

INDIAN RIVER SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING  
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 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. Kim Taylor, Mrs. Anita West Werner, Mrs. Leolga Wright.

Executive Session

Mr. Peden, seconded by Mr. Cathell, 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 7:24 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 – November 25, 2024

Mr. Peden, seconded by Mrs. Taylor, moved to approve the agenda for November 25, 2024. The motion passed unanimously (10-0).

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Minutes

Board of Education Regular Meeting Minutes – October 28, 2024

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

Board of Education Executive Session Meeting Minutes – October 28, 2024

Mrs. Taylor, seconded by Mrs. Pryor, 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, Joe Dooley, Brad Cowen, Suzanne Timmons, Blair Catlin Brown, JR Emanuele, Cassie Queen, 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, Brad Breasure, Rick Evans, Allisa Booth, Carolyn Fries, Maria Hazzard, Nika Reid, Walter Smith, Mike Smith, Jimenez-Calles, Chelina Tingle, Davon Matthews, Wanda Hopkins, Shirley Shelton, Vanessa Nocks Kim Jones, Mary Caligiure, Briana Shuman, Mike D. Williams, TJ Oxbrough, Kathy Dulis, Melody Oneschuk, Clayton Riepen, Thomas Oxbrough, Ketzaly Lopez, Lizbeth Soriarro, Dylan Navarrete, Alexander De La Rosa Lopez, Allison De La Rosa Lopez, Davan Matthews.

## Recognition

Mrs. Melanie Marshall	Equity Steering Committee & Logistics Organizer
Mr. Glenn Marshall	Sussex County Emergency Medical Services
Mrs. Mary Caligure	Equity Steering Committee & Entertainment Coordinator
Dr. Katrania Anthony	Equity Steering Committee
Mrs. Maria Hazzard	Equity Steering Committee
Mr. Walter Smith	Equity Steering Committee
Miss Briana Shuman	Equity Steering Committee
Ms. Dana Lambert	Equity Steering Committee
Mrs. Chelina Tingle	Equity Steering Committee
Dr. David Carter	Equity Steering Committee
Mrs. Donna Toomey	Equity Steering Committee
Mrs. Chelina Tingle	Equity Steering Committee & MERIT
Mr. Clifton Toomey	Food Truck Coordinator
Mr. Michael D. Williams	JMC Music Department
Kayla Riepen	LB Music Department
Ms. Kim Jones	GE Music Department
RuthAnn Pyle	NGE Music Department
Hunter Clifton	NGE Music Department
Melody Oneschuk	SDSA Music Department
Jessica Dixon	GMS Music Department
Clay Riepen	SMS Band Director
Owen Boachie	MMS Music Department
Miss DeAnna Zecchin	IRHS Band Director
Ms. Laura Carey	IRHS Chorus Director
Mr. Thomas Oxbrough	SCHS
Kevin Brumley	Emergency Operations Center-Mobile Command Unit
Allison de la Rosa Lopez	MERIT Student Volunteer
Noeh Rayne	MERIT Student Volunteer
Lizbeth Soriano-Gil	MERIT Student Volunteer
Shama Estimable	MERIT Student Volunteer
Charity Predeoux	MERIT Student Volunteer
Kamaya Cotton	MERIT Student Volunteer
Leshai Johnson	MERIT Student Volunteer
Jaedon Mako	MERIT Student Volunteer
A'Goddess Purnell	MERIT Student Volunteer
Jayden Reed	MERIT Student Volunteer
Emily Jimenez Calles	MERIT Student Volunteer
Jonathan Jimenez Calles	MERIT Student Volunteer
Issac Robert	MERIT Student Volunteer
Lilly McCallister	MERIT Student Volunteer
Akira Westcott	MERIT Student Volunteer
Gabe Perez Mercado	MERIT Student Volunteer
Brandon Wilkinson	MERIT Student Volunteer
Tristen Matthews	MERIT Student Volunteer
Armando Sanchez	MERIT Student Volunteer
Dylan Navarrete López	MERIT Student Volunteer
Chris Handy	MERIT Student Volunteer
Ryan Handy	MERIT Student Volunteer
Alexander De La Rosa Lopez	MERIT Student Volunteer
Ketzaly Navarrete Lopez	MERIT Student Volunteer

## Public Comments

Kim Elliott, note taker for Wendy Mears, spoke to the Board regarding harassment by Indian River School District towards district employee Ms. Wendy Mears. This is a hostile work environment and the board needs to address these concerns.

Wendy Mears, employee of Indian River School District, spoke about the continued harassment by the district. She is a survivor of abuse. She feels she works in a hostile environment.

## New Business

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

Mr. Peden, seconded by Mr. Steele, motioned to accept 2024-2025 school choice applicants (November 2024) as presented by Mr. Lewis. The motion passed unanimously (10-0).

### 2024-2025 Unit Count Summary

Mrs. Taylor, seconded by Mr. Cathell, motioned to accept the 2024-2025 Unit Count Summary with the enrollment of 10,753 students. Division I units totaling 902.46 and Division II units totaling 971.62.

### Date and Content of Referendum

Mrs. Kline, seconded by Mr. Peden, motioned to table date and content of referendum until the December 16, 2024 board meeting. The motion passed unanimously (10-0).

### Sussex Central High School Baseball Uniforms

Mr. Cathell, seconded by Mr. Peden, motioned to approve the Sussex Central High School Baseball Uniforms as presented by Dr. Owens. The motion passed unanimously (10-0).

### Sussex Central High School Boys Lacrosse Uniforms

Mr. Steele, seconded by Mr. Peden, motioned to table the Sussex Central High School Boys Lacrosse Uniforms until the December 16, 2024 board meeting. The motion passed unanimously (10-0).

