

INDIAN RIVER SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING  
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2025  
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

Mr. Steele, seconded by Mrs. West-Werner, 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 7:15 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 – February 24, 2025

Mr. Peden, seconded by Mrs. Taylor, moved to approve the agenda for February 24, 2025. The motion passed unanimously (10-0).

Approval of Minutes

Board of Education Meeting Minutes – January 16, 2025

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

Board of Education Executive Session Meeting Minutes – January 16, 2025

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

Board of Education Regular Meeting Minutes – January 27, 2025

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

Board of Education Executive Session Meeting Minutes – January 27, 2025

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 Lillian Sharp 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, Patti Harris, Jennifer Troublefield, Dan Mann, Preston Lewis, Joe Dooley, 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, Emily Pettyjohn, Lillian Sharp, Jason

Pilgrim, Bradley Layfield, James Wheatley, Vanessa Nock Hagans, Sylvester Quillen III, Tami Hudson, Nika Reid, Lauren Kirk, Tara Magee, Tracy Bonneville, Suzanne Godwin.

#### Recognition

- Presidential Award (PAEMST) for Excellence in Mathematica & Science Teaching (EM): Jason Orlen
- Delaware Department of Education School Bus Roadeo Winners: Tara Magee, Tracy Bonneville, Suzanne Godwin
- eSports Teams Advancement to Smash Brothers Mid-Atlantic Regional Playoffs (SCHS): Denisy Niz Chavez, Alex Larmore, Garth Layfield, Trevor Dixon, Ace Walsh, Jaxson Wilkerson
- eSports Chess Champions of the Eastern Region (SCHS): Dylan Cushman, Robbie Johnson, Dang Nguyen

#### Public Comments

Emily Pettyjohn spoke to the board about the upcoming reduction in staff and possible programs and the effects this can have on students. She feels there are other areas in the district that could be reduced such as EPER coaches.

#### New Business

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

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

##### School Choice Applications 2025-2026 (February 2025)

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

##### National School Social Work Week Resolution – March 3-7, 2025

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

##### 2025-2026 District Calendar

Mrs. Kline, seconded by Mr. Neal, motioned to table the 2025-2026 district calendar until the March 24, 2025 board meeting. The motion passed unanimously (10-0).

##### 2025-2026 School Start and End Times

Mr. Neal, seconded by Mr. Steele, motioned to approve the 2025-2026 school start and end times as presented by Mrs. Blannard. The motion passed unanimously (10-0).

##### Inclement Weather Days

Mr. Steele, seconded by Mr. Cathell, motioned to approve the administration's recommendation to add 20 minutes to the school day beginning March 31, 2025 to make up for the school days closed due to inclement weather. The motion passed unanimously (10-0).

##### Sussex Central High School Change Order Notifications

Mrs. Taylor, seconded by Mr. Peden, motioned to approve the 3 New Sussex Central High School Change Order Notifications as presented by Mr. Dooley and Mr. Cowen totaling \$62,332.19. The motion passed unanimously (10-0).

##### Indian River High School Culinary Year 2 Planning

Mr. Steele, seconded by Mrs. Kline, motioned to approve the Indian River High School Culinary 2 Year Program architect proposal as presented by Mr. Dooley. The motion passed unanimously (10-0).

### Selbyville Middle School and George Washington Carver Cooling Towers Engineering Proposal

Mr. Steele, seconded by Mr. Cathell, motioned to accept the \$48,000 engineering proposal for the Selbyville Middle School and George Washington Carver Cooling Towers as presented by Mr. Dooley. 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 finished.

#### 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 February 10, 2025 meeting.

#### Comprehensive School Safety

Mr. Cathell shared with the board that constables had training with the Ocean View Police Department on January 31, 2025. On February 4-6, 2025 Substitute Constable Eric Watkins completed a Range master course.

### Finance

Mr. Peden reviewed minutes from the February 10, 2025 meeting.

Mr. Peden, seconded by Mrs. Taylor, motioned to approve the Sussex Central High School Boys Baseball hats as presented. The motion passed unanimously (10-0).

Mr. Peden, seconded by Mrs. West-Werner, motioned to approve the Selbyville Middle School Lacrosse uniforms as presented. The motion passed unanimously (10-0).

Mrs. Pryor, seconded by Mr. Steele, motioned to approve the Indian River High School Boys Lacrosse Uniforms. The motion passed unanimously (10-0).

