



Kelly DiBenedetto  
Chairperson, School Board  
1200 E. 42<sup>nd</sup> Street  
Indianapolis, IN 46205

Indiana School for the Deaf  
School Board Meeting

October 17, 2017  
5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Alumni Building, Media Center

Minutes

**Voting Members Absent:**

**Non-Voting Members Absent:**

P. J. McGrew

**Voting Members Present:**

Kelly DiBenedetto, Chairperson  
Dr. Ray Furner  
Andy Leffler  
Terri Miller  
Ann Reifel, Vice Chairperson  
Amy Waggoner  
Lucy Witte

**Non-Voting Members Present:**

Rep. Ed Clere  
Traci Tetrick

**ISD Staff:**

Superintendent Dr. Geeslin

- I. **Call to Order:** Chairperson DiBenedetto convened the meeting at 5:26 p.m., noting that requirements for a quorum were met.
- II. **Approval of minutes:** Motion by Ms. Witte, second by Ms. Reifel, to accept the September 19, 2017 minutes as printed. Motion passed.
- III. **Chairperson's Remarks:** Chairperson DiBenedetto reminded the board of the importance of conducting the meeting in a bilingual / bicultural format. Only one person will communicate at a time to ensure that all communities are fully informed of today's proceedings. Chairperson DiBenedetto thanked the school administration for the great tour today. The Board was impressed how the students stayed on task while visitors were in the classrooms and was encouraged by the things they saw during the visit.

The Indiana School for the Deaf is a bilingual educational environment where students belong, excel and thrive academically and socially.

#### **IV. Superintendent's Report:**

- The new business items on today's agenda (ISD's organizational chart and administration job responsibilities) will be postponed to the November meeting. Also on the November agenda will be ISD's in-depth financial report (January agenda) presented by Jeremy Hawk.
- Board members will be asked at the November meeting to vote on 2 new ISD policies (background checks and nutrition program).
- ISD was recognized by the Indiana Chapter Against Domestic Violence for its anti-bullying efforts.

##### **A. 1. Student Life Division – Matthew Krueger, Student Life Director**

- Division report – no questions from the Board
  1. Due to the pay increase for residential mentors it has made a big difference in ISD's ability fill vacancies quicker.
  2. The new furniture is still in the bidding process with the Ind. Department of Administration. We are hoping for a quick turnaround.
  3. Hot boxes have been installed and we have seen an improvement with this issue.
  4. The new flooring in the pod areas is moving forward. Students hopefully will be back in those pods after winter break.
  5. ISD was a recipient of the Carl Ripkin, Sr. Foundation grant which focuses on physical fitness and nutrition. The foundation provided the Student Life kitchen with new cabinets, new appliances, new small kitchen appliances and items for the food pantry. The KRC gym was also upgraded with a free movement work out room. United Health Care will be reaching out to ISD to upgrade some fitness areas in Caskey gym.

##### **2. Operations Division Report – Carl Brown, Chief Operating Officer**

- Division report – no questions from the Board
  1. On September 28 Eli Lilly visited ISD as part of their global service day project. After ISD performed a background check the volunteers (using their own tools) put down new mulch around trees and on the playground area. They are interested in coming back next year.

##### **3. Financial Report – Jeremy Hawk, Chief Financial Officer**

- Division report – no questions from the Board

##### **4. Education Report – Kim Kause, Director of Instruction**

- Division report: no questions from the Board

#### **V. Old Business: None**

#### **VI. New Business:**

##### **A. Education Division - Kim Kause**

- 1) Dr. Debbie Sullivan was introduced to the Board. Dr. Sullivan provided her background information and how she became involved with ISD's curriculum mapping process. She shared being honored to partner with ISD and continues to see improvement at ISD.

B. Education Presentation - Kim Kause

a. Grade Level Data

- 1) NWEA, IStep, IRead any other progress monitoring data/tools - provided detailed information to the Board

a. IStep

- i. ISD students are showing growth in math from Fall to Spring
- ii. ISD shows an increase of students who showed growth between 2016 and 2017

- b. IRead – ISD’s numbers should be higher, which is why FIT (learning enrichment/intervention) was established to bring the numbers up. FIT is based on the students’ learning ability and skills, not age or grade.

The statewide the passing rate is 40%, and for special education 17%. ISD falls within the passing percentage rate.

Q. How many students passed last year but did not pass this year

A. Will provide information at the next meeting.

- 2) Progress monitoring tools for K-2 and High School – provided detailed information to the Board
- 3) Specific update on curriculum mapping - provided detailed information to the Board
- 4) Graduation rate/diploma type - provided detailed information to the Board
- 5) Demographics – provided breakdown of current and new student enrollment.

VII. **Public comments:** None

VIII. **Board comments:**

1. Ms. Tetrick – would like a copy of the information from Kim Kause’s presentation to share with the Department of Education.
2. Rep Clere – During Ms. Kause’s presentation it was shared that students are arriving at ISD unprepared and without the language necessary to succeed by the time they are seniors. The State of Indiana and ISD owe it to that child and their family to try to continue to provide some sort of a structure for success (adult high school?). There could be/are pilots, developing partnerships and limited funding for this endeavor. Rep. Clere would like to be part of this discussion and suggested inviting Senator Cruz, Chair of the Senate Education Committee, and other legislators to find available resources to prevent students from falling through the cracks. Chairperson DiBenedetto will establish a sub-committee that will include Rep. Clere, ISD staff, and Ms. Tetrick.
  - a. Supt. Geeslin – ISD can serve 500+ students but some parents are reluctant to send their children far from home, especially the younger ones. Another avenue to explore would be establishing satellite schools which would catch those falling through the cracks. Chairperson DiBenedetto asked Supt. Geeslin to research this option through CEASD or other schools for the deaf that have satellite schools and report back to the Board.
3. Ms. Witte – Provided an update regarding the status of Simpson Hall. The ad hoc committee met this week and will meet again on November 14, hopefully with the architect firm.

IX. **Next meeting:** November 14, 2017 at 5:00p.m. in the Alumni Building, Media Center

- X. Adjournment:** Motion by Chairperson Ms. DiBenedetto, second by Vice-Chairperson Ms. Reifel to adjourn, Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:06 p.m.