



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

Indiana School for the Deaf
School Board Meeting

February 19, 2019
5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Alumni Building, Media Center

Minutes

Voting Members Absent:
Ann Reifel, Vice-Chairperson

Non-Voting Members Absent:
Rep. Ed Clere
P. J. McGrew

Voting Members Present:
Kelly DiBenedetto, Chairperson
Dr. Ray Furner
Andy Leffler
Terri Miller
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 Dr. Furner, second by Chairperson DiBenedetto to accept the 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:**
 1. Current legislature affecting ISD:
 - a. HB1484 (LEADK) passed into the Senate

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

- b. HB1443 (study of both schools (ISD & ISBVI) passed into the Senate. Supt. Geeslin and Naomi Horton (Hands & Voices) will schedule a meeting with Rep. Brown and/or Rep. Mishler to discuss HB1443 and discuss recommended amendments.
2. Results Driven Accountability (RDA) – attended a workshop provided by the Department of Education (DOE) which provided more information about RDA. ISD will have conversations with DOE to make sure everyone is on the same page. ISD is concerned that the local school corporation may incorporate RDA with the student's LRE. ISD will continue to learn more about RDA and the effect on ISD students.
 - Q. Does ISD receive an RDA matrix score based on ISD students?
 - A. No, RDA is focused on public schools. The only score ISD receives is in IREAD.
3. Student/staff training:
 - a. Advocacy & Education Summit (March 25-28) – 3 students along with Malcolm Peters (High School Social Studies teacher) and Supt. Geeslin will travel to Washington, DC to meet with Indiana Senators and Representatives to discuss the Alice Cogswell Act and Sullivan Macy Act. The students will also visit Gallaudet University for an all-day training.
 - b. ECET2 workshop (March 1-2) – Several ISD teachers, Elementary Principal and Kim Kause will attend the one-day workshop in Lexington, KY.
 - c. EHDI Conference (March 3-5) - Supt. Geeslin, Kim Kause and Sandra Wascher, Elementary Principal will attend the EHDI conference in Chicago, IL.
 - d. CEASD Accreditation (March 17-20) - Kim Kause and Matthew Krueger will serve as members of the CEASD accreditation team for accreditation of the California School for the Deaf, Fremont.
 - e. CEASD 2019 conference (April 24-May1) - Supt. Geeslin, Kim Kause, Matthew Krueger and Sandra Wascher will attend the 2019 CEASD conference.
4. Maintenance funding – Chairperson DiBenedetto asked Jeremy Hawk, Director of Operations, if the Simpson Hall issue was withholding funding for projects that needed to be completed.

Jeremy Hawk: ISD was approved funding for the Visual Communication System (VCS). State Budget Agency (SBA) determined that the projected needed to be scaled down dramatically. ISD continues to work with the Indiana Department of Administration (IDOA) and SBA. What is not used for the VCS will be utilized to demolish Simpson Hall (if that happens). ISD may need to request the budget committee to repurpose the VCS funds for Simpson Hall. There are some larger projects (Storeroom HVAC) that ISD will have to suspended until the fate of Simpson Hall is decided, but there are some smaller (\$10-15K) projects that can move forward.
5. Digital citizenship (presented by Kim Kause, Director of Instruction) – ISD receives information/instruction from the Indiana Standards and International Society for Technology Education Standards. Students become empowered learners when they understand digital citizenship. There are various bands (K-2nd grade, 3rd – 5th grade, 6th – 8th grade). Beth Kimball, ISD science teacher is a certified trainer and shares her

knowledge with staff and students. Students are receptive to the new electronic learning environment and look forward to the instruction time.

6. Matthew Krueger provided an update of the Student Life Division:
 - a. Matthew will serve as the interim Athletic Director until a replacement is hired hopefully at the end of the 2018-2019 school year. Matthew has met with the athletic department and will meet with parents and ISD stakeholders to help determine what ISD's next athletic director will look like.
 - b. Student Life consists of Health Center and Food Service. Total staff of 78 with 10 vacancies.
 - c. Residential students: 71 students (32 boys & 39 girls) but can house up to 150. The ages range from 5-18, but we have had students as young as 3 years old.
 - d. Student Life offers residential students various after school activities (academic clubs, cooking clubs, parties, movies), recreation in the KRC gym and a snack bar open after dinner time. Student Life enforces "quiet hour" so students can either study, read or complete homework.
 - e. Dixon House (independent living): Residential students stay in the dorm and "earn the right" to stay in Dixon house by completing an application, providing financial reports and going through a background check. This is a life skill teaching moment for our students. Dixon House currently houses 8 boys as part of the honor program. Next year (2019-2020) the plan is for girl's honor students will reside in Dixon House. The
 - f. Tutoring services are available from students attending Ball State University, IUPUI or Vincennes University.

V. **Old Business:** None

VI. **New Business:**

- A. Neola policy subcommittee – Superintendent Geeslin (tabled to next meeting)

VII. **Public comments:** None

VIII. **Board comments:**

- Chairperson DiBenedetto – the Simpson Hall study committee met last week. Matthew Brown reported there was only one bid submitted to IDOA and it did not meet all the requirements of the RFI. It was decided to give the bidding company one week to revise their bid to meet the requirements. If they cannot meet the requirements the bid will not be accepted, then IDOA will recommend demolition of Simpson Hall.
- Ms. Witte – heard excellent comments regarding Supt. Geeslin's testimony at the General Assembly.
- Dr. Furner – requested clarification of the Student Recreation Fund. Jeremy will address this at the March meeting.
- Mr. Leffler – commended ISD on the purchase of the touch screen ("what an improvement over the overhead projector and pull-down screen").

IX. **Next meeting:** March 19, 2019 at 5:00 p.m. in the Alumni Building, Media Center

X. **Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned by Chairperson DiBenedetto at 6:14 p.m.