

INDIAN RIVER SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION RETREAT MEETING
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 13, 2025
MILLSBORO MIDDLE AUDITORIUM

Call to Order

President Mr. Mark Steele called the Board Retreat Meeting of the Indian River School District Board of Education to order at 8:00 a.m.

Roll Call

Board Members present: Mrs. Briggs, Mrs. Kline, Mr. Gerald Peden, Mr. Mark Steele, Mrs. Kim Taylor, Mrs. Leolga Wright.

Board Members Late: Dr. Michelle Parsons (8:03 am), Mr. Ivan Neal (8:10 am)

Board Members Absent: Mr. Derek Cathell, Mrs. Anita West Werner.

Approval of Agenda – August 13, 2025

Mrs. Taylor, seconded by Mr. Peden, motioned to approve the agenda for August 13, 2025. The motion passed unanimously (6-0).

Public Comments

No comments

New Business

School Board Review Provided by Counsel with regard to School Board Liability, School Board Member Roles, Responsibilities, Powers & Duties, and Best Practices

District Counsel, Mr. Jim McMackin shared with the board some new legislation regarding constables directing traffic at schools, department of elections conducting background checks for board member applications, undocumented students can be enrolled in school without all the required registration documentation, food products containing red dye #40 cannot be distributed in schools. Mr. McMackin also reviewed the processes involved with conducting investigations in schools, the levels of employee grievances and the hearing procedures. He also discussed the termination vs. resignation of employees, staff discipline.

Mrs. Taylor, seconded by Mr. Neal, motioned for a 5 minute break at 9:27 pm. The motion passed unanimously (8-0).

Communications, Review of Strategic Plan, Finances, Stakeholder Surveys

Mr. Chuck Longfellow reviewed with the Board the financial status of the district. He stated how much funds are needed to cover the monthly payrolls, how much money is in reserves. The district will be okay for the upcoming school year. The district will need to go to referendum to build the reserves for the following years.

The board reviewed the district's strategic plan and communications. The board discussed moving forward with a stakeholder surveys for the upcoming school year. There would be separate surveys for district staff, parents, and the community.

Executive Session

Mr. Peden, seconded by Dr. Parsons, motioned the start of executive session at 11:51 am to review a personnel and contractual agenda. The motion passed unanimously (8-0).

Board members Mrs. Kelly Kline left executive session at 12:32 pm, and Dr. Michelle Parsons left executive session at 1:05 pm.

Reconvene Regular Session at 1:10 p.m.

Out of State School Choice Request

Mrs. Wright, seconded by Mr. Neal, motioned to approve the out of state employee school choice request without tuition reimbursement. The motion passed unanimously (6-0).

Personnel Agenda for August 13, 2025

Mr. Peden, seconded by Mrs. Briggs, motioned to approve the Personnel Agenda for August 13, 2025 excluding personnel agenda #25. The motion passed unanimously (6-0).

Mrs. Taylor, seconded by Mr. Peden, motioned to table Personnel Agenda item #25 until full board is in attendance. The motion passed unanimously (6-0).

Contractual Agenda for August 13, 2025

Mr. Peden, seconded by Mr. Neal, motioned to approve the Contractual Agenda for August 13, 2025. The motion passed unanimously (6-0).

Public Comments

No comments.

Adjournment

Mrs. Taylor, seconded by Mr. Neal, motioned to adjourn the board meeting at 1:20 p.m. The motion passed unanimously (6-0).

Respectfully Submitted,

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

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

MLS/JFO:jmt