### Curriculum

Mr. Neal reviewed the minutes from the February 10, 2025 meeting.

### DSBA Board of Directors

No report.

### DSBA Legislative

Mrs. Briggs shared with the board the DSBA Legislative met on February 5, 2025. The following bills were discussed House Bills #11, 12, 15, 22, 28, 29, 32, 38 and senate Bill #48. The next meeting is scheduled for April 23, 2025.

## Special Education Committee

No report.

## Policy

Mrs. Taylor reviewed the minutes from the February 10, 2025 meeting and the following policies for a first reading: CC Administrative Organization Plan, EE Transportation Service Management, JG Student Discipline.

Mr. Steele, seconded by Mr. Cathell, motioned to approve the following policies for second readings: IKEA Recovery of Original Credit Opportunities, JHFB Constables use of Deadly Force. The motion passed unanimously (10-0).

Mr. Steele, seconded by Mrs. West-Werner, motioned to approve to revise and replace the current GBCB.7 Indian River School District Title IX Policy with the 2020 version of GBCB.7 Indian River School District Title IX Policy. The motion passed unanimously (10-0).

## IREA Representative

Ms. Blair Caitlin Brown shared with the board the IREA has been out in the public supporting and attending the current referendum presentations. The Paraprofessional/PD day on January 31, 2025 was a success. She also shared the location of the IREA fundraiser on April 3, 2025 has been changed to Grotto's in Millsboro, DE.

## Superintendents Report

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

## Financial Summaries for month ending January 31, 2025

Mrs. Smith reviewed the financial summaries, major and minor capital improvement financials for the month ending January 31, 2025.

Mr. Peden, seconded by Mrs. Briggs, motioned to accept the financial summaries for the month ending January 31, 2025. The motion passed unanimously (10-0).

## Detail Information for month ending January 31, 2025

Mr. Steele, seconded by Mrs. Taylor, moved to approve the Detail Information for the month ending January 31, 2025 as presented by Mrs. Smith. The motion passed unanimously (10-0).

## Major Capital Improvements for month ending January 31, 2025

Mr. Cathell, seconded by Mrs. Kline, motioned to approve the Major Capital Improvements for the month ending January 31, 2025 as presented by Mrs. Smith. The motion passed unanimously (10-0).

## Minor Capital Improvements for month ending January 31, 2025

Mr. Cathell, seconded by Mrs. Taylor, motioned to approve the Minor Capital Improvements for the month ending January 31, 2025 as presented by Mrs. Smith. The motion passed unanimously (10-0).

## Communications

### Field Trip Requests

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

- Overnight trip by Sussex Central High School FFA on March 25-26, 2025 to Newark, DE
- Overnight trip by Millsboro Middle School FFA on March 25-26, 2025 to Newark, DE
- Overnight trip by Indian River High School All Eastern Choir Members on April 24-27, 2025 to Hartford, CT.

## Use of Facility Request

Mrs. Pryor, seconded by Mrs. Kline, motioned to approve the use of facility request. The motion passed unanimously (10-0).

- Use of Sussex Central High School Cross County Course and Bathrooms on May 7, 2025 (with a rain date of Sunday, May 18, 2025) by the Indian River School District Let Me Run teams.

Personnel Agenda for February 24, 2025

Mr. Peden, seconded by Mr. Cathell, motioned to approve the Personnel Agenda for February 24, 2025 as presented by Mrs. Bunting. The motion passed unanimously (10-0).

Personnel Addendum for February 24, 2025

Mr. Cathell, seconded by Mr. Steele, motioned to approve the Personnel Agenda for February 24, 2025 excluding addendum #18 as presented by Mrs. Bunting. The motion passed unanimously (10-0).

Notification of Retirements

Notification of retirements was presented to the Board.

Executive Session

Mrs. Taylor, seconded by Mr. Peden, motioned to reconvene Executive Session at 8:47 p.m. for the purpose of discussing personnel, negotiations, litigation. The motion passed unanimously (10-0).

Reconvene Regular Session at 10:29 p.m.

Personnel Addendum for February 24, 2025

Mrs. Wright asked for a motion on personnel addendum #18, no motion made, no action taken.

Public Comments

No comments.

Adjournment

Mrs. Wright adjourned the meeting at 10:31 pm.

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