

INDIAN RIVER SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY, JANUARY 27, 2025
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 Mrs. Briggs, motioned to go into Executive Session at 6:01 p.m. for the purpose of discussing personnel, negotiations, litigation, student hearings. The motion passed unanimously (10-0).

Reconvene Regular Session at 7:16 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 – January 27, 2025

Mrs. Pryor, seconded by Mr. Peden, moved to approve the agenda for January 27, 2025. The motion passed unanimously (10-0).

Approval of Minutes

Board of Education Regular Meeting Minutes – December 16, 2024

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

Board of Education Executive Session Meeting Minutes – December 16, 2024

Mrs. Taylor, seconded by Mr. Cathell, 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, Patti Harris, 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, Kim Cooper, Christy Kerr, Pamela Webb, Lauren Kirk, Amanda Hendrickson Davis, Beth Illian, Jason Macrides, Rebecca Hagan, Rick Evans, Bennett Murray, Carolyn Fries, Maria Hazzard, Brad Cowen, Sara Parker, Eric Tsavdar, James Wheatley, Jamaal Bivens, Vincent Colombo, Stella Yanek.

Recognition

- First Place Sussex County Fire Prevention Safety Poster (JC): Annabelle Lehman
- Project Lead the Way Outstanding Teacher (JC): Jaime Swartz
- Delaware Junior All State Choir (SM): Simon Sandoval
- Sussex County Junior Honor Choir (SM): Regan Carlson, Elisa Clauss, Annabell Galinkas, Andzhelina Iardova, Samantha Mason, Haylee Owens, Aiden Parker, Trinity Phillips, Maddison Smith, Brooklyn Townsend, Emma Walker, Carly Wharton

- 2024 DIAA Unified Flag Football State Champion Team

Public Comments

Lindsay Richard, the community engagement director with the Joshua M. Freeman Foundation thanked the district teachers and administrators for their continued collaboration with arts education programming in our schools.

New Business

School Choice Applications 2024-2025 (January 2025)

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

National School Counseling Week Resolution – February 3-7, 2025

Mrs. Taylor, seconded by Mr. Neal, motioned to approve the National School Counseling Week Resolution: February 3-7, 2025. The motion passed unanimously (10-0).

Lord Baltimore Elementary Festival of Trees Donation

Mr. Steele, seconded by Mrs. Taylor, motioned to approve the Lord Baltimore Elementary Festival of Trees donation. The motion passed unanimously (10-0).

Out of State School Choice Request

Mrs. Kline, seconded by Mrs. Briggs, motioned to approve the out of state school choice request as presented by Dr. Owens. The motion passed unanimously (10-0).

Howard T. Ennis Change Order

Mr. Peden, seconded by Mr. Steele, motioned to approve the Howard T. Ennis change order in the amount of \$99,369.42 as presented by Mr. Dooley and Mr. Cowen. The motion passed unanimously (10-0).

Sussex Central High School Change Order Notifications

Mr. Steele, seconded by Mr. Peden, motioned to approve the 10 New Sussex Central High School Change Order Notifications as presented by Mr. Dooley and Mr. Cowen totaling \$90,480.55. The motion passed unanimously (10-0).

Sussex Central High School Academic Courtyard Surface

Mr. Peden, seconded by Mr. Neal, motioned to approve the Sussex Central High School Academic Courtyard Surface in the amount of \$234,862.00 as presented by Mr. Dooley. The motion passed (8-2-0).
For the motion: Mrs. Briggs, Mr. Cathell, Mrs. Kline, Mr. Neal, Mr. Peden, Mr. Steele, Mrs. Taylor, Mrs. Wright.
Against the motion: Mrs. Pryor, Mrs. West-Werner.

Inclement Weather Days

Mr. Neal, seconded by Mr. Steele, motioned to approve changing the March 5, 2025 Professional Learning Day which was no school for students to a regular school/student day to make up for the inclement weather day school was closed. The motion passed unanimously (10-0).

Continuation of discussion and potential action with regard to the referendum

Mr. Steele, seconded by Mr. Neal, motioned to table discussion of continuation and discussion and potential action with regard to the referendum. 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 January 13, 2025 meeting.

Comprehensive School Safety

No Report.

Finance

Mr. Peden reviewed minutes from the January 13, 2025 meeting.

Curriculum – Mr. Neal reviewed the minutes from the January 13, 2025 meeting.

DSBA Board of Directors – Mrs. Pryor shared with the board the DSBA comprehensive review from the January 15, 2025 meeting. The next meeting will be on March 5, 2025.

DSBA Legislative - No report.

Special Education Committee – Mr. Neal shared with the board the committee met on January 24, 2025 and discussed the audit and special education handbook. The next meeting will be held on March 15, 2025.

Policy

Mrs. Taylor reviewed the minutes from the January 13, 2025 meeting and the following policies for a first reading: IKEA Recovery of original Credit Opportunities, JHFB Constables Use of Deadly Force.

Mr. Peden, seconded by Mr. Neal, motioned to approve the following policies for second readings: ECA Security Camera System Policy, GCBD Professional Leave & Absences, GDA Support Staff Positions, GDN Evaluation of Support Staff, IGDJ Band and Interscholastic Athletic Uniforms and Logos. The motion passed unanimously (10-0). Mr. Neal, seconded by Mrs. Pryor, motioned to approve the 2/17/25 uniform date for the Indian River High School Girls Basketball Camo Uniform. The motion passed unanimously (10-0).

IREA Representative

Ms. Blair Caitlin Brown spoke to the board regarding the paraprofessional/pe day. She also spoke of an referendum survey from IREA to staff and she also recognized the board for school board appreciation month.

