



Kelly DiBenedetto
Chairperson
School Board
1200 E. 42nd Street
Indianapolis, IN 46205

Indiana School for the Deaf
School Board Meeting

September 24, 2019
5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Alumni Building, Media Center

Minutes

Voting Members Absent:

Non-Voting Members Absent:

P. J. McGrew
Rep. Ed Clere

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:

Patrick Rhodes

ISD Staff:

Superintendent Dr. Geeslin

- I. **Call to Order:** Chairperson Di Benedetto convened the meeting at 5:00 p.m., noting that a quorum was met.
- II. **Approval of minutes:** Motion by Ms. Witte, second by Dr. Furner to accept the May 21, 2019 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 and are asked to raise their hand to be recognized before speaking to ensure that all communities are fully informed of today's proceedings. Additional comments will be shared at the end of the meeting.
- IV. **Superintendent report:**
 - Staff recognition:

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

- Supt. Geeslin introduced/recognized Debbie Fetzer Middle School science teacher. Ms. Fetzer was one of four deaf teachers invited to attend the National Geographic Education Summit in Washington, DC and share best practices with other attendees.
- Kimberly Kause introduced/recognized Andy Alka, Middle/High School Principal; Dawn Crock, Special Needs Coordinator; Sandra Wascher, Elementary Principal; and Marie Kellam-White, Curriculum Coordinator. They serve as members of the Education Management Team and were recognized for their hard work, investment in ISD and teachers, providing a smooth transition for staff, maintaining a positive morale and their “calm during the storm”.
- School Update:
 - Matt Krueger, Student Life Director, is unable to attend tonight’s meeting. Matt is attending the CEASD Leadership Training this week at the American School for the Deaf. Supt. Geeslin provided leadership training at the first cohort last week.
 - Athletic Director update: Interviewed two candidates, determined they were not a good fit for ISD. Matt Krueger will announce, at a later date, the plan for the next round of interviews.
 - Supt. Geeslin developed and distributed a vlog at the beginning of the new school year welcoming staff back to ISD. The vlog also mentioned staff and parents leaving ISD.
 - Jeremy Hawk continues to provide excellent leadership over our Operations Division.
 - ISD is researching/developing an improved safety plan for students. ISD reached out to a parent-based company, I Love You Guys, in Colorado to see if their program can be “deaf friendly” and used at ISD (and other deaf schools). ISD hopes to have an improved plan by the beginning of next school year (July).
 - Events at ISD:
 1. 175th celebration reunion in June – over 200 registered attendees. Supt. Geeslin opened the buried time capsule and shared the contents (mostly letters, graduation programs and curriculum material) with the audience.
 2. Supt. Geeslin and 3 ISD students attended the National Black Deaf Advocates Conference in Oakland, CA in July. The students attended the Youth Empowerment Summit. They were most appreciative and enjoyed the experience.
 3. Supt. Geeslin attended the Office of Special Education Programs national conference. It was a very enlightening, enriching and humbling experience.
 4. The first Deaf Heritage Day at Conner Prairie will be Saturday, September 28th. An ISD student (Nia Voss) and ISD Social Studies teacher (Gabriel Paulone) will be in character explain deaf education during the 1840’s.
 5. A representative from Indiana Disability Rights visited ISD on September 20 to register students to vote
 6. Kari Cook will be the 2020 ISD commencement speaker. She is an activist within the black deaf community and is well respected.
 7. ISD will host 3 open forums for ISD staff and 3 open forums for PTCO families. Dates will be shared with the Board.
 8. Statewide Town Hall meetings are being discussed with other Deaf organizations.
 - Supt. Geeslin requested that the October Board meeting focus on ISD’s budget and Student Life Division.

- V. **Old Business:** Neola policy subcommittee – Superintendent Geeslin
- Cathy Covey has been trained on BoardDocs and can make all revisions to Neola policies. Supt. Geeslin will meet with Ms. Witte and Ms. Miller to review the new Neola policies revisions.

VI. **New Business:**

- a. ISD Social Media – Jennifer Friede, Information Specialist – Supt. Geeslin introduced Jennifer to the Board members. He also commended Ms. Friede on the outstanding job she is doing with ISD's social media (Face Book, Twitter, Instagram) accounts. ISD has over 10,000 followers (more than any other deaf school). Jennifer also revived the Deaf Hoosiers magazine, which is now on electronic media.
- b. Education Division update and data – Kim Kause, Director of Instruction
 - Staff
 - Education Division lost 20 staff members during the 2018-2019 school year. This was a big impact on ISD, but we got through it. Some teachers were reassigned to different grades. Most of them took it very well.
 - Currently sharing the CDHHE psychologist until ISD hires one
 - Will fill Guidance Counselor position before the 2020-2021 school year
 - Teachers received their pay for performance raises. The base pay for teachers has been increased to \$42,000. Teachers received pay raises bringing them up to the base pay. Teachers earning more than the base pay will also receive a percentage increase soon.
 - Enrollment
 - Current enrollment: 327
 - 25 new students, mostly in Elementary grades. All new students are assigned student buddies in each class.
 - The majority of ISD students have 2 or more exceptionalities
 - ISD tracks students, especially monitoring those who are not at grade level, to ensure progress
 - Achievement Data
 - No new assessments used this year. ISTAR is now IAM, ISTEP is now ILEARN.
 - ISD continues to monitor growth (measured by ISD as an increase in points). NWA gives a predicted growth (often 3 points).
 - ISD is not held accountable for Results Driven Accountability but received high scores for compliancy (timely reporting, LRE's, timely grants, etc.).
 - Low ISTEP scores at ISD may be the result of lack of accommodations. This was expressed at the ICASE Central Roundtable meeting recently. It was reported that only 10% of students with an IEP met proficiency which indicates this was also a statewide issue. ISD staff met with IDOE (thank you Patrick) to share the ISTEP testing concerns. It was a positive meeting and ISD is looking forward to the Spring testing.
 - School Improvement Plan
 - Shared the goals for 2019-2020. Will go into more depth at the January meeting.
 - Ms. Witte suggested that the goals be written as smart goals with measurements. Ms. Miller would like to see the Social Emotional Learning (SEL) goals (which are difficult to measure) also have measurements.

- Media Center
 - AdvancEd 2017-2018 accreditation: Recommendation that more books were needed and to be more visible. The Media Center received \$15,000, from the PTCO Gala, to redesign the Media Center. New furniture and shelves were also purchased.
- General Information
 - Interpreters will host a conference/retreat for staff interpreters that work at deaf schools.
 - Principal Alka will host the Principal Roundtable Conference during the Clerc Classic in January.
 - CEASD accreditation site visit is scheduled for March 1-4, 2019. ISD Board members will be involved in the accreditation process.

VII. Public comments: None

VIII. Board comments:

- Ms. Witte – Commended Kim Kause on the amount and quality of data provided to the Board.
- Ms. Miller – Appreciate the hard work and persistence of ISD finding good staff which in turns provided students the ability to excel.
- Mr. Leffler – Applauded the hard work of ISD staff. While at Gallaudet University last month, it was also mentioned to Mr. Leffler that ISD was doing good things.

IX. Next meeting: October 15, 2019 at 5:00 p.m. in the Alumni Building, Media Center

X. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned by Chairperson DiBenedetto at 6:36 p.m.