

INDIAN RIVER SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 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 5:04 p.m.

Roll Call

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

Board Members Late: Mr. Ivan Neal (6:07 p.m.)

Board Member Absent: Ms. Madeline Moses

Executive Session

Mrs. Pryor, seconded by Mr. Cathell, motioned 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 7:12 p.m.

Approval of Agenda – November 27, 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

Approval of Minutes

Board of Education Meeting Minutes – October 23, 2023

Dr. Statler, seconded by Mrs. Pryor, motioned to approve the minutes as submitted. The motion passed unanimously (9-0).

Board of Education Executive Session Meeting Minutes – October 23, 2023

Dr. Statler, seconded by Mrs. Pryor, motioned 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, Christy Kerr, Sarah Green, Rick Evans, Brad Breasure, Mike Williams, Monica McCurry, Miya Jackson, Kathleen Wilson, Pam Webb, David Carter, Janet Hickman, Melissa Kansak, Neil Stong, Nika Reid, Maria Hazzard, Cathy Wolfe, Blair Catlin Brown, Cassie Queen, Suzanne Timmons, Jason, Pilgrim, Desiree Pilgrim, Dorothy Dobbyn, Stella Yanek, Kelly Rogers, Skyelar Kibler, Madelyn Clattenburg, Sara Parker, Amy Zaconne, Bob Blyman.

Student Government

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

Recognition

- Mr. Scott Collins – Years of Board Member Service.
- Mrs. Patricia Jennings – New Educator Week.

- Delaware Junior County Honor Choir (SM) – Madelyn Clattenberg, Cordelia Hatcher, Nico Ulrich, Rylee Beckwith, Eleanor Harrison, Skyelar Kibler, Samantha Mason, Aiden Parkerm Victoria Parks, Kaelyn Rogers, Morgan Schrock, Shayne Van Zee, Analeise Werner.

Public Comments

- Jan Kliger from SOAH (Speak Out Against Hate) spoke to the board regarding their groups mission in the community against anti-bullying. Their next meeting will be held on January 11 in the Lewes Library beginning at 5:00 pm.

New Business

School Choice Applications 2023-2024 (November 2023)

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

2023-2024 Unit Count Summary

Dr. Owens shared with the Board the student enrollment for the 2023 -2024 school year is 10,786 students, with Division I – 885.31 units and Division II – 955.16 units for the month ending September 29, 2023. These numbers have been certified by the Department of Education.

Sussex Central High School Track Uniforms

Dr. Statler, seconded by Dr. Hattier, motioned to accept the Sussex Central High School Track Uniforms as presented by Dr. Owens. The motion passed unanimously (9-0).

Altria Settlement Agreement

Dr. Statler, seconded by Mrs. Pryor, motioned to accept the Altria Settlement Agreement for the approximate amount of \$76,338.88 as presented by Dr. Owens. The motion passed unanimously (9-0).

Attorney Led Negotiations

Mrs. Pryor, seconded by Dr. Hattier, motioned to table discussion of attorney led negotiations until next month's board agenda. The motion passed unanimously (9-0).

Change Order – Phillip C. Showell Elementary and Georgetown Elementary Cooling Tower Replacements

Mrs. Taylor, seconded by Mr. Neal, motioned to approve the change order for cooling tower replacements of at Phillip C. Showell Elementary and Georgetown Elementary School for \$1,137,000.00 as presented by Mr. Booth. The motion passed unanimously (9-0).

Mr. Fritz, seconded by Mrs. Pryor, motioned to approve Gipe Associate's oversee project fee of \$ 12,400.00 for the replacement cooling towers at Phillip C. Showell Elementary and Georgetown Elementary as presented by Mr. Booth. The motion passed unanimously (9-0).

Howard T. Change Orders

Mr. Cathell, seconded by Mr. Neal, motioned to approve the Howard T. Ennis change order in the amount of \$26,636 as presented by Mr. Joe Booth. The motion passed unanimously (9-0).

Dr. Hattier, seconded by Dr. Statler, motioned to approve the Howard T. Ennis change order in the amount of \$1,958.00 as presented by Mr. Joe Booth. The motion passed unanimously (9-0).

Dr. Statler, seconded by Dr. Hattier, motioned to approve the Howard T. Ennis change order in the amount of \$2,645 as presented by Mr. Joe Booth. The motion passed unanimously (9-0).

Sussex Central High School Change Order

Mrs. Taylor, seconded by Mr. Neal, motioned to approve the Sussex Central High School change order for \$806,415 as presented by Mr. Booth. The motion passed unanimously (9-0).

Sussex Central High School Change Order Notifications

Dr. Statler, seconded by Dr. Hattier, motioned to accept Sussex Central High School change order notifications totaling \$491,939 in overages (given back to the district) as presented by Mr. Booth. The motion passed unanimously (9-0).

Old Business

Major Capital Planning

Dr. Owens shared with the Board the beam signing ceremony held on November 9, 2023 was well attended and thanked all those involved with putting this together. The new Sussex Central High School construction project is on schedule.

Howard T. Ennis

Dr. Owens shared with the board the greenhouse materials have been delivered and the pool is expected to be filled in December.

G.W. Carver Consent Update

Dr. Thoroughgood shared with the board the following:

- Dr. Rhen filed her eighth report to the court on Monday, November 6th. The district requested an addendum be provided and it was submitted on Monday, November 20th. •
- The next Community Advisory Board meeting will be via Zoom on November 30th from 4:00-6:00 p.m. The discussion will focus on College and Career Readiness initiatives and a review of hiring data and updates from Mrs. Celeste Bunting.

