

INDIAN RIVER SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY, AUGUST 25, 2025
MILSSBORO MIDDLE SCHOOL AUDITORIUM
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, Mrs. Lisa Briggs, Mrs. Kelly Kline, Mr. Ivan Neal, Mr. Gerald Peden, Mr. Mark Steele, Mrs. Kim Taylor, Mrs. Anita West Werner, Mrs. Leolga Wright.

Board Member Absent: Dr. Michelle Parsons

Executive Session

Mr. Cathell, seconded by Mrs. West-Werner, motioned to go into Executive Session at 6:00 p.m. for the purpose of discussing personnel, negotiations, litigation. The motion passed unanimously (9-0).

Reconvene Regular Session at 7:26 p.m.

Approval of Agenda –August 25, 2025

Mrs. Taylor, seconded by Mr. Peden, moved to approve the agenda for August 25, 2025. The motion passed unanimously (9-0).

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Minutes

Board of Education Regular Meeting Minutes – July 28, 2025

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

Board of Education Executive Session Meeting Minutes – July 28, 2025

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

Board of Education Retreat Meeting Minutes – August 13, 2025

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

Board of Education Retreat Executive Session Meeting Minutes – August 13, 2025

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

Visitors and Staff in Attendance

Jay Owens, Renee Jerns, Celeste Bunting, Kelly Dorman, Melissa Whisted, Cathy Wolfe, Chris Parker, Jennifer Troublefield, Dan Mann, Joe Dooley, Blair Catlin Brown, Rick Radatovich, Vanessa Nocks Hagans, Shirley Shelton, Jerrilyn Holmes, Georgia Kelley, Heather Rose, Bennett Murray, Brad Cowen, Cassie Queen, Wendy Elliot Mears, Wanda Hopkins, Carl Krienen, Laura Walter.

Public Comments

- Wendy Mears, a 23 year educator and child advocate spoke to the board about her experiences with workplace harassment in the district.

New Business

School Choice Applications 2025-2026 (August 2025)

Mr. Cathell, seconded by Mrs. Briggs, motioned to accept 2025-2026 school choice applicants (August 2025) as presented by Dr. Owens. The motion passed unanimously (9-0).

2025-2026 Nutrition Services Meal Prices

Mrs. Taylor, seconded by Mrs. West-Werner, motioned to approve the 2025-2026 nutrition services meal prices as presented by Dr. Owens. The motion passed unanimously (9-0).

FY '26 Salary Scales for Constables, Investigators, Student Advisors

Mr. Cathell, seconded by Mr. Neal, motioned to table the FY '26 Salary Scales for constables, investigators, student advisors. The motion passed unanimously (9-0).

John M. Clayton Elementary Gaga Pit and Track Sign

Mrs. Wright, seconded by Mrs. Briggs, motioned to approve the John M. Clayton Elementary Gaga Pit and Track Sign as presented by Mr. Dooley. The motion passed unanimously (9-0).

Indian River High School Culinary Year Two Planning

Mr. Dooley shared with the Board the Indian River High School Culinary Year Two Planning updates and diagrams and potential cost of \$770,000.00 for informational purposes.

Certificate of Necessity Submission for Indian River High School CTE/Classroom Expansion

Mrs. Briggs, seconded by Mrs. Taylor, motioned to approve the certificate of necessity (CN) submission for Indian River High School CTE/Classroom Expansion for an approximate cost of 37 million dollars as presented by Mr. Dooley. The motion passed unanimously (9-0).

Sussex Central High School Exterior Signage

Mrs. Wright, seconded by Mrs. West-Werner, motioned to approve the re-bidding of the previously approved option #1 for Sussex Central High School Exterior Signage. The motion passed (7-2-0).

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

Sussex Central High School Change Order

Mr. Neal, seconded by Mrs. Wright, motioned to approve the Sussex Central High School Change Order in the amount of \$200,000.00 as presented by Mr. Dooley and Mr. Cowen. The motion passed unanimously (9-0).

Sussex Central High School Change Order Notifications

Mr. Neal, seconded by Mrs. Taylor, motioned to approve the 13 Sussex Central High School Change Orders as presented by Mr. Dooley and Mr. Cowen totaling \$262,348.66. The motion passed unanimously (9-0).

Old Business

Major Capital Planning

Dr. Owens shared with the Board the final construction updates at the new Sussex Central High School.

GW Carver Consent Order

Dr. Whisted shared with the board the most recent updates with the GW Carver Consent Order.

- Continuation of Community Advisory Board (CAB)
 - Meeting on October 23, 2025 (2024-2025 end of year data) @ SCHS
 - Meeting on February 12, 2026 (Quarter 1 and Quarter 2) @ Ennis
 - Meeting on May 21, 2026 (Quarter 3 data) @ Ennis
- BOE president must join a meeting annually
- Opportunity to give public comment to BOE, unrestricted time
 - Updates will be given after each CAB meeting to BOE by Dr. Whisted

Committee Reports

Buildings and Grounds

Mrs. Wright reviewed the minutes from the August 11, 2025 meeting.

Comprehensive School Safety

No report.

Finance

Mr. Peden reviewed minutes from the August 11, 2025 meeting.

Curriculum

No report.

DSBA Board of Directors

Mrs. Kline shared with the Board the next meeting is scheduled for September 3, 2025.

