

The District School Board of Indian River County met on December 8, 2015, at 1:00 p.m. The discussion was held in the Teacher Education Center located in the School District Office at the J.A. Thompson Administrative Center located at 1990 25<sup>th</sup> Street, Vero Beach, Florida 32960. District School Board Members attending were: Chairman Dale Simchick, Vice Chairman Shawn R. Frost, and Board Members: Matthew McCain, Claudia Jiménez, and Charles G. Searcy. Dr. Mark J. Rendell, Superintendent of Schools; and Suzanne D'Agresta, School Board Attorney, were also present.

### **Discussion Session Minutes**

Note: Mr. Searcy was not present.

I. Discussion Session was called to order by Chairman Simchick

II. ITEMS PLACED ON AGENDA BY BOARD MEMBERS

#### **A. Charles Searcy**

1. Protocol for Modification of Orders of the Day

Suggestion was made that at the beginning of the business meeting the Chairman should ask, first, if the Board had any items they wished to move from Consent prior to calling for a motion for the Orders of the Day. Chairman Simchick agreed.

2. Vero Beach High School Surplus

Board Member asked how it could happen that books were ordered and never used and how much that purchase cost the District. Dr. Rendell explained how the purchase occurred, how much it cost the District, and what steps were taken to ensure that this did not occur in the future. He stated that the novels were returned and it was his understanding that the District received every dollar spent. Dr. Rendell said that the only loss the District had was the shipping charges to return the books and to ship the new ones. Board Member asked for the actual dollar amount for the purchase, how much was credited, and the shipping costs to receive and to return the novels. Mr. Morrison reported that it cost \$4,682.30 to ship the novels back. He said that to bring back the correct materials the cost was \$788.77. This information was from the Curriculum Department. Dr. Rendell said that they would obtain the actual dollar amounts requested by the Board Member and report back.

3. Vacation and Sick Days Carryover

Board Member discussed the liability concern. The Board directed the Superintendent to set a workshop date to discuss the issues.

**B. Claudia Jiménez**

1. Meeting Locations

Board Members discussed the advantages and disadvantages of rotating business meeting locations or holding regular information sessions to encourage dialog with the public, with and without the logistic issues of live broadcasting. Dr. Rendell said that he would come back to the next Information Session with suggestions for meeting places and dates.

Note: Mr. Searcy was present.

**C. Chairman Simchick**

1. Training, Rotation, and Retaining of Attorneys for Student Hearings

It was suggested that this would be a good time to extend the list of attorneys working without pay to see if there were any additional names to add to the list, with training provided by the Board Attorney. Mrs. D'Agresta noted that the original list was generated by the Superintendent's Office and Student Services Department. She said that this would be a good time to reconfirm with those already serving and to reach out to the community for additional interest. There was a brief discussion on training and complexities/options for student hearings. Dr. Rendell said that there were three active attorneys. He said that he/staff were prepared to issue another call to reach out to local attorneys.

2. Attestation Policy

Dr. Rendell referred to Mr. Morrison to review the proposed revisions to Construction Management at Risk (CMAR) contract and bid documents. Mr. Morrison referenced language to be re-inserted into the CMAR contract in regard to the penalty for overpayments that exceeded \$10,000.00 or greater. He said that the construction manager would be required to pay the cost of the attestation, in addition to the overpayment amount. He said that this was the original language that was in the contract before it was removed in February 2014. In order to be transparent, the bid documents would also include the same penalty language for overpayments that exceeded \$10,000.00 and additional language that would affect the number of points received during the bid process and the evaluation sheet; such as, history of overcharging the School District, past performance, etc. Mr. Morrison reviewed the contracts that were subject to the penalty prior to the language being removed in February of 2014, the payments received, and the payments that would be forthcoming. Dr. Rendell said that they would move forward with the attestation for the Fellsmere Phase I project in regard to the overpayment made to Pirtle in the approximate amount of \$117,000. It was noted that the new Administration Building did not include the attestation language. The Board discussed the complexity of the audits.

