

INDIAN RIVER SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION SPECIAL MEETING
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2026
MILLSBORO MIDDLE SCHOOL

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, Dr. Michelle Parsons, Mr. Gerald Peden, Mr. Mark Steele, Mrs. Kim Taylor, Mrs. Leolga Wright.

Board Members Absent: Mr. Derek Cathell, Mrs. Kelly Kline, Mr. Ivan Neal, Mrs. Anita West-Werner.

Executive Session

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

Reconvene Regular Session at 7:15 p.m.

Approval of Agenda – February 26, 2026

Ms. Taylor, seconded by Mrs. Wright, motioned to approve the agenda for February 26, 2026. The motion passed unanimously (6-0).

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Minutes

Board of Education Meeting Minutes – January 26, 2026

Mrs. Briggs, seconded by Mr. Peden, motioned to approve the minutes as submitted. The motion passed unanimously (6-0).

Board of Education Executive Session Meeting Minutes – January 26, 2026

Mrs. Briggs, seconded by Mr. Peden, motioned to approve the minutes as submitted. The motion passed unanimously (6-0).

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, David Maull.

Public Comments

Blair Caitlin Brown spoke to the Board regarding the Public Education Funding meeting scheduled for March 16, 2026 from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm via ZOOM. Discussion around funding of public schools in Delaware.

New Business

School Choice Applications 2025-2026 (February 2026)

Dr. Parsons, seconded by Ms. Taylor, motioned to accept 2025-2026 school choice applicants (February 2026) as presented by Dr. Owens. The motion passed unanimously (6-0).

School Choice Applications 2026-2027 (February 2026)

Mr. Peden, seconded by Mrs. Briggs, motioned to accept 2026-2027 school choice applicants (February 2026) as presented by Dr. Owens. The motion passed unanimously (6-0).

Indian River High School Track Uniforms

Ms. Taylor, seconded by Dr. Parsons, motioned to approve the Indian River High School Track Uniforms as presented by Dr. Owens. The motion passed unanimously (6-0).

Millsboro Middle School Building Use - YMCA

Mrs. Wright, seconded by Dr. Parsons, motioned to proceed with the partnership with the YMCA and to direct Dr. Owens as the district negotiator for the partnership. The motion passed unanimously (6-0).

District Calendar Change

Mrs. Wright, seconded by Ms. Taylor, motioned to approve the following district calendar changes as presented by Dr. Owens. The motion passed unanimously (6-0).

- Change the Southern DE Schools of the Arts Spring Dance Performance from March 26, 2026 to June 3, 2026.
- Change the April 18th IRSD Day to a future date to be determined.

Financial Summaries for month ending January 31, 2026

Mrs. Briggs, seconded by Dr. Parsons, motioned to accept the financial summaries for the month ending January 31, 2026 as presented by Mr. Parker. The motion passed unanimously (6-0).

Detail Information for month ending January 31, 2026

Ms. Taylor, seconded by Mr. Peden, motioned to approve the Detail Information for the month ending January 31, 2026 as presented by Mr. Parker. The motion passed unanimously (6-0).

Major Capital Improvements for month ending January 31, 2026

Dr. Parsons, seconded by Mr. Peden, motioned to approve the Major Capital Improvements for the month ending January 31, 2026 as presented by Mr. Parker. The motion passed unanimously (6-0).

Minor Capital Improvements for month ending January 31, 2026

Ms. Taylor, seconded by Mr. Peden, motioned to approve the Minor Capital Improvements for the month ending January 31, 2026 as presented by Mr. Parker. The motion passed unanimously (6-0).

Field Trip Requests

Mrs. Briggs, seconded by Mr. Peden, motioned to approve the following field trips as presented by Dr. Owens. The motion passed unanimously (6-0).

- Overnight trip by Sussex Central High School Youth in Government Club on March 27-30, 2026 to Dover, DE.
- Overnight trip by Sussex Central High School JROTC on April 16-19, 2026 to Fort Knox, KY.
- Overnight trip by Sussex Central High School Animal Science on March 20-22, 2026 to Harrisburg, PA.

Personnel Agenda for February 26, 2026

Ms. Taylor, seconded by Mr. Peden, motioned to approve the Personnel Agenda for February 26, 2026 as presented by Mrs. Bunting. The motion passed unanimously (6-0).

Personnel Addendum for February 26, 2026

Mr. Peden, seconded by Mrs. Briggs, motioned to approve the Personnel Addendum for February 26, 2026 as presented by Mrs. Bunting. The motion passed unanimously (6-0).

Contractual Agenda for February 26, 2026

Mr. Peden, seconded by Ms. Taylor, motioned to approve the Personnel Addendum for February 26, 2026 as presented by Mrs. Bunting. The motion passed unanimously (6-0).

Notification of Retirements

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

Public Comments

No Comments.

Adjournment

Mrs. Briggs, seconded by Dr. Parsons, motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 pm. The motion passed unanimously (6-0).

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