Superintendents Report

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

District Calendar Change

Mrs. Pryor, seconded by Mr. Neal, motioned to approve the following district calendar changes as presented by Dr. Owens: Change North Georgetown Elementary Winter Concert from January 21, 2025 to January 30, 2025; Cancel Lord Baltimore Elementary PTO meeting on February 19, 2025. The motion passed unanimously (10-0).

Financial Summaries for month ending December 31, 2024

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

Mr. Peden, seconded by Mr. Cathell, motioned to accept the financial summaries for the month ending December 31, 2024. The motion passed unanimously (10-0).

Detail Information for month ending December 31, 2024

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

Major Capital Improvements for month ending December 31, 2024

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

Minor Capital Improvements for month ending December 31, 2024

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

Financial Position Report

Financial Position Report

as of 31-December-2024 -Forecast Period: Q3-2024 -District: Indian River

Description	Actual Unencumbered	Encumbered	Projected Income 1/1 to 3/31	Projected Available Income through 3/31	Projected Salary 1/1 to 3/31	Projected Non-Salary 1/1 to 3/31	Projected Expenditures 1/1 to 3/31	Projected Available Balance 3/31	Revenue Projection 4/1 to 6/30	Salary Projection 4/1 to 6/30	Non-Salary Projection 4/1 to 6/30	Projected Balance on 6/30	Projected 1 month Local Payroll
Local Expenses	\$34,374,830.57	\$623,053.01	\$1,169,198.73	\$36,167,082.31	\$11,668,924.95	\$374,873.18	\$12,043,798.13	\$24,123,284.18	\$1,959,198.73	\$13,684,412.45	\$323,411.25	\$12,074,659.21	\$3,600,000.00
Div II	\$2,500,904.77	\$718,717.78	\$0.00	\$3,219,622.55	\$0.00	\$1,710,800.49	\$1,710,800.49	\$1,508,822.06	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,024,695.45	\$484,126.61	
Div III	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Cash Option	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Other	\$224,326.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$224,326.00	\$224,326.00	\$0.00	\$224,326.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Total Discretionary Fund Revenue	\$37,100,061.34	\$1,341,770.79	\$1,169,198.73	\$39,611,030.86	\$11,893,250.95	\$2,085,673.67	\$13,978,924.62	\$25,632,106.24	\$1,959,198.73	\$13,684,412.45	\$1,348,106.70	\$12,558,785.82	

Mr. Peden, seconded by Mrs. Briggs, motioned to accept the Financial Position Report as presented by Mrs. Smith. The motion passed unanimously (10-0).

Communications

Mr. Steele, seconded by Mrs. Taylor, motioned to approve the following field trips. The motion passed unanimously (10-0).

- Overnight trip by Indian River High School FFA on March 25-26, 2025 to Newark, DE; Overnight trip by Selbyville Middle School VEX Robotics team on May 8-12, 2025 to Dallas, TX; Overnight trip by Selbyville Middle School TSA Team on June 27- July 1, 2025 to Nashville, TN.

Executive Session

Mr. Peden, seconded by Mrs. Briggs, motioned to go into Executive Session at 8:59 p.m. for the purpose of discussing personnel, negotiations, litigation, student hearings. The motion passed unanimously (10-0).

Reconvene Regular Session at 10:43 p.m.

Personnel Agenda for January 27, 2025

Mrs. Pryor, seconded by Mrs. Taylor, motioned to approve the Personnel Agenda for January 27, 2025 as presented by Mrs. Bunting. The motion passed unanimously (10-0).

Personnel Addendum for January 27, 2025

Mr. Steele, seconded by Mrs. Kline, motioned to approve the Personnel Agenda for January 27, 2025 as presented by Mrs. Bunting. The motion passed unanimously (10-0).

Contractual Agenda for January 27, 2025

Mrs. Briggs, seconded by Mrs. Kline, motioned to approve the Contractual Agenda for January 27, 2025 as presented by Mrs. Bunting. The motion passed unanimously (10-0).

Notification of Retirements

Notification of retirements was presented to the Board.

Student Hearings

Student No. 25-55

Mr. Steele, seconded by Mr. Cathell, motioned to accept the hearing officer's recommendation for student no. 25-55. The motion passed unanimously (10-0).

Student No. 25-56

Mr. Steele, seconded by Mr. Cathell, motioned to accept the hearing officer's recommendation for student no. 25-56. The motion passed (7-3-0). For the motion: Mrs. Briggs, Mr. Cathell, Mrs. Kline, Mr. Neal, Mrs. Pryor, Mr. Steele, Mrs. West-Werner. Against the motion: Mr. Peden, Mrs. Taylor, Mrs. Wright.

Student No. 25-57

Mr. Cathell, seconded by Mrs. Pryor, motioned to accept the hearing officer's recommendation for student no. 25-57. The motion passed (7-3-0). For the motion: Mrs. Briggs, Mr. Cathell, Mrs. Kline, Mr. Neal, Mrs. Pryor, Mr. Steele, Mrs. West-Werner. Against the motion: Mr. Peden, Mrs. Taylor, Mrs. Wright.

Mr. Neal removed his motion to amend item 6.09 on agenda

Notice of Special Election in Indian River School District

Mrs. Taylor, seconded by Mr. Steele, motioned to move forward with the Notice of Special Election/Referendum as needed for the Department of Elections. The motion passed unanimously (10-0).

Mrs. Taylor would like the administration to move forward with making a strategic plan to make necessary cuts in staffing and operating expenses that they feel are needed.

Public Comments

No comments.

Adjournment

Mr. Peden, seconded by Mr. Neal, motioned to adjourn the meeting at 10:51 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