### Sussex Central High School Golf Uniforms

Mr. Steele, seconded by Mrs. Taylor, motioned to approve the Sussex Central High School Golf Uniforms as presented by Dr. Owens. The motion passed unanimously (10-0).

### Giant Foods Donation

Mr. Cathell, seconded by Mrs. Briggs, motioned to accept the Giant Foods Donation in the amount of \$11,266.85 as presented by Mr. Toomey. The motion passed unanimously (10-0).

### Sussex Central High School Change Orders

Mrs. Briggs, seconded by Mr. Neal, motioned to approve the 4 Sussex Central High School Change Orders totaling \$869,158.00 as presented by Mr. Dooley and Mr. Cowen. The motion passed (7-3-0).

For the motion: Mrs. Briggs, Mr. Cathell, Mrs. Kline, Mr. Neal, Mr. Peden, Mrs. Taylor, Mrs. West-Werner.  
Against the motion: Mrs. Pryor, Mr. Steele, Mrs. Wright.

### Sussex Central High School Change Order Notifications

Mr. Peden, seconded by Mr. Neal, motioned to approve the 10 New Sussex Central High School Change Order Notifications as presented by Mr. Dooley and Mr. Cowen totaling \$235,005.91. 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 Ennis project will be totally complete by the end of 2024.

### G.W. Carver Consent Update

Dr. Whisted shared with the board the following:

#### Requirements:

Quarterly Updates on Former Carver Students

- Updates sent November 1, 2024

Continuation of Community Advisory Board (CAB)

- Next Meeting- December 5, 2024 at 4:00 p.m. @ Howard T. Ennis

Monitoring of District Plans

- Disproportionality of Graduation Rate
- Disproportionality of Discipline

### Committee Reports

#### Buildings and Grounds

Mr. Steele reviewed the minutes from the November 18, 2024 meeting.

#### Comprehensive School Safety

No report.

#### Finance

Mr. Peden reviewed minutes from the November 18, 2024 meeting.

#### Curriculum

Mr. Neal reviewed the minutes from the November 18, 2024 meeting.

#### DSBA Board of Directors

Mrs. Pryor shared with the board there was a meeting on November 6, 2024. They encouraged the use of free services of the Donovan group for districts.

#### DSBA Legislative

No report.

#### Special Education Committee

No report.

#### Policy

Mrs. Taylor reviewed the minutes from the November 18, 2024 meeting.

Mr. Steele, seconded by Mr. Cathell, motioned to approve the following policies for a first reading: EBC Emergency Responses, J Athletic Policy. The motion passed unanimously (10-0).

Mr. Steele, seconded by Mrs. Briggs, motioned to approve the following policies for second readings: GCBD Professional Leaves and Absences, D Fiscal Management, DBH Budget Adoption, GBA Nondiscrimination, JG.1 Bully Cyberbullying Prevention The motion passed unanimously (10-0).

#### IREA Representative

Mr. JR Emanuele spoke to the board regarding the teacher ratification contract that will be tabled until the December 16, 2024 to allow time for the board to review. He wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

#### Superintendents Report

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

#### Financial Summaries for month ending October 31, 2024

Mrs. Smith reviewed the financial summaries, major and minor capital improvement financials for the month ending October 31, 2024.

Mrs. Briggs, seconded by Mrs. Taylor, motioned to accept the financial summaries for the month ending October 31, 2024. The motion passed unanimously (10-0).

Detail Information for month ending October 31, 2024

Mrs. Pryor, seconded by Mr. Peden, moved to approve the Detail Information for the month ending October 31, 2024 as presented by Mrs. Smith. The motion passed unanimously (10-0).

Major Capital Improvements for month ending October 31, 2024

Mr. Peden, seconded by Mrs. Taylor, motioned to approve the Major Capital Improvements for the month ending October 31, 2024 as presented by Mrs. Smith. The motion passed unanimously (10-0).

Minor Capital Improvements for month ending October 31, 2024

Mr. Peden, seconded by Mr. Cathell, motioned to approve the Minor Capital Improvements for the month ending October 31, 2024 as presented by Mrs. Smith. The motion passed unanimously (10-0).

Communications

Use of Facility Request

Mrs. Briggs, seconded by Mr. Peden, motioned to approve the Use of Facility request for Sussex Central High School cafeteria and auxiliary gymnasium on Sunday, December 8, 2024 by Sussex Central High School Band and Band Boosters as presented by Dr. Owens. The motion passed unanimously (10-0).

Field Trip Requests

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

- Overnight trip by Indian River High School Wrestling Team on December 20-22, 2024 to Newark, DE.
- Overnight trip by Indian River High School Wrestling Team on January 17-18, 2025 to Lebanon, PA.

Personnel Agenda for November 25, 2024

Mrs. Pryor, seconded by Mr. Steele, motioned to approve the Personnel Agenda for November 25, 2024 employee #'s 1, 2, 3, 22, 23, 24, 25 as presented by Mrs. Bunting. The motion passed unanimously (10-0).

Mr. Neal, seconded by Mr. Cathell, motioned to table employee #'s 4 through 21 on the Personnel Agenda for November 25, 2024. The motion passed unanimously (10-0).

Contractual Agenda for November 25, 2024

Mr. Peden, seconded by Mr. Cathell, motioned to approve the Contractual Agenda for November 25, 2024 as presented by Mrs. Bunting. The motion passed unanimously (10-0).

Teacher Contract Ratification

Mr. Steele, seconded by Mrs. West-Werner, motioned to table teacher contract ratification until the December 16, 2024 board meeting as presented by Mrs. Bunting. The motion passed unanimously (10-0).

Public Comments

No comments.

Adjournment

Mrs. Taylor, seconded by Mr. Neal, motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:28 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