the 2 hour delays for staff professional development. Reminder to save the date of March 8, 2024 for the annual IREA Scholarship Fundraiser.

### Superintendents Report

Dr. Owens shared with the Board his monthly activities.

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

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

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

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

Dr. Statler, seconded by Ms. Moses, moved to approve the Detail Information for the month ending August 31, 2023 as presented by Mrs. Smith. The motion passed unanimously (9-0).

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

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

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

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

### Use of Facilities Request

Use of Lord Baltimore Elementary Rest Rooms on October 8, 2023 (rain date) by Lord Baltimore Elementary PTO.

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

### Field Trip Request

- Overnight trip by Sussex Central High School Baseball on March 14-18, 2024 to Myrtle Beach, SC.
- Overnight trip by Sussex Central High School Marching Band on April 18-22, 2024 to Pigeon Forge, TN.
- Overnight trip by Sussex Central High School FFA on October 28 – November 5, 2023 to Indianapolis, IN.
- Overnight trip by Sussex Central High School FFA on October 4-5, 2023 to Camp Barnes, DE.
- Overnight trip by Indian River High School FFA on October 4-5, 2023 to Camp Barnes, DE.
- Sunday trip by Indian River High School Marching Band on October 1, 2023 to Allentown, PA

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

Personnel Agenda for September 25, 2023

Ms. Moses, seconded by Dr. Hattier, moved to approve the Personnel Agenda for September 25, 2023 excluding personnel agenda item #78 as presented by Mrs. Bunting. The motion passed unanimously (9-0).

Dr. Hattier, seconded by Mrs. Pryor, moved to approve Personnel Agenda item #78 on the Personnel Agenda for September 25, 2023. The motion passed (8-0-1).

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

Personnel Addendum for September 25, 2023

Ms. Moses, seconded by Mr. Cathell, moved to approve the Personnel Addendum for September 25, 2023 excluding Personnel Addendum #33 as presented by Mrs. Bunting. The motion passed unanimously (9-0).

Dr. Statler, seconded by Dr. Hattier, moved to approve Personnel Agenda item #33 on the Personnel Addendum for September 25, 2023. The motion passed (8-0-1).

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

Contractual Agenda for September 25, 2023

Dr. Statler, seconded by Mr. Collins, moved to approve the Contractual Agenda for September 25, 2023 as presented by Mrs. Bunting. The motion passed unanimously (9-0).

Paraprofessional Proposed Contract

Dr. Hattier, seconded by Ms. Moses, moved to table paraprofessional proposed contract for executive session. The motion passed unanimously (9-0).

Student Hearing No. 23-186

No motion made, fails due to lack of a second motion.

Executive Session

Mr. Cathell, seconded by Mrs. Pryor, moved to return to executive session at 8:57 p.m. The motion passed unanimously (9-0).

Reconvene Regular Session at 9:25 p.m.

Paraprofessional Proposed Contract

Dr. Hattier, seconded by Ms. Moses, moved to accept the paraprofessional proposed contract. The motion passed unanimously (9-0).

Public Comments

No public comments.

Adjournment

Mr. Fritz, seconded by Ms. Moses, motioned to adjourn the meeting at 9:26 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