

INDIAN RIVER SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2023
INDIAN RIVER HIGH SCHOOL CAFETERIA

Call to Order

President Mrs. Leolga T. Wright called the Board Meeting of the Indian River School District Board of Education to order at 6:00 p.m.

Roll Call

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

Approval of Agenda – November 15, 2023

Dr. Hattier, seconded by Mrs. Pryor, motioned to approve the agenda for November 15, 2023. The motion passed unanimously (10-0).

Executive Session

Ms. Moses, seconded by Dr. Hattier, motioned to go into Executive Session at 6:01 p.m. for the purpose of discussing personnel and discussion regarding the administration's recommendation regarding the administrators assigned to Sussex Central High School. The motion passed unanimously (10-0).

Reconvene Regular Session at 7:15 p.m.

Public Comments

Ms. Judith Loeber, former educator at Sussex Central High School spoke in support of Dr. Bradley Layfield. He is "one of the guys" always supportive and empathetic with staff, friends as well as herself. She spoke of how Dr. Layfield and Sussex Central High School are a family.

Robert Weber spoke to the board in support of Dr. Layfield. He spoke of how deeply committed Dr. Layfield is to Sussex Central High School where there is an enthusiasm for learning due to his confidence and guidance at the school.

John Wells, educator and coach at Sussex Central High School. He spoke as a character reference for Dr. Bradley Layfield. His position as a principal is more than just a "job" to him it is his "family". As Christians we need to have faith and not listen to outside influences.

Dave Marvel, former educator at Sussex Central High School spoke in support of Bradley Layfield. He worked with and for Dr. Layfield, we believe in Dr. Layfield as an administrator. He wears blue and gold because Sussex Central is his family.

Personnel

Dr. Hattier, seconded by Dr. Statler, motioned to accept the administration's first recommendation with regard to employee 2024-1. The motion passed (7-0-3).

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

Abstained: Mr. Fritz, Ms. Moses, Mr. Peden.

Dr. Statler, seconded by Mrs. Taylor, motioned to accept the administration's first recommendation with regard to employee 2024-2. The motion passed (7-0-3).

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

Abstained: Mr. Fritz, Ms. Moses, Mr. Peden.

Dr. Statler, seconded by Mrs. Pryor, motioned to accept the administration's second recommendation with regard to employee 2024-1. The motion passed (7-0-3).

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

Mrs. Pryor, seconded by Dr. Statler, motioned to accept the administration's second recommendation with regard to employee 2024-2. The motion passed (7-0-3).

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

Public Comments

Mary Anderson spoke to the Board and shared this is a personnel matter and we should not be "privy" to the information. We should look at the facts and public comments are inappropriate.

Brooke Darmstadter spoke to the Board explaining that we are here for the good of the students. We need to what is best for the students.

Jeff Burton spoke to the Board regarding his support for Mr. Layfield. Mr. Burton is a business owner in the community and has practiced diverse business practices. Mr. Layfield is always the first in the building (Sussex Central High School) and is usually the last to leave, he is very passionate about his job.

Tom Brent spoke to the Board and feels the investigation of the administration at Sussex Central High School should be more transparent. Slip ups cannot be tolerated and trust is not there now at the school.

Mike Adams, an educator at Sussex Central High School who has been in education for 30 years spoke in support of Mr. Layfield. All people make mistake, don't judge someone for making a mistake. The district could not have a better person as the principal of Sussex Central High School. Mr. Layfield is a great principal and a great guy.

Amanda Steen, retiree from the Indian River School District, spoke of her support for Mr. Layfield. Her last years working for the district were at Sussex Central High School. Mr. Layfield is dedicated to the school and the district.

Adjournment

President Wright asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Statler, seconded by Dr. Hattier, to adjourn the board meeting at 7:45 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