

INDIAN RIVER SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY, MARCH 25, 2024
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: Mrs. Lisa Briggs, Mr. Derek Cathell, Mrs. Kelly Kline, Dr. Donald Hattier, Mr. Ivan Neal, Mr. Gerald Peden, Mrs. Connie Pryor, Dr. Heather Statler, Mrs. Taylor, and Mrs. Leolga Wright.

Executive Session

Dr. Statler, seconded by Mr. Cathell, motioned to go into Executive Session at 6:01 p.m. for the purpose of conducting an interview for Supervisor of Buildings and Grounds position, personnel, negotiations, litigation. The motion passed unanimously (7-0).

Reconvene Regular Session at 7:14 p.m.

Approval of Agenda – March 25, 2024

Dr. Statler, seconded by Mrs. Taylor, moved to approve the agenda for March 25, 2024. The motion passed unanimously (10-0).

Pledge of Allegiance

Student Government

Indian River High School's student government representative, Sage Del Rico, reported on events occurring at Indian River High School.

Approval of Minutes

Board of Education Meeting Minutes – February 26, 2024

Mrs. Pryor, seconded by Dr. Statler, motioned to approve the minutes as submitted. The motion passed unanimously (10-0).

Board of Education Executive Session Meeting Minutes – February 26, 2024

Mrs. Pryor, seconded by Dr. Statler, 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, Stephen DiGirolamo, Walter Smith, Shawn Tidwell, Christy Kerr, Sarah Green, Rick Evans, Chris Costello, Mike Williams, Monica McCurry, Jason Macrides, Kathleen Wilson, Pam Webb, David Carter, Janet Hickman, Melissa Kansak, Neil Stong, Cassie Queen, Suzanne Timmons, Blair Caitlin Brown, Jason Pilgrim, Desiree Pilgrim, Maria Hazzard, Nika Reid, Joe Dooley, Brad Cowen, John Kopf, Alexis Vickers, Chris Kopf, Luce Perfetti, Heather Perfetti, Isela Garcia, Gil Calo, Paola Munoz, Greg Hockman, Marisa Hockman, Olivia Evans, Lisa Taglienti, Tom Taglienti, Kendall Mitchell, Sherry Mitchell, Leanne Prosser.

Recognition

- Sussex County Junior Honors Band (SM) Meara O'Lone, Gabrielle Riebels, Alex Stoehr, Mark Cappo, Liam Ogilvie, Kevin Yang
- Sussex County Honors Band (SDSA) Lesly Benavides Lagunas, Kylie Oneschuk, Eduard Tantiangco.
- Carson Scholar Recipient (IR) Evan Forjan

- Senior All-State Band (IR) Grason Howard, Lexxine Zullo, Wyatt Snyder, Nikolas Oneschuk, Nicole Carter.
- Senior County Band (IR) Grason Howard, Isabell Wisniewski, Amina Adkins, Lexxine Zullo, Alison Schwartz, Xavier Hernandez Sandoval, Evan Forjan, Wyatt Snyder, Shanyla Gaines, Nickolas Oneschuk, Nicole Carter, Logan Truitt, Cassidy White, Noah Coleman, Zachary Hirn, Aidin Schaub, Joaquin De Los Rios.
- Junior County Band (IR) Kaitlyn Kopf, Maria Calles, Shane Forjan, Noah Nayden.
- First Team All-Conference (IR) Mya Whittington, Alexander Arnold, Logan Dawson, Macyn Hockman, Elmer Hernandez.
- Academic All-Conference (IR) Olivia Evans, Abigail Bertling, Alexandria Davidson, Calista Rodgers, Samuel Beebe, Harrison Benner, Logan Dawson, Cade Donnely, Keiron Powell, Amina Adkins, Kassidy Bohorner, Brynn Crandell, Emily Davis, Jewelian Griffith, Lilah Hanley, Macyn Hockman, Addison Jerns, Elyse Moore, Natalie Moran, Paola Munoz Garcia, Heather Smyth, Harper Stanley, Katelyn Taylor, Luke Williams, Brayden Bennetch, Elmer Hernandez Cabellero, Donald Lingo, Jillian Coulbourn, Trey Hill, Reece Forrey, Joseph Taglienti, Liam Cooper, Brandon Diaz Bustillo, Shane Forjan, Christopher Givens, Brandon Morales Rodriquez, Jazmin Mayfield, Joell Wise.

Public Comments

Ms. Heather Perfetti spoke to the Board regarding her concerns with the PTO at Howard T. Ennis. The annual golf tournament that was in her sister's name has been cancelled and her name removed from the tournament. She has concerns on how the funds raised from the tournament are being used.

