

INDIAN RIVER SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY, JULY 28, 2025
EARLY LEARNING CENTER CAFETERIA
MINUTES

Call to Order

Mr. Steele 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: Mr. Derek Cathell, Lisa Briggs, Mrs. Kelly Kline, Mr. Ivan Neal, Dr. Michelle Parsons, Mr. Gerald Peden, Mr. Mark Steele, Mrs. Kim Taylor, Mrs. Anita West Werner, Mrs. Leolga Wright.

Executive Session

Mr. Peden, seconded by Mrs. Taylor, motioned to go into Executive Session at 6:01 p.m. for the purpose of discussing personnel, negotiations, litigation, and student hearings. The motion passed unanimously (9-0).

Reconvene Regular Session at 7:15 p.m.

Approval of Agenda –July 28, 2025

Mr. Neal, seconded by Mrs. Taylor, moved to approve the agenda for July 28, 2025. The motion passed unanimously (10-0).

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Minutes

Board of Education Regular Meeting Minutes – June 23, 2025

Mrs. Briggs, seconded by Mr. Steele, motioned to approve the minutes as submitted. The motion passed unanimously (9-0).

Board of Education Executive Session Meeting Minutes – June 23, 2025

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

Board of Education Organizational Meeting Minutes – July 1, 2025

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

Board of Education Organizational Executive Session Meeting Minutes – July 1, 2025

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

Board of Education Meeting Minutes – July 17, 2025

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

Board of Education Executive Session Meeting Minutes – July 17, 2025

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

Visitors and Staff in Attendance

Jay Owens, Renee Jerns, Celeste Bunting, Kelly Dorman, Melissa Whisted, Cathy Wolfe, Jennifer Troublefield, Dan Mann, Joe Dooley, Blair Catlin Brown, Jimmy Wheatley.

Public Comments

- Jimmy Wheatley spoke to the Board regarding the voter age patterns the failed referendum. In preparation of the next referendum we need to concentrate on why the younger age voters didn't participate as heavily as the older age voters.

New Business

School Choice Applications 2025-2026 (July 2025)

Mr. Peden, seconded by Mrs. West-Werner, motioned to accept 2025-2026 school choice applicants (July 2025) as presented by Dr. Owens. The motion passed unanimously (10-0).

2024-2025 Field Trip Summary Report

Dr. Owens shared with the Board the 2024-2025 Field Trip Summary Report. The report breaks down how many field trips each school had.

FY '26 Salary Scales for Administrators, Constables, Investigators, Student Advisors, Bus Drivers, Bus Aides

Mrs. West-Werner, seconded by Mrs. Wright, motioned to table the FY '26 Salary Scales for those paid on local funds, no motion made on student advisors. The motion passed unanimously (10-0).

Mrs. Taylor, seconded by Mr. Peden, motioned to approve the bus driver/bus aide FY'26 salary scale. The motion passed unanimously (10-0).

Adoption of State Board of Education order regarding property listed as 22647 WM Farm Lane in Georgetown, DE

Mrs. Taylor, seconded by Mr. Peden, motioned to approve the State Board of Education order regarding the property listed at 22647 WM Farm Lane in Georgetown, DE. The motion passed unanimously (10-0).

Adult Education

Mrs. Briggs, seconded by Mrs. Kline, motioned to approve the pause of the Adult Education program. The motion passed unanimously (10-0).

Sussex Central High School Change Orders

Mr. Peden, seconded by Mr. Neal, motioned to approve the Sussex Central High School Change Orders as presented by Mr. Dooley and Mr. Cowen totaling \$79,465.67. The motion passed unanimously (10-0).

Sussex Central High School Change Order Notifications

Mr. Peden, seconded by Mr. Neal, motioned to approve the Sussex Central High School Change Orders as presented by Mr. Dooley and Mr. Cowen totaling \$1,382,403.90. 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.

Committee Reports

Buildings and Grounds

Mr. Steele reviewed the minutes from the July 14, 2025 meeting.

Comprehensive School Safety

No report.

Finance

Mr. Peden reviewed minutes from the July 14, 2025 meeting.

Curriculum

No report.

DSBA Board of Directors

No report.

DSBA Legislative

No report.

Policy

Mrs. Taylor reviewed the minutes from the July 14, 2025 meeting and the following policies for first readings: KLA Complaint Procedures for Possible Policy Violations, JE Student Attendance, JG Discipline Policy.

