

INDIAN RIVER SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING  
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2024  
INDIAN RIVER HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM

MINUTES

Call to Order

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, Mr. Ivan Neal, Mr. Gerald Peden, Mrs. Connie Pryor, Mr. Mark Steele, Mrs. Taylor, Mrs. Anita West Werner, Mrs. Leolga Wright.

Executive Session

Mr. Peden, seconded by Mrs. Pryor, motioned to go into Executive Session at 6:01 p.m. for the purpose of discussing personnel, negotiations, litigation. The motion passed unanimously (10-0).

Reconvene Regular Session at 7:20 p.m.

Roll Call

Board Members present: Mrs. Lisa Briggs, Mr. Derek Cathell, Mrs. Kelly Kline, Mr. Ivan Neal, Mr. Gerald Peden, Mrs. Connie Pryor, Mr. Mark Steele, Mrs. Taylor, Mrs. Anita West Werner, Mrs. Leolga Wright.

Approval of Agenda – September 23, 2024

Mr. Peden, seconded by Mrs. Taylor, moved to approve the agenda for September 23, 2024. The motion passed unanimously (10-0).

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Minutes

Board of Education Regular Meeting Minutes – August 26, 2024

Mr. Peden, seconded by Mrs. West-Werner, motioned to approve the minutes as submitted. The motion passed unanimously (10-0).

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

Mr. Peden, seconded by Mrs. West-Werner, motioned to approve the minutes as submitted. The motion passed unanimously (10-0).

Student Government

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

Visitors and Staff in Attendance

Jay Owens, Karen Blannard, Celeste Bunting, Renee Jerns, Kelly Dorman, Tammy Smith, Melissa Whisted, Jennifer Troublefield, Dan Mann, Preston Lewis, Blair Caitlin Brown, Joe Dooley, Bob Blyman, Suzanne Timmons, Blair Catlin Brown, Cliff Toomey, Shawn Tidwell, Michael Williams, Andy Davis, Kathleen Wilson, Melissa Kansak, Christy Kerr, Pamela Webb, Monica McCurry, Amanda Hendrickson Davis, Beth Illian, Jason Macrides, Janet Hickman, Brad Breasure, Rick Evans, Allisa Booth, Carolyn Fries, Deanna Tingle, Alexis Vickers, Stella Yanek, Glenn Rolfe, Mike Smith.

Recognition

Boy Scout Troop 281 – Ingram Pond Service Work.

Public Comments

No comments

## New Business

### School Choice Applications 2024-2025 (September 2024)

Mr. Cathell, seconded by Mrs. Pryor, motioned to accept 2024-2025 school choice applicants (September 2024) as presented by Mr. Lewis. The motion passed unanimously (10-0).

### National School Lunch Week Resolution: October 14-18, 2024

Mr. Cathell, seconded by Mrs. West-Werner, moved to approve the National School Lunch Week Resolution: October 14-18, 2024 as presented by Mr. Toomey. The motion passed unanimously (10-0).

### National School Bus Safety Week Resolution: October 21-25, 2024

Mrs. Taylor, seconded by Mrs. Kline, moved to approve the National School Bus Safety Week Resolution: October 21-25, 2024 as presented by Mr. Tidwell. The motion passed unanimously (10-0).

## EPER Schedules

Mr. Steele, seconded by Mr. Peden, motioned to table EPER Schedules until the October 28, 2024 board meeting. The motion passed unanimously (10-0).

### Indian River High School Girls Lacrosse Uniforms

Mrs. West-Werner, seconded by Mrs. Pryor, motioned to approve the Indian River High School Girls Lacrosse Uniforms as presented by Dr. Owens. The motion passed unanimously (10-0).

### Indian River High School Field Hockey Table

Mr. Steele, seconded by Mrs. West-Werner, motioned to approve the Indian River High School Field Hockey Table as presented by Mr. Dooley. The motion passed unanimously (10-0).

