

INDIAN RIVER SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING  
MONDAY, DECEMBER 18, 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, Dr. Donald Hattier, Ms. Madeline Moses, Mr. Ivan Neal, Mr. Gerald Peden, Mrs. Connie Pryor, Dr. Heather Statler, Mrs. Taylor, and Mrs. Leolga Wright.

Executive Session

Mr. Neal, seconded by Mrs. Pryor, 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 (10-0).

Reconvene Regular Session at 7:09 p.m.

Approval of Agenda – December 18, 2023

Dr. Statler, seconded by Ms. Moses, moved to approve the agenda for December 18, 2023. The motion passed unanimously (10-0).

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Minutes

Board of Education Meeting Minutes – November 15, 2023

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

Board of Education Executive Session Meeting Minutes – November 15, 2023

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

Board of Education Meeting Minutes – November 27, 2023

Mr. Fritz, seconded by Dr. Hattier, motioned to approve the minutes as submitted. The motion passed unanimously (10-0).

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

Mr. Fritz, seconded by Dr. Hattier motioned to approve the minutes as submitted. The motion passed unanimously (10-0).

Visitors and Staff in Attendance

Jay Owens, Karen Blannard, Renee Jerns, Kelly Dorman, Tammy Smith, Judi Brittingham, Tara Thoroughgood, David Maull, 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, Jason Macrides, Kathleen Wilson, Pam Webb, David Carter, Janet Hickman, Melissa Kansak, Neil Stong, Cassie Queen, Suzanne Timmons, JR Emanuele, Bob Blyman, Courtney Macchione, Ashley Collins, Harlan Borino, Scott Borino, Charley Ruggiero.

Student Government

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

## Recognition

- North Georgetown Elementary –2023 State Recognition School.

## Public Comments

- No public comments.

## New Business

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

Dr. Hattier, seconded by Dr. Statler, motioned to accept 2023-2024 school choice applicants (December 2023) as presented by Mr. Lewis. The motion passed unanimously (10-0).

### Attorney Led Negotiations

Dr. Hattier, seconded by Mr. Fritz, motioned to table discussion of attorney led negotiations until January 2024 board agenda. The motion passed unanimously (10-0).

### Giant Foods Donation

Dr. Hattier, seconded by Mr. Cathell, moved to accept the donation of \$17,158.70 from Giant Foods as presented by Mr. Toomey. The motion passed unanimously (10-0).

### Translator Pay Rate

Dr. Hattier, seconded by Mrs. Taylor, motioned to approve the translator pay rate increase of \$34.65 for non-employee hourly rate and the current employee teacher hourly rate for employees as presented by Mrs. Smith. The motion passed (6-4-0).

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

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

### Nutrition Services – Paper Goods & Disposables RFP

Dr. Hattier, seconded by Dr. Statler, motioned to approve the Paper Goods & Disposables RFP to State Janitorial as presented by Mr. Toomey. The motion passed unanimously (10-0).

### Nutrition Services – Produce RFP

Dr. Hattier, seconded by Dr. Statler, motioned to approve the Produce RFP to both Teddy Bear Fresh and Seashore Fruit and Produce as presented by Mr. Toomey. The motion passed unanimously (10-0).

### Lord Baltimore Elementary Tree Installation Request

Dr. Hattier, seconded by Mrs. Taylor, motioned to approve the Lord Baltimore Elementary Tree Installation Request in the amount of \$1,080.00 as presented by Mr. Booth. The motion passed unanimously (10-0).

### Georgetown Elementary New Playground Equipment Request

Mr. Neal, seconded by Mrs. Taylor, motioned to approve the Georgetown Elementary New Playground Equipment Request in the amount of \$112,313.08 as presented by Mr. Booth. The motion passed unanimously (10-0).

### Georgetown Elementary Office Entry Canopy Request

Mr. Neal, seconded by Mrs. Taylor, motioned to table discussion of the Georgetown Elementary Office Entry Canopy Request until next month's board meeting. The motion passed unanimously (10-0).

### Sussex Central High School Change Orders

No Change Orders.

### Sussex Central High School Change Order Notifications

Dr. Statler, seconded by Dr. Hattier, motioned to accept Sussex Central High School change order notifications in the amounts of \$8,417.25, \$18,170.88, \$8,665.25, \$4,158.00, \$7,784.04, \$5,813.86, \$6,189.97, \$591.75, as presented by Mr. Booth. The motion passed unanimously (10-0).

## Old Business

### Major Capital Planning

Dr. Owens shared with the Board the most recent construction updates. The new Sussex Central High School construction project is on schedule.

### Howard T. Ennis

Dr. Owens shared with the board the greenhouse structure is up, pool is complete, and punch list is complete.

