

INDIAN RIVER SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2023
SUSSEX CENTRAL 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, Ms. Madeline Moses, Mr. Gerald Peden, Mrs. Connie Pryor, Dr. Heather Statler, Mrs. Taylor, and Mrs. Leolga Wright.

Board Members Late: Dr. Donald Hattier (6:09 p.m.), Mr. Ivan Neal (6:10 p.m.)

Executive Session

Mr. Cathell, 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 (8-0).

Reconvene Regular Session at 7:16 p.m.

Approval of Agenda – October 23, 2023

Ms. Moses, seconded by Dr. Statler, moved to approve the agenda for October 23, 2023. The motion passed unanimously (10-0).

Pledge of Allegiance/Presentation of Colors by Sussex Central High School JROTC.

Approval of Minutes

Board of Education Meeting Minutes – September 25, 2023

Mrs. Pryor, seconded by Mr. Cathell, moved to approve the minutes as submitted. The motion passed unanimously (10-0).

Board of Education Executive Session Meeting Minutes – September 25, 2023

Mrs. Pryor, seconded by Mr. Fritz, moved to approve the minutes as submitted. The motion passed unanimously (10-0).

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, Bennett Murray, Christy Kerr, Sarah Green, Rick Evans, Brad Breasure, Mike Williams, Jenna Argo, Jason Macrides, Kathleen Wilson, Pam Webb, David Carter, Janet Hickman, Melissa Kansak, Neil Stong, Nika Reid, Maria Hazzard, Cathy Wolfe, Aimee Marzullo, Lindsay Hudson-Hubbs, Sprig Hudson, Amy Betts, Blair Catlin Brown, Cassie Queen, Suzanne Timmons, JR Emanuele, Brad Cowen, Bob Blyman, Deanna Lynch, Tara Magee, Conor Carey, Heather McCabe, Brian Parker, Desiree Pilgrim, Jason Pilgrim, Ashley Rowe, Kelley Collins Vickers, Todd Vickers, Holden Wingate, Amanda Venezia, M. Teal Richards, Scott Richards, Justin Illian, Rachel Bare, Tyler Bare, Katherine Callaway, Pamela Long, Emily Nock, Abbigail Crown, Jennifer Harrison, Dawn Nielson, Terri Lingo, Taylor Adkins, Brett and Amanda Morris, Tami Hudson, Valarie Carter, Latosna White, Jalyn Powell, Stacey Long .

Student Government

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

Recognition

- Special Education Ambassadors 2023/2024 –Brian Parker, Lisa McNeill, Tyler Bare, Heather McCabe, Amanda and Brett Morris, Valerie Carter, Conor Casey, Holden Wingate, Abbigail Crown, Amanda Venezia, Helen Timmons, Briana Schuman, Lindsey Hudson-Hubbs, Taylor Adkins, Kelley Vickers, Dara Callaway.
- Above and Beyond – (North Georgetown Elementary) Mr. Illian, Ms. Newsom, Ms. Lynch, Ms. Magee Ms. Betts, Mrs. Tami Hudson, Mr. Pep Lewis.

Public Comments

- Jane Hovington spoke to the board regarding the incident at Sussex Central High School in May 2023. The young lady who was victimized is still suffering from the incident. The district should not reinstate the on-leave administration.

New Business

School Choice Applications 2023-2024 (October 2023)

Dr. Statler, seconded by Ms. Moses, moved to accept 2023-2024 school choice applicants (October 2023) as presented by Mr. Lewis. The motion passed unanimously (10-0).

American Education Week Resolution November 13-18, 2023

Mr. Cathell, seconded by Mr. Fritz, moved to approve the American Education Week Resolution: November 13-17, 2023 as presented by Dr. Owens. The motion passed unanimously (10-0).

2023-2024 Unit Count Summary

Dr. Owens shared with the Board the student enrollment for the 2023 -2024 school year is 10,786 students. The total units are 885.23. These numbers are still being validated through the State. The final 2023-2024 Unit Count Summary will be on next month's board agenda.

Indian River High School Unified Basketball Uniforms

Ms. Moses, seconded by Mrs. Pryor, moved to accept the Indian River High School Unified Basketball Uniforms as presented by Dr. Owens. The motion passed unanimously (10-0).

Indian River High School Baseball Uniforms

Mr. Fritz, seconded by Ms. Moses, moved to accept the Indian River High School Baseball Uniforms as presented by Dr. Owens. The motion passed unanimously (10-0).

Town of Ocean View School Resource Officer

Motion failed due to no motion made.

Town of Selbyville Easement Request

Dr. Hattier, seconded by Mrs. Taylor, moved to approve the Town of Selbyville Easement request as presented by Mr. Booth. The motion passed unanimously (10-0).

Howard T. Change Order

Dr. Hattier, seconded by Mr. Neal, moved to accept the Howard T. Ennis Change Order in the amount of \$13,872.44 as presented by Mr. Joe Booth. The motion passed unanimously (10-0).

