



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

Indiana School for the Deaf  
School Board Meeting

January 15, 2019  
5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Alumni Building, Media Center

Minutes

**Voting Members Absent:**

Andy Leffler  
Lucy Witte

**Non-Voting Members Absent:**

Rep. Ed Clere  
P. J. McGrew

**Voting Members Present:**

Kelly DiBenedetto, Chairperson  
Dr. Ray Furner  
Terri Miller  
Ann Reifel, Vice Chairperson  
Amy Waggoner

**Non-Voting Members Present:**

Patrick Rhodes

**ISD Staff:**

Superintendent Dr. Geeslin

- I. **Call to Order:** Chairperson Di Benedetto convened the meeting at 4:59 p.m., noting that a quorum was met.
- II. **Approval of minutes:** Motion by Vice-Chairperson Reifel, second by Dr. Furner to correct the November 13, 2018 minutes to show Lucy Witte as present. 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.

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

#### IV. Superintendent's Report:

1. Recommended the following topics for the monthly school board meetings:
  - February – Student Life Division
  - March – Finance/Operations Division
  - April – Education Division and School Improvement Plan update
  - May – ISD accomplishments
  - September – Student scores/data

The School Board accepted the Superintendent's recommendations and look forward to hearing the valuable information from the Division Directors.
2. ISD received a Civil Rights Commission (CRC) complaint from an individual who could not access an event on the 2nd floor of Caskey gymnasium. There is no elevator to the 2nd floor. The building was erected in 1966 (before the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)) and was grandfathered. ISD recognizes this is not acceptable, shared solutions with the CRC that no further events will be held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor. This did not appease the individual and ISD will now go to mediation.
3. HB 1443 has been introduced to the legislature to establish a taskforce to study the feasibility of consolidating ISD and the Indiana School for the Blind and Visually Impaired (ISBVI) or maintaining separate schools. Superintendent Geeslin described the structure of the task force and the advisory committee to the task force. The task force will also examine Article 9 (if necessary) after they have reached a decision.
  - a. Chairperson DiBenedetto reminded everyone that this is the first step of many and there will be many changes to this proposed legislation.
4. Superintendent Geeslin and Jeremy Hawk will present at the Ways and Means Committee on Thursday. While some Capital Projects have not been approved by the State Budget Agency this is an opportunity for the members of the Ways and Means Committee to ask questions of agency heads.
  - a. Chairperson DiBenedetto would like to see a list of all Capital projects that were submitted.
5. The time capsule was opened that was stored in the corner of Willard Hall. Many of the articles inside the box were in very good condition. There was a letter from Superintendent Johnson, monthly reports, purchase reports and information about other schools for the deaf. All of this will be shared at the 175<sup>th</sup> reunion in June.
6. ISD's wrestlers won the Willigan Wrestling National Championship. The wrestlers will be invited to the next meeting to share their experience with the Board.
  - i. Operations Division & Financial report – Jeremy Hawk, Director of Operations  
Division/Financial report – no questions from the Board
  - ii. Student Life Division – Matt Krueger, Student Life Director  
Division report – no questions from the Board
  - iii. Education Division Report – Kim Kause, Director of Instruction  
Division report – no questions from the Board
    - a. Deaf Culinary Bowl competition update – The history of the competition along with the current competition requirements was shared with the Board. Four ISD students will participate in the Deaf Culinary Bowl competition in Henderson, NV March 8 & 9, 2019. They will be

accompanied by the culinary teacher (Sharon Baker) and principal (Andy Alka). This is a great opportunity for our students, and they are looking forward to this challenge.

V. **Old Business:** None

VI. **New Business:**

A. 2019-2020 School calendar (vote requested) – Superintendent Geeslin

- ISD will follow the Washington Township 2019-2020 school calendar as does the Indiana School for the Blind & Visually Impaired.

Question: Why do the teachers work 190 days?

Answer: ISD follows the IPS (largest school district in Indiana) school schedule.

Motion by Ms. Waggoner, second by Dr. Furner to accept ISD's 2019-2020 calendar as printed. Motion carried.

B. Neola policy subcommittee – Superintendent Geeslin

- Superintendent Geeslin would like to have 2 members of the school board to serve on the subcommittee to review the Neola policies. Terri Miller and Lucy Witte (in absentia) were selected to serve on the subcommittee. The policies will be sent to them for their review and bring recommendations to the board for a vote/adoption.

VII. **Public comments:** None

VIII. **Board comments:**

- Chairperson DiBenedetto –
  - Superintendent evaluation – Thanked the Board for their contribution. The Chairperson and Vice Chairperson met with Superintendent Geeslin and he received an excellent review. The Chairperson wanted to publicly thank the Superintendent for all he's done for the school.
  - HB 1484 (authored by Rep. Ed Clere) Indiana Deaf Education and Assessment of Language (IDEAL). This legislation will affect ISD. It will require schools to test language for students who are deaf and hard of hearing annually until they are 10 years old. This will hopefully help students who come to ISD be at grade level and not be delayed.

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

X. **Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned by Chairperson DiBenedetto at 5:53 p.m.