



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

Indiana School for the Deaf
School Board Meeting

January 19, 2021
5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Via Zoom

Minutes

Voting Members Absent:
Kelly DiBenedetto, Chairperson

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

Voting Members Present:
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:** Vice-Chairperson Reifel convened the meeting at 5:00 p.m., noting that a quorum was met.
- II. Approval of minutes:** Motion by Dr. Furner, motion with revisions by Ms. Miller, second by Ms. Witte to approve the November 17, 2020 minutes as amended: 1) Section III - Chairperson's remarks should be complete sentence; 2) Page 2, first bullet should also be revised to a complete sentence). Motion passed.
- III. Vice-Chairperson's Remarks:** Vice-Chairperson Reifel shared with the Board that Chairperson DiBenedetto is extremely ill and will not be able to attend today's meeting. Everyone wished her a speedy recovery. Vice-Chairperson Reifel stated that 2020 has been full of hugh challenges to everyone and believes the next few weeks things will hopefully improve and get better.

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

IV. Superintendent report: Supt. Geeslin agreed with Vice-Chairperson Reifel’s statement that this year has been extremely challenging. The technology of the times allows the challenge to be more bearable enabling students to attend school virtually and not “miss a beat”. The Board was informed by Supt. Geeslin that Kimberly Kause (illness) and Matthew Krueger (death in the family) were unable to attend the meeting today.

- COVID-19 Update:
 - As of today, 15 staff and students have been impacted by COVID. Fortunately, everyone is back on campus and no one has required hospitalization.
 - Per Ind. Dept. of Health and Marion County Dept. of Health all schools in Marion County were virtual learning from November 30 to December 18. The Governor’s Office instructed both state schools to also “go virtual” during that time. After the winter break all day students returned on Jan. 11 and residential students returned today. Today is the first day all students are back on campus.
 - The Administration Team discussed the ability for ISD students to participate in sports and the JEL program. Students attending JEL were able to attend classes virtually and were not on campus. Only high school athletes stayed in the dorms the entire 3-week duration (including weekends) to participate in sports. Staff (dietary, nursing, supervisors) supported students daily. COVID did not impact our sports program. Unfortunately, we were unable to host a middle school basketball tournament.
- Q. Have staff received any vaccinations?
A. Yes, some staff, approximately 80 out of 250, are vaccinated.

- Jeremy Hawk, Director of Operations & Chief Financial Officer
 - ISD is doing better than anticipated with the budget this year.
 - There are several staff vacancies that need to be filled. ISD is in discussion with State Budget Agency to fill them based on our current budget status and projections going forward.
 - The Governor has submitted his budget recommendation to the legislature which is now being discussed in the General Assembly.
 - ISD requested a full appropriation of roughly \$16.6 million which the Governor has approved and included in his recommendation.
 - All ISD capital project requests were also included in the bill, including the new domestic water line request.
 - The bill also includes an appropriation of \$280 million for a specific set of capital projects. The caveat is that the funds are potentially available for specific capital projects (i.e. Department of Corrections, Department of Natural Resources and the co-location of both schools). It’s unknown if there is any prioritization, which will actually be considered or if the amount will remain in the budget bill.

V. Old Business: None

VI. New Business:

- a. Accept and vote on 2021-2022 school calendar – Motion by Mr. Leffler, second by Dr. Furner to accept the calendar as printed. Motion carried.
- b. NWEA data – Supt. Geeslin attempted to provide a summary of the NWEA data to the Board, unfortunately he experienced technical difficulties (laptop froze) and was unable

to share the information from his screen. NWEA data was tabled to the February 16, 2021 meeting.

VII. **Public comments:** None

VIII. **Board comments:** None

IX. **Next meeting:** February 16, 2021 at 5:00 p.m., via Zoom

X. **Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned by Vice-Chairperson Reifel at 5:43 p.m.