### G.W. Carver Consent Update

Dr. Thoroughgood shared with the board the following:

- During the Community Advisory Board meeting on November 30, 2023, Dr. Rhen formally communicated her decision to resign from the position of Special Master, effective December 30, 2023.
- The lawyers are currently engaged in a comprehensive vetting process and collaborative selection procedure to identify a suitable successor to fulfill the responsibilities previously held by Dr. Rhen.
- The board will receive official notification upon the appointment of a successor.

## Committee Reports

### Buildings and Grounds

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

### Comprehensive School Safety

Mr. Cathell shared with the Board regarding portable metal detectors for use in schools. He suggested the district look into these for future use.

### Finance

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

### Curriculum

No meeting for the month of December.

### DSBA Board of Directors

No report.

### DSBA Legislative

No report.

### Special Education Task Force

No report.

## Policy

### First Readings

#### GBCB.3 Staff Conduct Harassment or Misconduct Toward Students

#### GCB.1 Paid Leave for Birth or Adoption of a Child

#### IGDJ Band and Interscholastic Athletic Uniforms & Logos

Dr. Owens presented the following policies for first readings: GBCB.3 Staff Conduct Harassment or Misconduct Toward Students, GCB.1 Paid Leave for Birth or Adoption of a Child, IGDJ Band and Interscholastic Athletic Uniforms & Logos. He requested that any changes can be reported to the Policy Committee.

### Second Reading

#### KA Community Relations

#### IGAJ Driver Education

Dr. Hattier, seconded by Ms. Moses, motioned to approve the following policies for second readings: KA Community Relations, IGAJ Driver Education. The motion passed unanimously (10-0).

### IREA Representative

Mr. JR Emanuele shared with the Board the IREA scholarship fundraiser will be held on March 8, 2024 from 3:30 pm to 6:30 pm at Revelation Craft Brewing Company in Georgetown. Looking forward to upcoming contract negotiations.

### Superintendents Report

Dr. Owens shared with the Board his monthly activities.

### District Calendar Changes

- Mrs. Taylor, seconded by Mr. Neal, motioned to approve changing the Indian River High School and Sussex Central High School Students Days on January 18 and 19, 2024 from full day exam days to half-day exam days. The motion passed unanimously (10-0).

### Financial Summaries for month ending November 30, 2023

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

Dr. Statler, seconded by Dr. Hattier, motioned to accept the financial summaries for the month ending November 30, 2023. The motion passed unanimously (10-0).

### Detail Information for month ending November 30, 2023

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

### Major Capital Improvements for month ending November 30, 2023

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

### Minor Capital Improvements for month ending November 30, 2023

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

### Fall Student Activity Funds

Dr. Hattier, seconded by Ms. Moses, motioned to approve \$146,965.00 from the 2023-2024 student activity funds for the 2023 Fall Club/Activity requests. The motion passed unanimously (10-0).

### FY 2024 Giveback Plan

Mr. Neal, seconded by Ms. Moses, motioned to approve \$1,981,695.30 for the total FY 2024 Giveback Plan (\$1,764,308.10 Indian River School District + \$217,387.21 Howard T. Ennis) as presented by Mrs. Smith. The motion passed (7-3-0).

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

Against the motion: Mr. Fritz, Dr. Hattier, Ms. Moses

### Final FY '24 Budget – Indian River School District

Dr. Statler, seconded by Ms. Moses, moved to approve \$224,526,853 for the FY 2024 Indian River School District budget as presented by Mrs. Smith. The motion passed unanimously (10-0).

### Final FY '24 Budget – Howard T. Ennis

Dr. Statler, seconded by Mrs. Taylor, moved to approve \$16,637,498 for the FY 2024 Howard T. Ennis budget as presented by Mrs. Smith. The motion passed unanimously (10-0).

### Communications

#### Field Trip Requests

- Overnight trip by Indian River High School Band and Choir on April 11-13, 2024 to Philadelphia, PA
- Overnight trip by Indian River High School Wrestling team on January 19-20, 2024 to Fredericksburg, PA.
- Overnight trip by Indian River High School Wrestling team on January 12-13, 2024 to Burtonsville, MD.

Mr. Neal, seconded by Ms. Moses, motioned to approve the field trips as presented by Dr. Owens. The motion passed unanimously (10-0).

Personnel Agenda for December 18, 2023

Dr. Statler, seconded by Mr. Fritz, motioned to approve the Personnel Agenda for December 18, 2023 as presented by Dr. Owens. The motion passed unanimously (10-0).

Personnel Addendum for December 18, 2023

Dr. Statler, seconded by Mrs. Taylor, motioned to approve the Personnel Addendum for December 18, 2023 as presented by Dr. Owens. The motion passed unanimously (10-0).

Contractual Agenda for December 18, 2023

Mr. Cathell, seconded by Mrs. Taylor, motioned to approve the Contractual Agenda for December 18, 2023 as presented by Dr. Owens. The motion passed unanimously (10-0).

Public Comments

No public comments.

Adjournment

Dr. Hattier, seconded by Ms. Moses, motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:07 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