Committee Reports

Buildings and Grounds

Mr. Fritz reviewed the minutes from the November 13th, 2023 meeting.

Comprehensive School Safety

Mr. Cathell shared with the Board that there was a safety meeting held on November 15, 2023. The meeting was in regards to potentially bringing in the safety film to our schools that the glass windows and glass doors. There was an outside vendor that came in and did a presentation and showed the project. There's some different levels of it and we had some discussion about the feasibility and practicality.

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

Dr. Hattier shared with the board some of the upcoming house bills (HB 3, HB 4, HB 6, HB 33, BH 42, HB 56, HB 63, HB 96, and HB 127).

Special Education Task Force

No report.

Policy

First Readings

KA Community Relations

IGAJ Driver Education

Dr. Owens presented the following policies for first readings: KA Community Relations, IGAJ Driver Education. He requested that any changes can be reported to the Policy Committee.

Second Reading

JFG Interview by Agency Officials Other Than Police

Dr. Hattier, seconded by Dr. Statler, motioned to approve the following policy as a second reading: JFG Interview by Agency Officials Other Than Police. The motion passed unanimously (8-0).

IREA Representative

Ms. Blair Caitlin Brown shared with the Board some changes to this year's IRA Scholarship fundraiser event. Mark your calendars for March 8, 2024 from 3:30 pm to 6:30 pm. It will be held at Revelation Craft Brewing Company in Georgetown. We are grateful for our students, for our coworkers, for our families, and for our community. Indian River Educational Association is grateful that in Union we find strength.

Superintendents Report

Dr. Owens shared with the Board his monthly activities.

District Calendar Changes

- Mrs. Taylor, seconded by Dr. Hattier, motioned to approve the changing the Indian River High School's Musical Performance from March 8-9, 2024 to March 15-17, 2024 with performance on March 15 at 6:30 pm, March 16 at 6:30 pm and March 17, at 2:00 pm. The motion passed unanimously (9-0).
- Dr. Hattier, seconded by Dr. Statler, motioned to approve adding the East Millsboro Elementary Spanish Immersion Concert at Sussex Central High School on December 6, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. The motion passed unanimously (9-0).
- Mr. Cathell, seconded by Mrs. Pryor, motioned to approve closing school to all employees on December 21, 2023 due to use of school buildings by Department of Elections for the Special Education of the vacated 37th Representative seat. The motion passed unanimously (9-0).

Financial Summaries for month ending October 31, 2023

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

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

Detail Information for month ending October 31, 2023

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

Major Capital Improvements for month ending October 31, 2023

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

Minor Capital Improvements for month ending October 31, 2023

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

Communications

Field Trip Requests

- Overnight trip by Sussex Central High School Wrestling team on December 1-2, 2023 to Quarryville, PA.
- Overnight trip by Sussex Central High School Wrestling team on December 7-9, 2023 to Cuyahoga Falls, OH.
- Overnight trip by Sussex Central High School Wrestling team on December 15-17, 2023 to Newark, DE.
- Overnight trip by Sussex Central High School Wrestling team on January 5-7, 2024 to Chesapeake City, MD.
- Overnight trip by Sussex Central High School Wrestling team on January 12-13, 2024 to Berlin, MD.

- Overnight trip by Sussex Central High School Wrestling team on January 19-20, 2024 to Middletown, DE.
- Overnight trip by Indian River High School Wrestling team on December 15-17, 2023 to Newark, DE.
- Overnight trip by Phillip C. Showell Elementary 5th grade students on May 22-23, 2024 to Cape Henlopen State Park.

Mr. Fritz, seconded by Mr. Neal, motioned to approve the field trips as presented by Dr. Owens. The motion passed unanimously (9-0).

Use of Facility Request

- Use of Sussex Central High School Gymnasium on December 17, 2023 followed by every Sunday during the months of January 2024, February 2024, and March 3, 10, 2024 during the hours of Noon to 4:00 p.m. by Special Olympics of Delaware (Sussex Riptide).

Mrs. Taylor, seconded by Mr. Neal, motioned to approve the use of facility request as presented by Dr. Owens. The motion passed unanimously (9-0).

Personnel Agenda for November 27, 2023

Mr. Fritz, seconded by Dr. Statler, motioned to approve the Personnel Agenda for November 27, 2023 as presented by Mrs. Bunting. The motion passed unanimously (9-0).

Personnel Addendum #1 for November 27, 2023

Dr. Statler, seconded by Mrs. Pryor, motioned to approve the Personnel Addendum for November 27, 2023 as presented by Mrs. Bunting. The motion passed unanimously (9-0).

Contractual Agenda for November 27, 2023

Dr. Hattier, seconded by Mr. Fritz, motioned to approve the Contractual Agenda for November 27, 2023 as presented by Mrs. Bunting. The motion passed unanimously (9-0).

Notification of Retirements

The board was notified of retirements for the month of November.

Consideration of Supervisor of Buildings and Grounds Candidates

Dr. Statler, seconded by Dr. Hattier, motioned to approve candidate #2 for the Supervisor of Buildings and Grounds position. The motion passed unanimously (9-0).

Public Comments

No public comments.

Adjournment

Mrs. Wright, seconded by Dr. Hattier, motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:11 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