### Sussex Central High School Change Orders

Mrs. Taylor, seconded by Mr. Steele, motioned to approve the 3 Sussex Central High School Change Orders totaling \$690,100.00 as presented by Mr. Dooley and Mr. Blyman. The motion passed unanimously (10-0).

### Sussex Central High School Change Order Notifications

Mr. Peden, seconded by Mrs. West-Werner, motioned to approve the 3 New Sussex Central High School Change Order Notifications as presented by Mr. Dooley and Mr. Blyman totaling \$88,206.62. The motion passed unanimously (10-0).

### New Sussex Central High School Market Pressure Local Match

Mr. Peden, seconded by Mrs. Taylor, motioned to approve the New Sussex Central High School Market Pressure Local Match in the amount of \$1,951,997.92 as presented by Mrs. Smith. The motion passed unanimously (10-0).

## Old Business

### Major Capital Planning

Dr. Owens shared with the Board the most recent construction updates at the new Sussex Central High School.

### Howard T. Ennis

Dr. Owens shared with the board the "punch lists" are almost finished and then the Ennis project will be complete.

### G.W. Carver Consent Update

Dr. Whisted shared with the board the following:

Quarterly Community Advisory Board Meeting

September 26, 2024 - 4:00 -6:00 p.m. at Howard T. Ennis

- Discussion Topics:
  - Community Advisory Board Collaboration
  - Review of IRSD Plan to Address Disproportionate Graduation Data
  - Review of the IRSD Plan to Address Disproportionate Discipline Data

## Committee Reports

### Buildings and Grounds

Mr. Steele reviewed the minutes from the September 9, 2024 meeting.

### Comprehensive School Safety

Mr. Cathell shared with the board that 8 tabletop exercises have been completed in our schools. He also shared that our weapons detection devices were used at the first football home games at Sussex Central High School and Indian River High School.

### Finance

Mr. Peden reviewed minutes from the September 9, 2024 meeting.

### Curriculum

Mr. Neal reviewed the minutes from the September 9, 2024 meeting. Dr. Renee Jerns and Ms. Kelly Dorman shared a presentation of the 2024-2024 Indian River School District Achievement Data from the DeSSA scores that focus on proficiency and DSSF focuses on proficiency and growth with test scores.

### DSBA Board of Directors

No report.

### DSBA Legislative

No report.

### Special Education Task Force

Mr. Neal shared with the Board the group is working on special education ambassador nominations and the task force will be transitioning to a meeting format.

### Policy

Mrs. Taylor reviewed the minutes from the September 9, 2024 meeting.

Mrs. Taylor shared the following policies for a first reading: JG.2 Gang Presence, Promotion, and Activity, JSCC-A School Choice, and IGDJ Band and Interscholastic Athletics Uniforms & Logos.

### IREA Representative

Mrs. Blair Catlin Brown congratulated all the Education Support Professionals recent recognitions. All these professionals are a great asset to the district.

### Superintendents Report

Dr. Owens shared with the Board the Superintendent monthly activities.

### District Calendar Changes

- Change Georgetown Elementary Holiday Concert from 12/20/24 to 12/18/24.
- Change North Georgetown Elementary Winter Concert from 1/21/25 to 1/30/25.
- Change SDSA Spring Instrumental Performance from 5/7/25 to 5/8/25.
- Change Selbyville Middle School Family Fun Night from 10/15/24 to 10/22/24.
- Change Long Neck Elementary PTO Fall Festival from 11/1/24 to 10/30/24
- All Long Neck Elementary Band Concert on 1/30/25 at 5:30-6:30 pm.
- Change Board of Education October 28, 2024 meeting location from SCHS to IRHS.

Mrs. Taylor, seconded by Mrs. Pryor, motioned to accept the district calendar changes as presented by Dr. Owens. The motion passed unanimously (10-0).

