

INDIAN RIVER SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING
TUESDAY, JULY 1, 2025 – 5:00 P.M.
INDIAN RIVER HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM

MINUTES

Call to Order

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

Oath of Office for Board Members

Mrs. Leolga Wright administered the Oath of Office to the following Board members:

- Mrs. Lisa Hudson Briggs – District No. 1 – Four Year Term
- Mrs. Kelly Kline – District No. 1 – Four Year Term
- Mr. Gerald T. Peden – District No. 2 – Four Year Term
- Dr. Michelle Parsons – District No. 4 – Four Year Term

Roll Call

Board Members Present – Mrs. Briggs, Mr. Cathell, Mrs. Kline, Mr. Neal, Dr. Parsons, Mr. Peden, Mr. Steele, Mrs. Taylor, Mrs. Werner, Mrs. Wright.

Board Member Late: Mr. Neal (5:32 p.m.)

Public Comments

- Blair Caitlin Brown spoke to the Board about the importance of the local tax rate decision, we must increase revenue tax to bring in revenue.
- Rick Radatovich spoke about the importance of school safety at Lord Baltimore and the importance of an SRO presence, he experienced the Sandy Hook tragedy.
- Kenneth McLaughlin, Ocean View Police Chief spoke to the Board regarding maintaining the SRO at Lord Baltimore Elementary. Student safety is our main concerns and the importance of the programs the SRO provides.
- Mayor Reddington of Ocean View spoke to the board regarding the SRO at Lord Baltimore Elementary and that we shouldn't be having this discussion every year. The SRO should be in place at Lord Baltimore.
- Carol Houck, Town Manager of Ocean View explained that the funding of the SRO at Lord Baltimore should be equal to those of the other municipalities and State Police.
- Steve Cobb, Ocean View Councilman spoke to the Board and emphasized the importance of school safety at Lord Baltimore. The community wants the SRO at Lord Baltimore.
- Ralph Holm, Georgetown Police Chief, understands the district's concerns of SRO costs and the responsibility with the SRO school coverage.

Election of Officers for 2025-2026 President

Mrs. Wright opened the floor for nominations for the office of president.

Mr. Peden, seconded by Mrs. West-Werner, motioned to nominate Mr. Mark Steele for the office of president. The motion passed (7-1-2). For the motion: Mrs. Briggs, Mr. Cathell, Mrs. Kline, Dr. Parsons, Mr. Peden, Mrs. Taylor, Mrs. West-Werner. Against the motion: Mr. Neal. Abstained: Mr. Steele, Mrs. Wright

Vice President

President Mrs. Leolga Wright opened the floor for nominations for the office of vice president. Mr. Peden, seconded by Mr. Cathell, motioned to nominate Mrs. Kim Taylor for the office of vice president. The motion

passed (9-0-1). For the motion: Mrs. Briggs, Mr. Cathell, Mrs. Kline, Mr. Neal, Dr. Parsons, Mr. Peden, Mr. Steele, Mrs. West-Werner, Mrs. Wright. Abstained: Mrs. Taylor

Designate Superintendent as Executive Secretary of the Board

Mr. Cathell, seconded by Mr. Peden, motioned to designate the superintendent as Executive Secretary of the Indian River School District Board of Education. The motion passed unanimously (10-0).

Resolution

Mr. Peden, seconded by Mrs. Kline, motioned to approve the resolution authorizing the Chief School Officer of the Indian River School District to open and close bank accounts when approved by the State Treasurer as necessary to conduct the business of the Indian River School District and to authorize designated personnel to sign checks and the official documents of the Indian River School District. The motion passed unanimously (10-0).

Executive Session

Mr. Peden, seconded by Mr. Cathell motioned to go into Executive Session at 5:44 p.m. for the purpose of discussing personnel, negotiations and litigation. The motion passed unanimously (10-0).

Reconvene

The regular session of the board reconvened at 7:43 pm.

Approval of Agenda – July 1, 2025

Mrs. Kline, seconded by Mrs. West-Werner, motioned to approve the agenda for July 1, 2025. The motion passed unanimously (10-0).

Public Comments

- Chief Calloway of Millsboro Police Department spoke to the board about continuing the SRO agreement with the district at a discounted amount since the school coverage had decreased to one school.
- Kim Kaan spoke to the board about the importance of an SRO presence in our schools.

New Business

School Resource Officers

Mrs. Taylor, seconded by Mrs. Briggs, motioned to approve the local SRO municipality contracts as presented (Millsboro PD \$50,000, Georgetown PD \$82,480, Selbyville PD \$82,000 Ocean View PD \$80,000.00) with the stipulation that Lord Baltimore Elementary SRO provide training to the other SRO's in programs they are willing to receive and to provide safety coverage to Long Neck Elementary. The motion passed (6-4-0).

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

FY 2026 Local Tax Rates

Mr. Peden, seconded by Mr. Neal, motioned to approve option #1 for the FY 2026 Local Tax Rate. The motion failed (2-8-0). For the motion: Mr. Neal, Mr. Peden. Against the motion: Mrs. Briggs, Mr. Cathell, Mrs. Kline, Dr. Parsons, Mr. Steele, Mrs. Taylor, Mrs. West-Werner, Mrs. Wright.

Mrs. Taylor, seconded by Mr. Cathell, motioned to approve option #2 for the FY 2026 Local Tax Rate. The motion failed (5-5-0). For the motion: Mr. Cathell, Dr. Parsons, Mr. Steele, Mrs. Taylor, Mrs. West-Werner, Against the motion: Mrs. Briggs, Mrs. Kline, Mr. Neal, Mr. Peden, Mrs. Wright.

Mrs. Kline, seconded by Mr. Cathell, motioned to approve option #4 for the FY 2026 Local Tax Rate. The motion failed (5-5-0). For the motion: Mrs. Briggs, Mr. Cathell, Mrs. Kline, Dr. Parsons, Mrs. Taylor Against the motion: Mr. Neal, Mr. Peden, Mr. Steele, Mrs. West-Werner, Mrs. Wright.

Mrs. West-Werner, seconded by Dr. Parsons, motioned to approve the 10% plus 2 Match Taxes (Technology & Reading Interventionists). The motion passed (9-1-0). For the motion: Mrs. Briggs, Mr. Cathell, Mrs. Kline, Mr. Neal, Dr. Parsons, Mr. Steele, Mrs. Taylor, Mrs. West-Werner, Mrs. Wright. Against the motion: Mr. Peden.

Personnel

Personnel Agenda for July 1, 2025

Mr. Peden, seconded by Mr. Cathell, motioned to approve the Personnel Agenda for July 1, 2025 as presented by Mrs. Bunting. The motion passed unanimously (10-0).

Contractual Agenda for July 1, 2025

Mrs. Taylor, seconded by Mrs. West-Werner, motioned to approve the Contractual Agenda for July 1, 2025 as presented. The motion passed unanimously (10-0).

Nutrition Services Managers Contract, Nutrition Services Workers Contract

Tabled for the July 28, 2025 board meeting.

Adjournment

Mrs. West-Werner, seconded by Mrs. Taylor, motioned to adjourn the Board Meeting at 9:31 p.m. The motion passed unanimously (10-0).

Respectfully Submitted,

Mark L. Steele
President
Board of Education
Indian River School District

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

MLS/JFO:jmt