Howard T. Ennis Change Order Notifications

Dr. Hattier, seconded by Ms. Moses, moved to accept the Howard T. Ennis Change Order Notifications in the amounts of \$2,565.43, \$5,400.00 and \$15,762.00 as presented by Mr. Booth. The motion passed unanimously (10-0).

Title IX Coordinator, 504 Coordinator, ADA Coordinator

Dr. Owens noted that districts are required to publicly name the persons who are responsible for Title IX, 504, and ADA matters. For the 2023-2024 school year, Mrs. Celeste Bunting is responsible for Title IX matters, Dr. P. Renee Jerns is responsible for 504 matters, and Mr. Joe Booth is responsible for ADA matters.

Old Business

Major Capital Planning

Dr. Owens gave an update on the new Sussex Central High School construction project. The beam signing is scheduled for November 9, 2023 at 9:00 am.

Howard T. Ennis

Dr. Owens shared with the board the greenhouse is expected to be shipped on October 30, 2023. Pool tile demolition is complete.

G.W. Carver Consent Update

Dr. Thoroughgood shared with the board the following:

Dr. Rhen visited on September 27th. She observed the students learning in their classrooms and then visited district students at the High Road School of Sussex County.

The Community Advisory Board met via Zoom for their quarterly meeting on October 12th. The discussion included a review of the 2022-2023 discipline data and data for September 2023. School district representatives discussed strategies we have in place to promote social-emotional support for our students.

Committee Reports

Buildings and Grounds

Mr. Fritz reviewed the minutes from the October 9th, 2023 meeting.

Comprehensive School Safety

Mr. Cathell shared with the Board that as of October 6, 2023 all the schools have completed their 2023-2024 Delaware Emergency School Safety Plan.

Finance

Dr. Hattier reviewed minutes from the October 9th, 2023 meeting.

Curriculum

Dr. Statler reviewed the minutes from the October 9th, 2023 meeting.

DSBA Board of Directors

No report.

DSBA Legislative

No report.

Special Education Task Force

Dr. Statler thanked all who helped with the Special Education Ambassadors and the planning for the Special Education Week (October 23-27, 2023).

Policy

First Readings

Dr. Owens presented the following policy for a first reading: JFG – Interview By Agency Officials Other Than Police. He requested that any changes can be reported to the Policy Committee.

IREA Representative

Ms. Blair Caitlin Brown shared with the Board that our students need help with coping with stress and mental health concerns. Violent student outbursts are increasing. Students suffering from stress is on the rise. Many rural area schools like Indian River have seen increasing mental health concerns with students. What can our district do? With budget consideration we need to prioritize this with increased staffing and programs for mental health counseling, the district needs to become more pro-active than re-active.

Superintendents Report

Dr. Owens shared with the Board his monthly activities.

Financial Summaries for month ending September 30, 2023

Mrs. Smith reviewed the financial summaries, major and minor capital improvement financials for the month ending September 30, 2023.

Mr. Fritz, seconded by Ms. Noses, moved to accept the financial summaries for the month ending September 30, 2023. The motion passed unanimously (10-0).

Detail Information for month ending September 30, 2023

Dr. Hattier, seconded by Dr. Statler, moved to approve the Detail Information for the month ending September 30, 2023 as presented by Mrs. Smith. The motion passed unanimously (10-0).

Major Capital Improvements for month ending September 30, 2023

Dr. Statler, seconded by Ms. Moses, moved to approve the Major Capital Improvements for the month ending September 30, 2023 as presented by Mrs. Smith. The motion passed unanimously (10-0).

Minor Capital Improvements for month ending September 30, 2023

Dr. Statler, seconded by Mr. Cathell, moved to approve the Minor Capital Improvements for the month ending September 30, 2023 as presented by Mrs. Smith. The motion passed unanimously (10-0).

Personnel Agenda for October 23, 2023

Ms. Moses, seconded by Dr. Hattier, moved to approve the Personnel Agenda for October 23, 2023 excluding personnel agenda items #101, #111, and #119 as presented by Mrs. Bunting. The motion passed unanimously (10-0).

Dr. Hattier, seconded by Mrs. Pryor, moved to approve Personnel Agenda item #101 on the Personnel Agenda for October 23, 2023. The motion passed (9-0-1).

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

Abstained: Mr. Peden.

There was no motion made to approve Personnel Agenda item #111.

There was no motion made to approve Personnel Agenda item #119.

Personnel Addendum for October 23, 2023

Ms. Moses, seconded by Dr. Statler, moved to approve the Personnel Addendum for October 23, 2023 as presented by Mrs. Bunting. The motion passed unanimously (10-0).

Contractual Agenda for October 23, 2023

Dr. Hattier, seconded by Mr. Fritz, moved to approve the Contractual Agenda for October 23, 2023 as presented by Mrs. Bunting. The motion passed unanimously (10-0).

Public Comments

Alexis Vickers, mother to a 1st and 5th grader at John M. Clayton elementary, spoke to the Board. The school has been fantastic to her family. She is a mother to 2 special needs children. There are many staff members in the district who do care about students, I trust the staff with my children. Thank you for supporting special education.

Adjournment

Mrs. Pryor, seconded by Dr. Hattier, motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 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