

INDIAN RIVER SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING  
MONDAY, JANUARY 26, 2026  
VIRTUALLY – ZOOM MEETING

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

Executive Session

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

Reconvene Regular Session at 7:00 p.m.

Roll Call

Board Members present: Mrs. Lisa H. Briggs, Mr. Derek Cathell, Mr. Ivan Neal, Dr. Michelle Parsons, Mr. Gerald Peden, Mr. Mark Steele, Mrs. Kim Taylor, Mrs. Anita West-Werner, Mrs. Leolga Wright.  
Board Member Absent: Kelly Kline.

Approval of Agenda – January 26, 2026

Mrs. Wright, seconded by Mrs. Briggs, motioned to approve the agenda for January 26, 2026. The motion passed unanimously (9-0).

Pledge of Allegiance

Student Government

Payton Richie, Sussex Central High School student representative shared with the Board events, activities occurring at Sussex Central High School.

Approval of Minutes

Board of Education Meeting Minutes – December 15, 2025

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

Board of Education Executive Session Meeting Minutes – December 15, 2025

Ms. Taylor, seconded by Mrs. Briggs, 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, Chris Parker, Jennifer Troublefield, Dan Mann, Joe Dooley, Blair Catlin Brown, Brad Cowen, Christy Kerr, David Maull.

Public Comments

No comments.

New Business

School Choice Applications 2025-2026 (January 2026)

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

### Wellness Centers

Mr. Neal, seconded by Ms. Taylor, motioned to approve the continued partnership with Beebe Healthcare as the healthcare provider for the Wellness Centers at both Indian River High School and Sussex Central High School as presented by Dr. Su Chafin, LPCMH Beebe Healthcare School-Based Health. It was noted, after a request from Dr. Parsons, that Beebe can provide monthly data on visits. The motion passed unanimously (9-0).

### Out of State District Employee- School Choice

Mr. Peden, seconded by Mr. Cathell, motioned to approve the school choice request for the out of state district employee as presented by Dr. Owens. The motion passed unanimously (9-0).

### Phillip C. Showell Elementary School Sign Replacement

Mrs. Wright, seconded by Dr. Parsons, motioned to approve the Phillip C. Showell Elementary sign replacement request in the amount of \$28,950 which will be paid for by Phillip C. Showell PTO. The motion passed unanimously (9-0).

### Sussex Central High School Remaining Furniture, Fixtures, and Equipment (FFE)

Mrs. Briggs, seconded by Ms. Taylor, motioned to approve the remaining furniture, fixtures, and equipment items in the amount of \$243,263.05 as presented by Mr. Dooley. The motion passed unanimously (9-0).

### Sussex Central High School Change Order Notifications

Mr. Neal, seconded by Ms. Taylor, motioned to approve the 7 Sussex Central High School Change Orders as presented by Mr. Dooley totaling \$56,123.62 with a credit of \$2,989.00. The motion passed (9-0).

### Old Business

#### Major Capital Planning

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

### Committee Reports

#### Buildings and Grounds

Mrs. Wright reviewed the minutes from the January 12, 2026 meeting.

#### Comprehensive School Safety

Mr. Cathell shared that a lockdown occurred at one of our schools during afternoon dismissal. Funds received from the JUUL lawsuit could be used in educating the students on the dangers of vaping. Consideration of adding a weapons detection policy.

### Finance

Mr. Peden reviewed minutes from the January 12, 2026 meeting.

### Curriculum

Mr. Neal shared with the Board the minutes from the January 12, 2026.

### DSBA Board of Directors

No report.

### DSBA Legislative

Mrs. Briggs shared with the Board the next DSBA Legislative meeting will occur on February 4, 2026.

### Special Education Committee

No report.

### Policy

Taylor reviewed the minutes from the January 12, 2026 meeting.

Mrs. Taylor shared the following policies for first readings: DID Inventory and Fixed Asset, EEA.1 School Bus Driver and School Bus Aide Salary Increases, GCBE.1 Dock Pay, JO Student Records.

Dr. Parsons, seconded by Mr. Peden, motioned to approve the following polices for second readings: BCB Board Officers, BHA New Board Member Orientation, DI Internal Controls for Financial Accounting, GDG Support Staff Probation, J Athletic Policy, KBG Social Media Monitoring.

The motion passed unanimously (9-0).

### IREA Representative

Ms. Blair Caitlin Brown shared with the board House Bill 94. This bill highlights restricting law enforcement from cooperating with federal agencies conducting immigration enforcement activities at schools or churches without permission from the attorney general.

### Superintendents Report

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

### District Calendar Change

No action was taken to change the March 18, 2026 In Person Professional Learning Day to a Regular School Day.

### Financial Summaries for month ending December 31, 2025

Mrs. Briggs, seconded by Mrs. West-Werner, motioned to accept the financial summaries for the month ending December 31, 2025 as presented by Mr. Parker. The motion passed unanimously (9-0).

