

INDIAN RIVER SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY, APRIL 22, 2024
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 5:02 p.m.

Roll Call

Board Members present: Mrs. Lisa Briggs, Mr. Gerald Peden, Mrs. Connie Pryor, Dr. Heather Statler, Mrs. Taylor, and Mrs. Leolga Wright.

Board Members Absent: Mrs. Kelly Kline, Mr. Ivan Neal

Board Members Late: Dr. Donald Hattier (5:05 pm), Mr. Derek Cathell (6:00 pm)

Executive Session

Mrs. Pryor, seconded by Dr. Statler, motioned to go into Executive Session at 5:02 p.m. for the purpose of conducting an interviews for Principal of Sussex Central High School and Principal of North Georgetown Elementary, personnel, negotiations, litigation. The motion passed unanimously (6-0).

Reconvene Regular Session at 7:10 p.m.

Roll Call

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

Board Members Absent: Mrs. Kelly Kline, Mr. Ivan Neal

Approval of Agenda – April 22, 2024

Dr. Hattier, seconded by Mrs. Pryor, moved to approve the agenda for April 22, 2024. The motion passed unanimously (8-0).

Pledge of Allegiance/Presentation of Colors

Student Government

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

Approval of Minutes

Board of Education Meeting Minutes – March 21, 2024

Mrs. Taylor, seconded by Mrs. Pryor, motioned to approve the minutes as submitted. The motion passed unanimously (8-0).

Board of Education Executive Session Meeting Minutes – March 21, 2024

Mrs. Taylor, seconded by Mrs. Pryor, motioned to approve the minutes as submitted. The motion passed unanimously (8-0).

Board of Education Regular Meeting Minutes – March 25, 2024

Dr. Hattier, seconded by Mrs. Pryor, motioned to approve the minutes as submitted. The motion passed unanimously (8-0).

Board of Education Executive Session Meeting Minutes – March 25, 2024

Dr. Hattier, seconded by Mrs. Pryor, motioned to approve the minutes as submitted. The motion passed unanimously (8-0).

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, 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, Suzanne Timmons, Blair Caitlin Brown, Jason Pilgrim, Desiree Pilgrim, Maria Hazzard, Nika Reid, Joe Dooley, Brad Cowen.

Public Comments

No comments.

New Business

School Choice Applications 2024-2025 (April 2024)

Dr. Hattier, seconded by Mrs. Taylor, motioned to accept 2024-2025 school choice applicants (April 2024) as presented by Mr. Lewis. The motion passed unanimously (8-0).

Sussex Central High School Football Donation

Dr. Statler, seconded Dr. Hattier, motioned to approve the Sussex Central High school Football donation in the amount of \$10,000 as presented by Dr. Brittingham. The motion passed unanimously (8-0).

Facility Assessment Tool – Repair and Maintenance Plan

Dr. Hattier, seconded by Mrs. Taylor, motioned to approve the Facility Assessment Tool – Repair and Maintenance Plan as presented by Mr. Dooley. The motion passed unanimously (8-0)

Mr. Joe Dooley shared with the Board the Facility Assessment Tool – Repair and Maintenance Plan. [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.

Sussex Central High School Unified Flag and Basketball Team

Dr. Hattier, seconded by Mrs. Taylor, motioned to approve the Sussex Central High School Unified Flag and Basketball Team as presented. The motion passed unanimously (8-0).

Howard T. Ennis Pool Use

Dr. Hattier, seconded by Mr. Cathell, motioned to table discussion of Howard T. Ennis Pool Use to a later date. The motion passed unanimously (8-0).

New Sussex Central High School Change Order

No change order.

New Sussex Central High School Change Order Notifications

Dr. Hattier, seconded by Mrs. Taylor, motioned to approve the 5 New Sussex Central High School Change Order Notifications as presented by Mr. Joe Dooley totaling \$111,729.00. The motion passed unanimously (8-0).

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 May.

G.W. Carver Consent Update

Dr. Thoroughgood shared with the board the following:

- The Community Advisory Board meeting was held in person on April 18th at Howard T. Ennis. Mr. Denn shared that he is currently writing his six-month report, which is due to the judge in May. The board and district team engaged in discussions about cultural awareness and professional development.
- The next Carver check-in meeting is scheduled for tomorrow.

Committee Reports

Buildings and Grounds

Mr. Dooley reviewed the minutes from the April 8th 2024 meeting.

Comprehensive School Safety

Mr. Cathell shared with the Board the school evacuation drill by Southern De School of the Arts was highly successful.

Finance

Mrs. Smith reviewed minutes from the April 8th 2024 meeting.

Curriculum

Dr. Statler reviewed the minutes from the April 8th 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 policies for first readings: JECB Children of District employees Who Reside Out of State, GBCB Staff Conduct Drug and Alcohol Free Workplace, IKA.1 Academic Integrity.