New Business

School Choice Applications 2023-2024 (March 2024)

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

School Choice Applications 2023-2025 (March 2024)

Dr. Hattier, seconded by Dr. Statler, motioned to accept 2024-2025 school choice applicants (March 2024) as presented by Mr. Lewis. The motion passed unanimously (10-0).

Constable Uniforms

Dr. Hattier, seconded Mr. Cathell, motioned to approve the new constable uniforms as presented by Mr. Lewis. The motion passed unanimously (10-0).

We ARE IRSD Community Festival

Mrs. Reid shared with the Board the district will be having a IRSD Community Festival on October 5, 2024 on the grounds of Howard T. Ennis and Sussex Central High Schools.

Facility Assessment Tool – Repair and Maintenance Plan

Mr. Joe Dooley shared with the Board the Facility Assessment Tool – Repair and Maintenance Plan. Mr. Dooley will share this with the Board during the April board meeting for approval. [Senate Substitute 1 for Senate Bill SB-270](#) (SS1 for SB270) directed the Delaware Department of Education (DOE) to establish an evaluation and assessment system to determine whether a school facility is in good repair. The [facility assessment tool](#) will help school districts review and assess conditions in a standardized way. The assessments will help identify areas in need of attention, so school facilities are clean, safe, and functional for staff and students. As required by SS1 for SB270, DOE worked with experts in school facilities maintenance, the Delaware Division of Public Health (DPH), district superintendents, the Delaware State Education Association, and the Delaware Association of School Administrators. Stakeholder conversations have confirmed that the tool will help schools assess areas of concern and develop the plan to address concerns required by SS1 for SB270.

North Georgetown Elementary Shade Sail for SNAC Garden

Dr. Hattier, seconded by Mrs. Taylor, motioned to accept the North Georgetown Elementary Shade Sail request for the SNAC Garden as presented by Mr. Dooley (to be funded by SNAC garden grants). The motion passed unanimously (10-0).

Long Neck Elementary Shade Sail for SNAC Garden

Dr. Hattier, seconded by Mrs. Taylor, motioned to accept the Long Neck Elementary Shade Sail request for the SNAC Garden as presented by Mr. Dooley (to be funded by SNAC garden grants). The motion passed unanimously (10-0).

John M. Clayton Healthy Kids Wall Mural Request

Dr. Hattier, seconded by Dr. Statler, motioned to approve the John M. Clayton Elementary Kids Wall Mural Request as presented by Mr. Dooley (funded by LB Womens Club). The motion passed unanimously (10-0).

Lord Baltimore Elementary National Blue Ribbon Sign Installation

Dr. Hattier, seconded by Mr. Cathell, motioned to approve the Lord Baltimore Elementary National Blue Ribbon Sign installation as presented by Mr. Dooley (funded by school fundraiser). The motion passed unanimously (10-0).

New Sussex Central High School Change Order

Dr. Hattier, seconded by Mrs. Taylor, motioned to approve the New Sussex Central High School Change Order. The new change order B17-15 for \$1,412,723.07 replaces the original B17-15 for \$1,142,723.00 that was approved on 2/26/24 due to transposition of numbers. The motion passed unanimously (10-0).

New Sussex Central High School Change Order Notifications

Dr. Hattier, seconded by Dr. Statler, motioned to approve the 7 New Sussex Central High School Change Order Notifications as presented by Mr. Joe Dooley totaling \$273,890.00. The motion passed unanimously (10-0).

Howard T. Ennis Change Orders

Dr. Hattier, seconded by Dr. Statler, motioned to approve the Howard T. Ennis Change Orders totaling \$35,580.00 as presented by Mr. Joe Dooley. 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 expected to be completed in April.

G.W. Carver Consent Update

Dr. Thoroughgood shared with the board the following:

- Currently, Mr. Denn is reaching out to former Carver families. He connected with five families and will continue to reach out to all. Four families permitted Mr. Denn to speak to their students during a school day.
- On Thursday, March 21st, Mr. Denn and Mrs. Nika Reid traveled to IRHS and SCHS and met with former Carver students. He asked them to share their highs and lows throughout their educational journey while attending the IRSD. Mr. Denn and Mrs. Reid shared that the conversations were positive and impressive.
- The Community Advisory Board meeting was held in person on March 21st at Howard T. Ennis. Mr. Denn shared his visit with former students in the afternoon. The district team shared information about the Community Day on October 5th. The board and district team engaged in open and honest discussions about the aftermath of Covid, including discipline rates and achievement gaps. Our team shared information on after-school and summer learning opportunities.
- At this meeting, everyone agreed to meet at Howard T. Ennis for the next Community Advisory Board meeting on April 18th.

Committee Reports

Buildings and Grounds

Dr. Hattier reviewed the minutes from the March 11th 2024 meeting.

Comprehensive School Safety

Mr. Cathell shared with the Board that the constables attended in-service training on March 6, 2024 where they visited every school in the district. On March 15, 2024 the safety committee met to discuss obtaining portable metal detectors for the district.

