



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

Indiana School for the Deaf  
School Board Meeting

October 20, 2020  
5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Via Zoom

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

**ISD Staff:**

Superintendent Dr. Geeslin

- I. **Call to Order:** Chairperson DiBenedetto convened the meeting at 5:13 p.m., noting that a quorum was met.
- II. **Approval of minutes:** Motion by Ms. Miller, second by Ms. Reifel to accept the July 21, 2020 minutes as printed. Motion passed. Motion by Ms. Witte to amend (page 3, above old business, remove incomplete bullets/sentences) September 20, 2020 minutes, second by Dr. Furner as amended. Motion passed.
- III. **Chairperson's Remarks:** Thanked the Board for their time attending the meetings as it shows their support and desire for a successful school year.
- IV. **Superintendent report:** Supt. Geeslin shared with the Board members that some days are difficult, but parents and staff continue to be flexible with the ever-changing atmosphere. Students are doing great and cooperating with the safety rules in place. As of today, there have been 8 cases of staff presenting positive for COVID-19.

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

➤ Kimberly Kause, Director of Instruction

- Testing:
  - Due to COVID-19 ISD was unable to develop the spring mapping or state assessments. NWEA map testing began last week and will be open until November 30.
  - Virtual students can test at their local schools, but families are unwilling to do so, they are opting out. ISD will not have a complete picture of student testing but should be able to develop a good baseline. Next year will be able to do a Fall to Fall comparison
- Second quarter begins November 2. Virtual instruction will again be offered to ISD families. High School students earning credits are encouraged to attend in person. ISD estimates that the number of virtual students for the next quarter could be under 40.
- Student demographics for 2020-2021:
  - Enrollment: last year ended with 331 students. Current enrollment is 316 (171 females, 145 males; 253 day students, 63 residential students).
  - Enrollment by grades: Toddler (10), Preschool (22), Kindergarten (16); 1st grade (13), 2nd grade (19), 3rd grade (27), 4th grade (19), 5th grade (19), 6th grade (16), 7th grade (22), 8th grade (12), 9th grade (31), 10th grade (25), 11th grade (23), & 12th grade (42).
  - Ethnicity: 62%-White/non-Hispanic; 13%-Hispanic; 12% Black/African American; 9% Multiracial & 4% Asian
  - Ages: 18 months to 5 years old (42); 6 to 10 years old (99); 11 to 15 years old (90); 16 to 18 years old (75); 19 to 22 years old (10).

➤ Matthew Krueger, Student Life Director

- Student Life staff and students are doing well. Everyone is staying positive, working together, and supporting each other and our students.
- Continue to be in contact with Ind. Department of Health as a resource for our Health Center staff.
- Athletics:
  - ISD hosted “Friday Night Lights” on October 16 and recognized senior athletes in all spring sports.
  - IHSAA announced that the winter sports programs (basketball and wrestling) will be almost identical to the Fall sports program. Schools are encouraged to avoid large tournaments, if possible, and host/participate on a smaller scale. Wrestlers must now shower after each match and put on new uniforms. ISD will inventory uniforms and equipment to ensure that students will be able to participate in winter sports.

➤ Jeremy Hawk, Director of Operations & Chief Financial Officer

- Developed ISD’s 2-year budget plan and waiting to hear from State Budget Agency (SBA).
- Hiring a new accountant.
- Capital projects are moving forward.
- Q Have there been specific discussions to maintain operational funding separate from capital needs?

- A SBA instructed ISD to submit our budget with a 15% reversion but add 15% into our change package request. SBA acknowledged the issue and would be discussed at a later time.

Rep. Clere requested a letter sent from the School Board to the Governor's Office and/or SBA as a reminder that ISD should be considered first and foremost a school instead of a state agency. ISD's funding should be consistent with the Governor's commitment to maintain K12 funding (operational dollars for ISD) and separate from capital project funding. Chairperson DiBenedetto ask Rep. Clere to help draft the letter. Supt. Geeslin will contact Supt. Durst at the Ind. School for the Blind & Visually Impaired to inquiry about a joint letter from both schools. Motion by Ms. Witte to send a letter to Governor Holcomb on behalf of the School Board, second by Vice-Chairperson Reifel. Motion carried. The letter will be drafted by Chairperson DiBenedetto, Rep. Ed Clere, Supt. Geeslin and Jeremy Hawk.

Board question: Is the supply deficit due to purchase of PPE?

Mr. Hawk: Personal services (payroll) reflects a monthly average. There are 2 months (Sept. is one) in the year when there are 3 pay periods which could show a deficit. This also applies to our supplies budget. ISD will receive reimbursement from the CARES Act. ISD is also working on FEMA assistance and PPE reimbursement.

- V. **Old Business:** None
- VI. **New Business:** None
- VII. **Public comments:** None
- VIII. **Board comments:**
- Ms. Miller: Expressed appreciation to Jeremy Hawk for his efforts in seeking reimbursement from the CARES Act for supplies & PPE from other funding avenues. This is another example of taking an extra effort and keeping everyone safe in a learning environment.
  - Chairperson DiBenedetto: Shared that the superintendent from their local school district spoke to the Danville Chamber of Commerce meeting mentioned that student behaviors have decreased, similar to what is happening at ISD.
  - Vice Chairperson Reifel: Shared that a parent commented to her that her elementary son was anxious to return to ISD to see his friends. This speaks well of ISD and their efforts. ISD is commended for keeping up the good work.
- IX. **Next meeting:** November 17, 2020 at 5:00 p.m., TBD
- X. **Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned by Chairperson DiBenedetto at 6:09 p.m.