Second Reading

JG Student Discipline

Mrs. Taylor, seconded by Dr. Statler, motioned to approve the following policy for a second reading: JC Student Discipline. The motion passed unanimously (8-0).

IREA Representative

Ms. Blair Caitlin Brown shared with the Board the IREA is looking forward to teacher negotiations on May 1, and May 6, 2024. She also shared it is Autism Awareness week.

Superintendents Report

Dr. Owens shared with the Board his monthly activities.

District Calendar Changes

Dr. Hattier, seconded by Mr. Cathell, motioned to approve the following district calendar changes: (1) Change the last student day from June 12, 2024 to June 5, 2024; (2) Change the classroom breakdown day from June 12, 2024 to June 7, 2024; (3) Change the last paraprofessional day from June 11, 2024 to June 6, 2024; (4) Change the remote half grades, half teacher work day from June 11, 2024 to June 6, 2024. The motion passed unanimously (8-0).

Financial Summaries for month ending March 30, 2024

Mrs. Smith reviewed the financial summaries, major and minor capital improvement financials for the month ending March 30, 2024.

Mrs. Taylor, seconded by Dr. Hattier, motioned to accept the financial summaries for the month ending March 30, 2024. The motion passed unanimously (8-0).

Detail Information for month ending March 30, 2024

Dr. Hattier, seconded by Mrs. Taylor, moved to approve the Detail Information for the month ending March 30, 2024 as presented by Mrs. Smith. The motion passed unanimously (8-0).

Major Capital Improvements for month ending March 30, 2024

Dr. Hattier, seconded by Mrs. Pryor, motioned to approve the Major Capital Improvements for the month ending March 30, 2024 as presented by Mrs. Smith. The motion passed unanimously (8-0).

Minor Capital Improvements for month ending March 30, 2024

Dr. Hattier, seconded by Mr. Cathell, motioned to approve the Minor Capital Improvements for the month ending March 30, 2024 as presented by Mrs. Smith. The motion passed unanimously (8-0).

Student Activity Funds – Spring 2024

Mrs. Taylor, seconded by Dr. Hattier, motioned to approve Option #2 for the Spring 2024 Student Activity 33 funding requests in the amount of \$188,537.38 as presented by Mrs. Smith. The motion passed unanimously (8-0).

Match Taxes

Mrs. Smith reviewed with the Board an overview of FY'25 Tax Rate Overview regarding Match Taxes for the district.

Communications

Mr. Cathell, seconded by Dr. Hattier, motioned to approve the field trips as presented. The motion passed unanimously (8-0).

- Overnight trip by Indian River High School TSA on June 25 to July 1, 2024 to Orlando, FL
- Overnight trip by Indian River High School Drone Team on May 16-19, 2024 to Fairmont, WV
- Overnight trip by Sussex Central High School HOSA on June 25-30, 2024 to Houston, TX.

Personnel Agenda for April 22, 2024

Dr. Statler, seconded by Dr. Hattier, motioned to approve the Personnel Agenda for April 22, 2024 excluding personnel agenda items #120, #183 as presented by Mrs. Bunting. The motion passed unanimously (8-0).

Dr. Statler, seconded by Mrs. Taylor, moved to approve Personnel Agenda item #120 on the Personnel Agenda for April 22, 2024. The motion passed (7-0-1).

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

Abstained: Mrs. Briggs.

Dr. Statler, seconded by Mr. Cathell, moved to approve Personnel Agenda item #183 on the Personnel Agenda for April 22, 2024. The motion passed (7-0-1).

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

Abstained: Mrs. Briggs.

Personnel Addendum for April 22, 2024

Dr. Statler, seconded by Mrs. Pryor, motioned to approve the Personnel Addendum for April 22, 2024 excluding personnel addendum item #15 as presented by Mrs. Bunting. The motion passed unanimously (8-0).

Dr. Hattier, seconded by Dr. Statler, moved to approve Personnel Addendum item #15 on the Personnel Addendum for April 22, 2024. The motion passed (7-0-1).

For the motion: Mrs. Briggs, Dr. Hattier, Mr. Peden, Mrs. Pryor, Dr. Statler, Mrs. Taylor, Mrs. Wright.
Abstained: Mr. Cathell.

Dr. Hattier, seconded by Mr. Cathell, moved to approve Personnel Agenda item #62 on the Personnel Addendum for April 22, 2024. The motion passed (7-0-1).

For the motion: Mrs. Briggs, Mr. Cathell, Dr. Hattier, Mrs. Pryor, Dr. Statler, Mrs. Taylor, Mrs. Wright.
Abstained: Mr. Peden.

Notification of Retirements

Mrs. Bunting Shared with the Board the notification of retirements for April 22, 2024.

Public Comments

No comments.

Adjournment

Dr. Statler, seconded by Mrs. Pryor, motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:19 p.m. The motion passed unanimously (8-0).

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