### Detail Information for month ending December 15, 2025

Dr. Parsons, seconded by Mr. Peden, motioned to approve the Detail Information for the month ending December 15, 2025 as presented by Mr. Parker. The motion passed unanimously (9-0).

### Major Capital Improvements for month ending December 15, 2025

Mr. Peden, seconded by Mr. Cathell, motioned to approve the Major Capital Improvements for the month ending December 15, 2025 as presented by Mr. Parker. The motion passed unanimously (9-0).

### Minor Capital Improvements for month ending December 15, 2025

Ms. Taylor, seconded by Mrs. Briggs, motioned to approve the Minor Capital Improvements for the month ending December 15, 2025 as presented by Mr. Parker. The motion passed unanimously (9-0).

### FY 2026 Howard T. Ennis Final Budget

Mr. Peden, seconded by Mrs. Briggs, motioned to approve the FY 2026 Howard T. Ennis Final budget for \$20.7M as presented by Mr. Parker. The motion passed unanimously (9-0).

### FY 2026 Indian River School District Final Budget

Mr. Peden, seconded by Mrs. Taylor, motioned to approve the FY 2026 Indian River School District Final budget for \$239.5M as presented by Mr. Parker. The motion passed unanimously (9-0).

### Financial Position Report

Forecast Period: Q3-2025

Description	Actual Unencumbered	Encumbered	Projected Income 1/1 to 3/31	Projected Available Income through 3/31	Projected Salary 1/1 to 3/31	Projected Non-Salary 1/1 to 3/31	Projected Expenditures 1/1 to 3/31	Projected Available Balance 3/31	Revenue Projection 4/1 to 6/30	Salary Projection 4/1 to 6/30	Non-Salary Projection 4/1 to 6/30	Projected Balance on 6/30	Projected 1 month Local Payroll
Local Expenses	\$38,586,746.81	\$1,061,931.53	\$1,250,000.00	\$40,898,678.34	\$11,163,980.00	\$931,460.08	\$12,095,440.08	\$28,803,238.26	\$943,000.00	\$13,241,310.00	\$1,553,352.80	\$14,951,575.46	\$3,591,139.00
Div II	\$2,022,114.88	\$639,403.53	\$0.00	\$2,661,518.41	\$0.00	\$1,658,077.76	\$1,658,077.76	\$1,003,440.65	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,003,440.65	\$0.00	
Div III	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Cash Option	\$798,321.00	\$0.00	(\$798,321.00)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Other	\$167,562.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$167,562.00	\$167,562.00	\$0.00	\$167,562.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
<b>Total Discretionary Fund Revenue</b>	<b>\$41,574,744.69</b>	<b>\$1,701,335.06</b>	<b>\$451,679.00</b>	<b>\$43,727,758.75</b>	<b>\$11,331,542.00</b>	<b>\$2,589,537.84</b>	<b>\$13,921,079.84</b>	<b>\$29,806,678.91</b>	<b>\$943,000.00</b>	<b>\$13,241,310.00</b>	<b>\$2,556,793.45</b>	<b>\$14,951,575.46</b>	

Mrs. Wright, seconded by Ms. Taylor, motioned to approve the Financial Position Report as presented by Mr. Parker. The motion passed unanimously (9-0).

### Field Trip Requests

Dr. Parsons, seconded by Mr. Cathell, motioned to approve the following field trips as presented by Dr. Owens. The motion passed unanimously (9-0).

- Overnight trip by Indian River High School FFA on March 25-26, 2026 to Newark, DE.
- Overnight trip by Selbyville Middle School TSA Team on June 22-26, 2026 to Washington, DC.

- Overnight trip by Selbyville Middle School Robotics Team on April 25-27, 2026 to St. Louis, MS.

Personnel Agenda for January 26, 2026

Mrs. Briggs, seconded by Ms. Taylor, motioned to approve the Personnel Agenda for January 26, 2026 as presented by Mrs. Bunting. The motion passed unanimously (9-0).

Personnel Addendum for January 26, 2026

Mr. Cathell, seconded by Dr. Parsons, motioned to approve the Personnel Addendum for January 26, 2026 as presented by Mrs. Bunting. The motion passed unanimously (9-0).

Contractual Agenda for January 26, 2026

Ms. Taylor, seconded by Dr. Parsons, motioned to approve the Personnel Addendum for January 26, 2026 as presented by Mrs. Bunting. The motion passed unanimously (9-0).

Notification of Retirements

Notification of retirements were presented to the Board. Mr. Steele thanked retirees for their hard work and dedication.

Public Comments

Mr. Steele thanked Dr. Owens, Mr. Dooley, the custodial staff and all those who worked on clearing the snow and ice on the school grounds.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:58 pm.

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