### Financial Summaries for month ending August 30, 2024

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

Mr. Steele, seconded by Mrs. West-Werner, motioned to accept the financial summaries for the month ending August 30, 2024. The motion passed unanimously (10-0).

#### Detail Information for month ending August 30, 2024

Mr. Peden, seconded by Mr. Cathell, moved to approve the Detail Information for the month ending August 30, 2024 as presented by Mrs. Smith. The motion passed unanimously (10-0).

#### Major Capital Improvements for month ending August 30, 2024

Mrs. Taylor, seconded by Mr. Cathell, motioned to approve the Major Capital Improvements for the month ending August 30, 2024 as presented by Mrs. Smith. The motion passed unanimously (10-0).

#### Minor Capital Improvements for month ending August 30, 2024

Mr. Peden, seconded by Mr. Steele, motioned to approve the Minor Capital Improvements for the month ending August 30, 2024 as presented by Mrs. Smith. The motion passed unanimously (10-0).

#### FY '2025 Preliminary Budget – Indian River School District

Mr. Peden, seconded by Mr. Steele, motioned to approve the FY '2025 Preliminary Budget – Indian River School District in the amount of \$221,564,544 as presented by Mrs. Smith. The motion passed unanimously (10-0).

#### FY '2025 Preliminary Budget – Howard T. Ennis

Mr. Peden, seconded by Mr. Steele, motioned to approve the FY '2025 Preliminary Budget – Howard T. Ennis in the amount of \$19,237,462.67 as presented by Mrs. Smith. The motion passed unanimously (10-0).

#### Communications

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

- Overnight trip by Sussex Central High School FFA on September 27-28, 2024 to Harrisburg, PA.
- Overnight trip by Sussex Central High School FFA on October 19-25, 2024 to Indianapolis, IN.
- Overnight trip by Sussex Central High School Wrestling Team on December 5-7, 2024 to Cuyahoga, OH
- Overnight trip by Sussex Central High School Wrestling Team on December 6-7, 2024 to Quarryville, PA.
- Overnight trip by Sussex Central High School Wrestling Team on December 13-14, 2024 to Owings Mills, MD
- Overnight trip by Sussex Central High School Wrestling Team on January 10-11, 2025 to Bel Air, MD.
- Overnight trip by Sussex Central High School Wrestling Team on January 3-4, 2025 to Berlin, MD.
- Sunday trip by Sussex Central IB French Seniors on October 27, 2024 to Café Papillon, Rehoboth Beach, DE.
- Sunday trip by Indian River High School Marching Band on October 6, 2024 to Allentown, PA
- Overnight trip by Indian River High School FFA on September 24-25, 2024 to Camp Barnes, DE.

#### Personnel Agenda for September 23, 2024

Mrs. Pryor, seconded by Mrs. Taylor, motioned to approve the Personnel Agenda for September 23, 2024 as presented by Mrs. Bunting. The motion passed unanimously (10-0).

#### Personnel Addendum for September 23, 2024

Mr. Peden, seconded by Mr. Steele, motioned to approve the Personnel Addendum for September 23, 2024 as presented by Mrs. Bunting. The motion passed unanimously (10-0).

#### Contractual Agenda for September 23, 2024

Mr. Steele, seconded by Mr. Cathell, motioned to approve the Contractual Agenda for September 23, 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 September 23, 2024.

Public Comments

Dr. Owens shared with the Board that October 5, 2024 is "WE ARE IRS D" Community Festival Day at Howard T. Ennis School, the event will run from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. The district is very excited about hosting this first ever event.

Adjournment

Mr. Peden, seconded by Mrs. Taylor, motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:32 p.m. The motion passed unanimously (10-0).

Respectfully Submitted,

Leolga T. Wright  
President  
Board of Education  
Indian River School District

Jay F. Owens, Jr.  
Superintendent  
Board of Education  
Indian River School District

LTW/JFO:jmt