

INDIAN RIVER SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2024
SUSSEX CENTRAL 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

Mrs. Taylor, seconded by Mr. Peden, 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 7:17 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 – December 16, 2024

Mrs. Pryor, seconded by Mr. Peden, moved to approve the agenda for December 16, 2024. The motion passed unanimously (10-0).

Pledge of Allegiance/Presentation of Colors

Approval of Minutes

Board of Education Regular Meeting Minutes – November 21, 2024

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

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

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

Board of Education Meeting Minutes – November 25, 2024

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

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

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

Student Government

Sussex Central High School's student government representative reported on events occurring at Sussex Central 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, 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, Lauren Kirk, Nika Reid, Walter Smith, Mike Smith, Kay Sharp, Ricky Grant, Jaycla Harris Scoot, Kristine Dellinger, Janelle Johnson, Nicholas Donati, Kathy Dulis, Bob Blyman, Wanda Hopkins, Vanessa Nooks Hagan .

Recognition

- 2024 State Recognition School Award winners for Excellence in Serving Special Populations: north Georgetown Elementary and Long Neck Elementary

Public Comments

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.

Dr. Donald Hattier, spoke to the Board regarding schools offering more classes relating to finances. Many students are unfamiliar with handling a household budget, etc. College is not for everyone and we should be preparing students for their future if they are not going to college.

New Business

School Choice Applications 2024-2025 (December 2024)

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

Lord Baltimore Elementary Festival of Trees Donation

This was tabled until next month.

Georgetown Middle School Agility Performance Unlimited Donation

Mr. Steele, seconded by Mr. Cathell, motioned to approve the Georgetown Middle School Agility Performance Unlimited Donation in the amount of \$10,000. The motion passed unanimously (10-0).

Kindergarten – Third Grade Ratios

Mr. Neal, seconded by Mrs. Taylor, approved the Long Neck Elementary 3rd grade class size ratio of 24:1 student ratio as presented by Mrs. Dorman. The motion passed (8-2-0).

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

Date and Content of Referendum

Mr. Neal, seconded by Mrs. Taylor, motioned to table discussion of date and content of referendum. The motion passed unanimously (10-0).

Substitute Rates

Mr. Steele, seconded by Mrs. Taylor, motioned to approve the substitute rates as presented by Mrs. Smith. These rates were adjusted to reflect the increase in the minimum wage. The motion passed unanimously (10-0).

Sussex Central High School Boys Lacrosse Uniforms

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

Sussex Central High School Boys Basketball Alternate Dates and Uniform

Mr. Steele, seconded by Mr. Peden, motioned to approve the Sussex Central High School Boys Basketball Alternate Date and Uniform for 1/21/25. The motion passed unanimously (10-0).

Sussex Central High School Boys Basketball Alternate Uniform Dates

Mr. Peden, seconded by Mr. Cathell, motioned to approve the Sussex Central High School Boys Basketball Alternate Uniform dates of 12/28/24, 1/8/25, 2/6/25. The motion passed unanimously (10-0).

Sussex Central High School Boys Baseball Alternate Uniform Dates

Mr. Steele, seconded by Mr. Peden, motioned to approve the Sussex Central High School Boys Basketball Alternate Date and Uniform for 1/21/25. The motion passed unanimously (10-0).

Indian River High School Boys Basketball Alternate Uniform Dates

Mr. Steele, seconded by Mr. Peden, motioned to approve the Indian River High School Boys Basketball Alternate Uniform dates of 12/26/24 and 1/10/25. The motion passed unanimously (10-0).

Sussex Central High School Field Hockey Bermuda Grass Field

Mr. Neal, seconded by Mr. Peden, motioned to approve the Sussex Central High School Field Hockey Bermuda Grass Field as presented by Mr. Dooley. The motion failed (3-7-0).