Finance

Dr. Hattier reviewed minutes from the March 11th 2024 meeting.

Curriculum

Dr. Statler reviewed the minutes from the March 11th 2024 meeting.

DSBA Board of Directors

No report.

DSBA Legislative

No report.

Special Education Task Force

No report.

Policy

First Reading

Dr. Owens presented the following policy for a first reading: JG Student Discipline. He requested that any changes can be reported to the Policy Committee.

Second Readings

BBDH Public Participation at Board Meetings

KL Public Complaints

Dr. Hattier, seconded by Mr. Neal, motioned to approve the following policies for second readings: BBDH Public Participation at Board Meetings, KL Public Complaints. The motion passed unanimously (10-0).

IREA Representative

Ms. Blair Caitlin Brown shared with the Board the IREA scholarship fundraiser raised \$3,500 for scholarships. She would like to congratulate Melissa Abbott for helping to reach this goal. March is "Hearts in School" and Celebrating Women. Welcomed the new board members.

Superintendents Report

Dr. Owens shared with the Board his monthly activities.

District Calendar Changes

Mrs. Pryor, seconded by Mr. Cathell, motioned to approve the following district calendar changes for the 2024-2025 school year: (1) On March 19, 2025 Indian River High School and Sussex Central High School only 11th grade students report to school for SAT testing; (2) On March 26, 2025 Indian River High School and Sussex Central High School only 10th grade students report to school for PSAT10 testing, (3) On April 2, 2025 Indian River High School and Sussex Central High School only 9th grade students report to school for PSAT9 testing. (4) Change Sussex Central High School graduation from May 29, 2024 at 7:00 pm to June 1, 2024 at 10:00 am. The motion passed unanimously (10-0).

Financial Summaries for month ending February 29, 2024

Mrs. Smith reviewed the financial summaries, major and minor capital improvement financials for the month ending February 29, 2024.

Mrs. Pryor, seconded by Mrs. Taylor, motioned to accept the financial summaries for the month ending February 29, 2024. The motion passed unanimously (10-0).

Detail Information for month ending February 29, 2024

Dr. Hattier, seconded by Mrs. Pryor, moved to approve the Detail Information for the month ending February 29, 2024 as presented by Mrs. Smith. The motion passed unanimously (10-0).

Major Capital Improvements for month ending February 29, 2024

Mrs. Pryor, seconded by Dr. Hattier, motioned to approve the Major Capital Improvements for the month ending February 29, 2024 as presented by Mrs. Smith. The motion passed unanimously (10-0).

Minor Capital Improvements for month ending February 29, 2024

Dr. Hattier, seconded by Mr. Cathell, motioned to approve the Minor Capital Improvements for the month ending February 29, 2024 as presented by Mrs. Smith. The motion passed unanimously (10-0).

Communications

Mr. Neal, seconded by Mrs. Pryor, motioned to approve the field trips as presented. The motion passed unanimously (10-0).

- Overnight trip by IRHS HOSA on June 25-30, 2024 to Houston Texas,
- Overnight trip by LNE VEX Robotics on April 30-May 4, 2024 to Dallas, TX
- Overnight trip by MM VEX Robotics on April 30-May 4, 2024 to Dallas, TX
- Overnight trip by SCHS BPA on May 10-14, 2024 to Chicago, IL
- Overnight trip by IRHS BPA on May 10-14, 2024 to Chicago, IL
- Overnight trip by MM BPA on May 10-14, 2024 to Chicago, IL
- Overnight trip by SM Drone team on May 16-19, 2024 to Fairmont, WV
- Overnight trip by SCHS Educators Rising on June 28-July 1, 2024 to Washington DC
- Overnight trip by SM VEX Robotics team on June 26-30, 2024 to Orlando, FL

Personnel Agenda for March 25, 2024

Dr. Hattier, seconded by Dr. Statler, motioned to approve the Personnel Agenda for March 25, 2024 as presented by Mrs. Bunting. The motion passed unanimously (10-0).

Personnel Addendum for March 25, 2024

Dr. Statler, seconded by Mr. Neal, motioned to approve the Personnel Addendum for March 25, 2024 as presented by Mrs. Bunting. The motion passed unanimously (10-0).

Notification of Retirements

Mrs. Bunting Shared with the Board the notification of retirements for March 25, 2024.

Public Comments

Leanne Prosser spoke to the Board regarding her son at Sussex Central High School. Her son transferred to Sussex Central this year and she is concerned with safety during and after the school activities following the regular school day (sporting events, etc.). She is requesting her son be granted through school choice to attend Indian River High School.

Adjournment

Dr. Hattier, seconded by Dr. Statler, motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 p.m. the motion passed unanimously (10-0).

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