DSBA Legislative

Mrs. Briggs attended the August 9, 2025 meeting where former member Connie Pryor was recognized. The next meeting is scheduled in October.

Special Education Committee

No report.

Policy

Mrs. Taylor reviewed the minutes from the August 11, 2025 meeting.

Mr. Peden, seconded by Mr. Cathell, motioned to approve the following policy for a first and second reading: JE Attendance Policy. The motion passed unanimously (9-0).

Mr. Peden, seconded by Mr. Cathell, motioned to approve the following policies for second readings: KLA Complaint Procedures for Possible Policy Violations, JE Student Attendance, JG Discipline Policy. The motion passed unanimously (9-0).

IREA Representative

Ms. Blair Caitlin Brown spoke to the Board and welcomed everyone back into their school buildings. We are excited about the Kick-Off tomorrow. She shared that we all need to remember these three ideas: To be Mindful, Intentional and Active moving forward for the upcoming school year.

Superintendents Report

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

Financial Summaries for month ending July 31, 2025

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

Mrs. Taylor, seconded by Mrs. Briggs, motioned to accept the financial summaries for the month ending July 31, 2025. The motion passed unanimously (9-0).

Detail Information for month ending July 31, 2025

Mrs. Wright, seconded by Mrs. Briggs, motioned to approve the Detail Information for the month ending July 31, 2025 as presented by Mrs. Wolfe. The motion passed unanimously (9-0).

Major Capital Improvements for month ending July 31, 2025

Mr. Peden, seconded by Mrs. Kline, motioned to approve the Major Capital Improvements for the month ending July 31, 2025 as presented by Mrs. Wolfe. The motion passed unanimously (9-0).

Minor Capital Improvements for month ending July 31, 2025

Mrs. Taylor, seconded by Mrs. Kline, motioned to approve the Minor Capital Improvements for the month ending July 31, 2025 as presented by Mrs. Wolfe. The motion passed unanimously (9-0).

Financial Position Report

Mrs. Kline, seconded by Mrs. Briggs, motioned to approve the financial report as presented by Mrs. Wolfe. The motion passed unanimously (9-0).

Financial Position Report

as of July 1, 2025

Forecast Period: Q1-2025

District: Indian River

Description	Actual Unencumbered	Encumbered	Projected Income 7/1 to 10/15	Projected Available Income through 10/15	Projected Salary 7/1 to 10/15	Projected Non-Salary 7/1 to 10/15	Projected Expenditures through 10/15	Projected Available Balance 10/15	Projected 1 month Local Payroll
Local Expenses	\$14,300,841.24	\$255,732.43	\$10,616,875.97	\$25,173,449.64	\$9,218,116.00	\$3,219,098.20	\$12,437,214.20	\$12,736,235.44	\$3,335,000.00
Div II	\$2,314,560.82	\$425,357.28	\$0.00	\$2,739,918.10	\$0.00	\$2,139,824.84	\$2,139,824.84	\$600,093.26	
Div III	\$1,085,619.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,085,619.00	\$1,085,619.00	\$0.00	\$1,085,619.00	\$0.00	
Cash Option	\$798,321.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$798,321.00	\$0.00	\$288,135.00	\$288,135.00	\$510,186.00	
Other	\$1,956,066.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,956,066.00	\$1,956,066.00	\$0.00	\$1,956,066.00	\$0.00	
Total Discretionary Fund Revenue	\$20,455,408.06	\$681,089.71	\$10,616,875.97	\$31,753,373.74	\$12,259,801.00	\$5,647,058.04	\$17,906,859.04	\$13,846,514.70	

Personnel Agenda for August 25, 2025

Mr. Neal, seconded by Mrs. Wright, motioned to approve the Personnel Agenda for August 25, 2025 excluding item #16. The motion passed unanimously (9-0).

Mr. Peden, seconded by Mr. Neal, motioned to approve Personnel Agenda item #16 for August 25, 2025. The motion failed (4-5-0).

For the motion: Mrs. Briggs, Mrs. Kline, Mr. Neal, Mr. Peden.

Against the motion: Mr. Cathell, Mr. Steele, Mrs. Taylor, Mrs. West Werner, Mrs. Wright.

Personnel Addendum for August 25, 2025

Mr. Peden, seconded by Mrs. Taylor, motioned to approve the Personnel Addendum for August 25, 2025 as presented. The motion passed unanimously (9-0).

Personnel Addendum II for August 25, 2025

Mr. Peden, seconded by Mrs. Kline, motioned to approve the Personnel Addendum II for August 25, 2025 excluding items #43 and #58. The motion passed unanimously (9-0).

Mr. Cathell, seconded by Mrs. Taylor, motioned to approve Personnel Addendum II item #43 for August 25, 2025. The motion passed (8-0-1).

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

Abstained: Mr. Steele.

Mrs. Taylor, seconded by Mrs. West-Werner, motioned to approve Personnel Addendum II #58 for August 25, 2025. The motion passed (8-0-1).

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

Abstained: Mr. Cathell.

Contractual Agenda for August 25, 2025

Mr. Cathell, seconded by Mrs. Taylor, motioned to approve the Personnel Contractual Agenda for August 25, 2025 as presented. The motion passed unanimously (9-0).

Notification of Retirements

Notification of retirements was presented to the Board.

Public Comments

No comments.

Adjournment

Mrs. Taylor, seconded by Mrs. West-Werner, motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 pm. The motion passed unanimously (9-0).

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