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

Indian River High School Culinary Outdoor Equipment Storage

Mrs. Pryor, seconded by Mrs. Taylor, motioned to approve the Indian River High School Culinary Outdoor Equipment Storage as presented by Mr. Dooley. The motion passed unanimously (10-0).

Georgetown Middle School SNAC Program

Mr. Cathell, seconded by Mr. Peden, motioned to approve the Georgetown Middle School SNAC program as presented. The motion passed unanimously (10-0).

Sussex Central High School Change Order Notifications

Mr. Steele, seconded by Mr. Peden, motioned to approve the 2 New Sussex Central High School Change Order Notifications as presented by Mr. Dooley and Mr. Blyman totaling \$95,780.00. 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 has the final commissioning scheduled.

G.W. Carver Consent Update

Dr. Whisted shared with the board the following:

Requirements:

- Quarterly Updates on Former Carver Students
 - End of Quarter 2 Updates- February 2025
- Continuation of Community Advisory Board (CAB)
 - Next Meeting- March 6, 2025 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 December 9, 2024 meeting.

Comprehensive School Safety

Mr. Cathell shared with the Board the weapons detection systems have been working well at the two high school athletic events.

Finance

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

Curriculum - No report.

DSBA Board of Directors - No report.

DSBA Legislative - No report.

Special Education Committee - No report.

Policy

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

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

IREA Representative

Ms. Blair Caitlin Brown spoke to the board regarding the support in the upcoming referendum, contract ratifications and more discussion with County council with regards to more VSA discussion.

Superintendents Report

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

Financial Summaries for month ending November 30, 2024

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

Mrs. Briggs, seconded by Mrs. Taylor, motioned to accept the financial summaries for the month ending November 30, 2024. The motion passed unanimously (10-0).

Detail Information for month ending November 30, 2024

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

Major Capital Improvements for month ending November 30, 2024

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

Minor Capital Improvements for month ending November 30, 2024

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

Fall Student Activity Funds Request

Mr. Peden, seconded by Mrs. Taylor, motioned to approve the Fall Student Activity Funds Request in the amount of \$49,454.06 as presented by Mrs. Smith. The motion passed unanimously (10-0).

FY 2025 Annual State Budget Reduction (Giveback Plan)

Mr. Steele, seconded by Mrs. Kline, motioned to approve the FY 2025 Annual State Budget Reduction (Giveback plan) in the amount of \$1,751,654.72 as presented by Mrs. Smith. The motion passed unanimously (10-0).

Final FY 2025 Budget – Indian River School District

Mr. Peden, seconded by Mrs. Taylor, motioned to approve the Final FY 2025 Budget – Indian River School District in the amount of \$239,586,028 as presented by Mrs. Smith. The motion passed unanimously (10-0).

Final FY 2025 Budget – Howard T. Ennis

Mr. Peden, seconded by Mr. Cathell, motioned to approve the Final FY 2025 Budget – Howard T. Ennis in the amount of \$20,930,517 as presented by Mrs. Smith. The motion passed unanimously (10-0).

Communications

No requests.

Personnel Agenda for November 25, 2024

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

Personnel Addendum for November 25, 2024

Mr. Steele, seconded by Mrs. Taylor, motioned to approve the Personnel Agenda for November 25, 2024 as presented by Mrs. Bunting. 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. Peden, seconded by Mr. Cathell, motioned to accept teacher contract ratification as presented by Mrs. Bunting. The motion passed unanimously (10-0).

Secretary Contract Ratification

Mr. Peden, seconded by Mrs. Pryor, motioned to accept secretary contract ratification as presented by Mrs. Bunting. The motion passed unanimously (10-0).

Paraprofessional Contract Ratification

Mrs. Taylor, seconded by Mr. Cathell, motioned to accept paraprofessional contract ratification as presented by Mrs. Bunting. The motion passed unanimously (10-0).

Public Comments

No comments.

Adjournment

Mr. Steele, seconded by Mrs. Taylor, motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:36 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