



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

Indiana School for the Deaf
School Board Meeting

April 17, 2018
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
Patrick Rhodes for Traci Tetrick

ISD Staff:

Superintendent Dr. Geeslin

- I. **Call to Order:** Chairperson DiBenedetto convened the meeting at 4:59 p.m., noting that a quorum was met.
- II. **Approval of minutes:** Motion by Dr. Furner, second by Ms. Witte to accept the March 20, 2018 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.
 - A. Commended ISD for the many and wonderful events happening at ISD on social media.
 - B. Reminded the Board to attend the 2018 commencement ceremony on Friday, June 8 at 12:30pm. A reminder will be sent to the Board.
 - C. The Simpson Hall work group will reconvene soon to discuss the RFI findings with the Department of Administration.

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

IV. Superintendent's Report:

- Announced that the ISD Academic Bowl team won another National championship (2 years in a row). The team and coaches will be introduced at the May meeting.
- Will begin the search for a new COO in May.
- Introduced Jennifer Friede, ISD's Information Specialist, who keeps ISD's social media sites and website current.
- ISD's spring play is the "Wizard of Oz" and encouraged the Board to attend one of the shows.
- ISD will celebrate 175 years with a kick off in August with ISD students and scheduled monthly events throughout the year with the deaf community.
 - September 28 two buildings will be rededicated: Alumni Hall to Willard Hall and Willard Hall will be renamed Simms Hall in honor of ISD alumnus Laurene Simms.
 - September 29 will be the 5K walk/run on ISD's campus
 - June 21 & 22 will be the closing reunion of all alumni and guests.
 - All events will be posted on ISD's event calendar, the 175th website (www.175isd.com) and via the Indiana Association of the Deaf newsletter (IDN 500).
 - State funds will not be used for the celebration.

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

- Division report – no questions from the Board
- Recognized ISD wrestling team (students and staff) who were named National Deaf Interscholastic Athletic Association champions.
- Introduced new Director of Nursing Services, Paula LaMonaca.

2. Operations Division Report – Jeremy Hawk, Interim Chief Operating Officer

- Division report – no questions from the Board
- Operations Division staff have been structured to continue operations as normal and they share any issues/concerns.

3. Financial Report – Jeremy Hawk, Chief Financial Officer

- Division report – no questions from the Board.
 1. ISD continues to be on track for this fiscal year.

Q. What is the status of the dorm furniture purchase?

A. The responses to the original furniture RFP were unsatisfactory. We have since reconsidered our proposal, removing the required bed bug deterrent strips. This will make purchasing pod "living room" furniture from a state QPA easier to order and quicker to receive. We will then research purchasing bed room furniture, hopefully from a QPA. Our maintenance staff will work with the state's pest control vendor to explore bed bug options.

Q. There is a gap between the budget and actual numbers. Will funds be moved to correct this?

A. Any gaps will be corrected (personal contingency funds) at the end of the fiscal year.

4. Education Report – Kim Kause, Director of Instruction

- Division report: no questions from the Board

1. ISTEP testing have started. NWEA testing will be in May. Testing updates will be completed next year.
- Q. Do we have IREAD or ISTEP results yet?
- A. ISD received the IREAD3 results in March. 10 students took the test, 2 passed. ISD should receive ISTEP results this Summer.

V. Old Business:

- A. Student suicide awareness and prevention – discussion/vote tabled until the sub-committee meets
- B. Use of seclusion and restraint with students – discussion/vote tabled until the sub-committee meets

VI. New Business:

- A. Action Plan (School Improvement Plan) Update – Kim Kause, Director of Instruction Provided an update on ISD’s Transition Plan. The goal is for each student to leave ISD with a clean plan in place. Jobs for America’s Graduates (JAG) is a big component of creating a transition plan and is very beneficial for the students’ overall transition. JAG is a new program (began this year) and is a required course. Students are not receiving the same financial assistance from VR as in the past and JAG has become important for our students’ success after leaving ISD. There are statewide JAG specialists that can provide assistance when students return to their home towns. The JAG specialist position is funded by the JAG program and not by ISD.
- B. Communication: Events on Campus – Superintendent Geeslin
 - Jennifer Friede, Information Specialist, posts ISD events on social media (Face Book, Twitter and Instagram), and ISD’s website (master calendar). Events on the front page of ISD’s website are time based. ISD also shares events with parents via Skyward. Events are also shared with the deaf community via the Indiana Association of the Deaf’s newsletter (IDN 500), which is published bi-weekly.

VII. Public comments: None

VIII. Board comments: None

IX. Next meeting: May 15, 2018 at 5:00 p.m. in the Alumni Building, Media Center

X. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned by Chairperson DiBenedetto at 5:48 p.m.