

INDIAN RIVER SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
MONDAY, MARCH 31, 2025
INDIAN RIVER HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM

Call to Order

President Mrs. Leolga T. Wright called the Board Meeting of the Indian River School District Board of Education to order at 5:00 p.m.

Roll Call

Board Members present: Mr. Derek Cathell, Mrs. Lisa Hudson Briggs, Mrs. Kelly Kline, Mr. Gerald Peden, Mrs. Connie Pryor, Mr. Mark Steele, Mrs. Kim Taylor, Mrs. Leolga Wright.

Board Member Absent: Mrs. Anita West Werner

Board Members Late (5:02): Mr. Ivan Neal

Approval of Agenda – March 31, 2025

Mr. Peden, seconded by Mr. Cathell, motioned to approve the agenda for March 31, 2025. The motion passed unanimously (8-0).

Executive Session

Mrs. Taylor, seconded by Mrs. Pryor, motioned the start of executive session at 5:01 p.m. to discuss Personnel. The motion passed unanimously (8-0).

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. Kim Taylor, Mrs. Leolga Wright.

Board Member Absent: Mrs. Anita West Werner.

Public Comments

Greg Linder spoke to the Board regarding the referendum funding and suggested the district go to referendum more often and asking for smaller funding amounts.

Blair Caitlin Brown addressed the Board regarding the staff morale and anxiety with upcoming budget restraints and personnel cuts.

Jacob Buchler spoke to the Board regarding the referendum, he is a displaced teacher due to staffing cuts. The district incentives are not aligned correctly with district spending.

Jason Pilgrim addressed the Board to use wisdom when making upcoming decisions regarding staffing and programs in our schools.

New Business

2025-2026 District Programming Considerations

Mrs. Smith shared with the Board a powerpoint presentation highlighting the district's budget saving measures for the 2025-2026 school year due to the failure of the March 20, 2025 referendum.

Executive Session

Mrs. Pryor, seconded by Mrs. Taylor, motioned to go into executive session at 8:03 p.m. to discuss personnel. The motion passed unanimously (9-0).

Reconvene Regular Session at 9:50 p.m.

Referendum

Mr. Steele, seconded by Mr. Neal, motioned to approve going to referendum again on June 5, 2025. The special election shall seek authority to levy additional taxes to fund current operating expenses by \$0.559 per \$100 of assessed value effective July 1, 2025.

The motion passed (7-2-0). For the motion: Mrs. Briggs, Mr. Cathell, Mrs. Kline, Mr. Neal, Mrs. Pryor, Mr. Steele, Mrs. Wright.

Against the motion: Mr. Peden, Mrs. Taylor.

Personnel Agenda for March 31, 2025

Mr. Peden, seconded by Mr. Steele, motioned to approve the Personnel Agenda for March 31, 2025 as presented by Mrs. Bunting. The motion passed unanimously (9-0).

Personnel Addendum for March 31, 2025

Mr. Neal, seconded by Mr. Steele, motioned to approve the Personnel Addendum for March 31, 2025 as presented by Mrs. Bunting. The motion passed unanimously (9-0).

Southern De School of the Arts Principal Hire Recommendation

Mr. Steele, seconded by Mr. Cathell, motioned to approve candidate #2 for the Southern DE School of the Arts Principal position. The motion passed unanimously (9-0).

Public Comments

No comments.

Adjournment

Mrs. Taylor, seconded by Mrs. Pryor, motioned to adjourn the board meeting at 9:55 p.m. The motion passed unanimously (9-0).

Respectfully Submitted,

Jay F. Owens, Ed.D
Secretary
Indian River School District
Board of Education

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

LTW/JFO:jmt