



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

Indiana School for the Deaf
School Board Meeting

November 17, 2020
5:00 p.m. – 6:00 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 5:00 p.m., noting that a quorum was met.
- II. **Approval of minutes:** Motion by Ms. Witte, second by Dr. Furner to approve the October 20, 2020 minutes as amended (Section IV....CAES should be CARES. Motion passed.
- III. **Chairperson's Remarks:** Chairperson DiBenedetto acknowledged to the board that this year has been a struggle for ISD staff trying to figure out “what is happening”. As a state school within Marion County, it makes it more difficult. Kudos to everyone!
- IV. **Superintendent report:** Supt. Geeslin expressed gratitude to ISD staff and students during the unprecedented times. Staff continue to serve ISD students and keeping everyone safe.
 - As of today, there are no new student COVID positive cases and a total of 10 staff have tested positive for COVID.

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

- Superintendent Geeslin asked Matt Krueger to introduce Paula LaMonaca, Director of Nursing Services, to the School Board. Mr. Krueger shared that Paula has been with ISD for a couple of years. She works very hard in the Health Center and keeps up to date with the ever-changing COVID protocols. She has also provided training and assistance to staff, answering questions and ensuring we are all safe.
- Per instructions from the Governor's office and following mandates from the Marion County Health Department ISD will begin virtual education for all ISD students for the next 3 weeks (Nov 30 to Dec 18).
 - ISD & ISBVI spoke with Katie Jenner, Governor Holcomb's Education liaison, requesting students return on Jan 19. The Governor's office will re-evaluate the return date based on COVID data.
- Shared that ISD has experienced problems using Zoom today in other meetings. It seems that the bandwidth is not high enough.
 - Q Will the bandwidth problem be an issue for teachers?
 - A Zoom has not been an issue until today. We are working with our IOT department. We are hoping the issue will be resolved soon.
- HEA 1443 – the Task Force met for the final time yesterday and discussed recommendations to the Legislature. It appears that the state will move forward with the co-location of both schools.
 - Q Would a letter of support to the Governor be helpful? Unfortunately, due to election and opening session the budget letter to the Governor was put aside but hopefully will be submitted with the next week or two.
 - A A letter of support from the Board for both would be invaluable.
 - Q Will transportation to the new campus be available?
 - A Yes. Transportation to both schools by the student's schools will not change. The location of the new campus will determine if public transportation will be available.
- Kim Kause, Director of Instruction
 - Virtual instruction:
 - Elementary schedule will be updated so that lunch and recess will be back-to-back.
 - Will fine tune the middle and high school schedules.
 - Q During the Spring semester will parents have a deadline to inform ISD if their student will be in-person or virtual?
 - A ISD will continue to stay flexible in these times. We want students back in-person but will wait to see where the numbers are before that decision will be made, we can't predict that fourth quarter.
 - Working on the NWEA assessments and will be completed soon. Not all students were on campus to test but ISD has a good number to compare with the Fall test results.
 - Recognized ISD teaching staff's flexibility and commitment to ensure that students are getting the best education possible during the pandemic.
- Matt Krueger, Student Life Director
 - Recognized Student Life staff for their ability to do an amazing job with the students and maintain a level comfort. Staff are involved with preparing students emotionally and mentally.

Q Has ISD thought of getting animal (cat?) to help students with stress relief?

A We need to be cognizant of the old ventilation system, may areas with carpeting and students with allergies. This could be considered later in a new building.

- Jeremy Hawk, Director of Operations & Chief Financial Officer
 - ISD is waiting for further/additional instructions from SBA regarding ISD's budget for the next 2 years. Instructions usually happen the end of November or early December when budget committee hearings are held.
 - Adam Ervin, ISD/ISBVI's Physical Plant (PP) Director resigned. ISBVI will fill the position with their in-house staff. ISD will look at options for our campus as we do not share that person with ISBVI. ISD's PP staff have assumed Adam's duties until a resolution is found.

V. **Old Business:** None

VI. **New Business:** None

VII. **Public comments:** None

VIII. **Board comments:** None

IX. **Next meeting:** January 19, 2021 at 5:00 p.m., TBD

X. **Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned by Chairperson DiBenedetto at 6:00 p.m.