Mr. Peden, seconded by Mr. Neal, motioned to approve the following policies for second readings: EA Service Animal Policy for Students, EA.1 Service Animal Policy for Staff, IKE Promotion and Retention. The motion passed unanimously (10-0).

IREA Representative

Ms. Blair Caitlin Brown spoke to the Board about encouraging board members to visit our schools. IREA and DSEA both attended an NEA organizational institute in Annapolis, MD.

Superintendents Report

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

Financial Summaries for month ending June 30, 2025

Mrs. Wolfe reviewed the financial summaries, major and minor capital improvement financials for the month ending June 30, 2025.

Mr. Peden, seconded by Mrs. Taylor, motioned to accept the financial summaries for the month ending June 30, 2025. The motion passed unanimously (10-0).

Detail Information for month ending June 30, 2025

Mr. Peden, seconded by Mr. Cathell, motioned to approve the Detail Information for the month ending June 30, 2025 as presented by Mrs. Wolfe. The motion passed unanimously (10-0).

Major Capital Improvements for month ending June 30, 2025

Mr. Peden, seconded by Mrs. West-Werner, motioned to approve the Major Capital Improvements for the month ending June 30, 2025 as presented by Mrs. Wolfe. The motion passed unanimously (10-0).

Minor Capital Improvements for month ending June 30, 2025

Mr. Peden, seconded by Mrs. Taylor, motioned to approve the Minor Capital Improvements for the month ending June 30, 2025 as presented by Mrs. Wolfe. The motion passed unanimously (10-0).

Communications

Field Trip Requests

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

- Overnight trip by Sussex Central High School Football on July 27-29, 2025 to Salisbury, MD.
- Overnight trip by Sussex Central High School FFA on September 11-14, 2025 to Springfield, MA.
- Overnight trip by Sussex Central Wrestling on December 5-6, 2025 to Owings Mill, MD; December 20-21, 2025 to Newark, DE, December 13-14, 2025 to Millersville, PA, January 9-10, 2026 to Ocean City, MD, January 16-17, 2026 to Bel Air, MD.
- Overnight trip by Indian River High School FFA on September 11-14, 2025 to Springfield, MA.
- Overnight trip by Indian River High School FFA on October 24-25, 2025 to Camp Barnes, DE.
- Overnight trip by Indian River High School FFA on October 28 – November 2, 2025 to Indianapolis, IN.

Personnel Agenda for July 28, 2025

Mrs. Taylor, seconded by Mr. Neal, motioned to approve the Personnel Agenda for July 28, 2025 excluding item #40. The motion passed unanimously (10-0).

Mrs. Briggs, seconded by Mr. Neal, motioned to approve Personnel Agenda item #40 for July 28, 2025. For the motion: Mrs. Briggs, Mrs. Kline, Mr. Neal, Dr. Parsons, Mr. Peden, Mr. Steele, Mrs. Taylor, Mrs. West Werner, Mrs. Wright. The motion passed (9-0-1).
Abstained: Mr. Cathell

Personnel Addendum for July 28, 2025

Mr. Peden, seconded by Mr. Neal, motioned to approve the Personnel Addendum for July 28, 2025 excluding item #4. The motion passed unanimously (10-0).

No motion made for Personnel Addendum #4 for July 28, 2025.

Contractual Agenda for July 28, 2025

Mr. Cathell, seconded by Mrs. Taylor, motioned to approve the Personnel Contractual Agenda for July 28, 2025 as presented. The motion passed unanimously (10-0).

Notification of Retirements

Notification of retirements was presented to the Board.

Nutrition Service Managers Contract

Mrs. Wright, seconded by Mrs. Taylor, motioned to approve the Nutrition Services Managers Contract as presented. The motion passed (6-4-0).

For the motion: Mrs. Briggs, Mr. Cathell, Mrs. Kline, Mrs. West-Werner, Mrs. Taylor, Mrs. Wright

Against the motion: Mr. Neal, Mr. Peden, Dr. Parsons, Mr. Steele.

Nutrition Service Workers Contract

Mrs. West-Werner, seconded by Mrs. Kline, motioned to approve the nutrition Services Workers Contract as presented. The motion passed (8-2-0).

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

Against the motion: Mr. Neal, Mr. Peden

Public Comments

No comments.

Adjournment

Mr. Cathell, seconded by Mrs. West-Werner, motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 pm. The motion passed unanimously (10-0).

Respectfully Submitted,

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

Jay F. Owens, Jr.
Superintendent
Board of Education
Indian River School District

MLS/JFO:jmt