**D. Shawn Frost**

1. Treasure Coast Council of Local Governments, Inc., Membership

Board Members discussed the relativity of the membership. A suggestion was made to request that school issues be included in their Agenda. Chairman Simchick asked to continue membership this year and, then, reconsider the value for the 2016-2017 Board Calendar year.

**E. Mr. McCain**

No discussion items.

III. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

No reports.

IV. ITEMS PLACED ON AGENDA BY SUPERINTENDENT

(Board Member requested to move item C. to the first item.)

**A. Multi-Year Contract Discussion**

Dr. Rendell talked about the three-year, District Management Council contract (Action C) and a five-year contract with The Hobson's Corporation to purchase Naviance College and Career Planning Program for grades 6-12 (Action D). He answered questions from the Board. Chairman Simchick requested to place on the next Discussion Agenda the ratio of Guidance Counselors to students.

**B. Local School Grade Proposal**

Dr. Rendell presented an update on the creation of a local school grade. Mr. Green presented a "draft" utilizing the old cut scores that also included the parent survey results and expected student growth measures. Dr. Rendell interjected that the State no longer included student gains. He explained how the State sets the calculation of Value Adjustment Measure (VAM) for each student, by school; and how that could result in a grade of "needs improvement". Mr. Green explained how that calculation could result in a "failing grade" for the school, based on the State's expected student growth. He stated that the local grade proposal would also include such items as, attendance and discipline measures. Dr. Rendell noted that the State was changing the formula impacting school grade letters. He said that the purpose of the local school grades was to enable the District to be able to determine what areas the schools needed improvement, utilizing local data not required by the State. Board Member requested to add a column to include 3<sup>rd</sup> grade Moonshot Moment data to show student gains. Another request was to track teacher retention/satisfaction. Dr. Rendell said that they had a way to track teacher attendance (good indicator of teacher satisfaction) this year for next year's local report card. He said that they would go back and get last year's data. Mr. Green said that they would now turn this conversation over to the District Data Review Team and bring back an update for the Local School Grade proposal.

**C. Desegregation Review Update**

Dr. Rendell gave an update regarding the District's Desegregation Court Order and how to go about obtaining unitary status. Mrs. D'Agresta talked about what information the report would provide. Dr. Rendell said that he would provide the name and the cost. (Note: Attorney working on the report was John Borkowski from the firm of Husch Blackwell, LLP; with an estimated cost for the initial study to be approximately \$10,000.) Dr. Rendell said that he anticipated having the report by the end of January 2016 or early February 2016. Board Members noted for the record that the Board did not, at this point, make a decision as to pursuing unitary status. The Board asked the Superintendent to look into where the District was regarding being in compliance and where the District was regarding moving toward meaningful, unitary status for our students.

**D. Superintendent's Evaluation Timeline**

Dr. Rendell asked the Board if they wanted to use the attached evaluation tool and set dates for a mid-year evaluation, and set the final evaluation dates. It was noted that adopted Goals were part of the evaluation, with measurable outcomes. Chairman Simchick asked the Superintendent to provide a Progress Report on the Goals. Dr. Rendell noted that the State of the District Report would be based on last year's data and would include an update on the present School Year data. Board Members talked about the State of the District Report being presented at a workshop in March and a summary presented by the Superintendent at a corresponding business meeting on a regular basis for the community and for transparency. The timeline and instrument for the 2015-2016 school year would be placed on the Agenda for adoption.

**E. Virtual School Update**

Dr. Rendell stated that the Virtual School Franchise may begin in January 2016. He said that Dr. Arnett would give an update at the business meeting. Dr. Rendell said that there needed to be a balance to ensure the District was not losing money and to keep an eye on those students who may create a path to do away with their traditional classes. Dr. Rendell stated that Dr. Arnett would answer the question on full time and part time Florida Virtual School contract versus Indian River School District of Indian River County Florida Virtual School franchise.

Added Item:

**F. Employee Retention Report**

Board Member thanked Dr. Rendell for the report and asked the Board if they were interested in knowing how many employees were reassigned.

- V. ADJOURNMENT – Chairman Simchick  
Meeting adjourned at approximately 3:41 p.m.