

The Indian River County District School Board met on Thursday, July 28, 2011, at 4:00 p.m. The discussion was held in the Teacher Education Center located at the Central Administrative Offices, 1990 25th Street, Vero Beach, Florida. School Board Members attending were: Vice Chairman Carol Johnson and Board Members: Karen Disney-Brombach, Claudia Jiménez, and Jeffrey Pegler. Dr. Frances J. Adams, Superintendent of Schools, was also present. Chairman Matthew McCain and School Board Attorney Usher "Larry" Brown were not present.

Note: Chairman McCain was not able to attend due to a family emergency.

### **2012 Legislative Priorities Discussion**

- I. Meeting was called to order by Vice Chairman Johnson.
- II. Purpose of the Discussion Session – Dr. Adams  
Dr. Adams said that the purpose of the Discussion Session was to review the 2012 Legislative Priorities. Mrs. Disney-Brombach and Mr. Morrison prepared a "draft" to present to the Board. She turned the session over to them.
- III. Presentation of Proposed 2011 Legislative Priorities – Mrs. Disney-Brombach/Mr. Morrison  
Mrs. Disney-Brombach said that Mr. Morrison deserved the credit for preparing the draft. She requested to add a statement to the beginning of the document that the funding issue was paramount; however, the real issue was no more mandates. Ms. Jiménez said that she requested a list of the District's unfunded mandates to inform our Legislators of this issue. She and Mr. Pegler said that they supported the suggestion to add a statement to the draft. Vice Chairman Johnson requested that Mr. Morrison prepare the language for the statement and add it to the draft for Board review and approval.

### **State Issues**

Chairman Johnson brought up the fact that traditional schools were no longer receiving PECO funds to build/repair school facilities. Rewording suggested was: Reinstate and adequately fund traditional school system and charter schools on a fair and equitable basis.

Ms Jiménez suggested that the language for Prekindergarten be quantified by placing a dollar figure for the 7% funding loss to clearly show the impact to the District. Board Members agreed. Dr. Adams said that the District currently had students on a waiting list. Pelican Island was not able to offer a Voluntary Prekindergarten class, again, this year due to funding. Ms. Jiménez added that it was not clear the way it was written that the District did not have a decline in participation but, rather, a decline in funding.

### **Federal Issues**

Mrs. Disney-Brombach suggested that the Board wait until after hearing from Mr. Crawford on Friday and after receiving more information from Washington over the next two weeks. She suggested discussing it at length at the August 9 Round Table. Ms. Jiménez brought up No Child Left Behind that philosophically focusing on the bottom half and should be focusing on every child. She also talked about discouraging punitive, unproven sanctions and to instead provide onsite, improvement assistance in schools. Ms. Jiménez also spoke of the whole child approach to education for each student. Dr. Adams stated that a lot of time was spent monitoring and compliance on how federal funds were spent. She was concerned that in the future the District's Title I Schools may end up losing funding because the schools were doing well. Dr. Adams said that she supported more local and State control over federal funds.

#### V. Next Steps – Mrs. Disney-Brombach

Mrs. Disney-Brombach said that within the next few days, we would have the edit of the State portion in draft form for the Board to look over and before the August 23 business meeting the Board would have the entire draft. Vice Chairman Johnson asked about the timeline for the meeting with the Local Legislation to go over items to be discussed. Ms. Jiménez asked if sharing success stories would be included in the August 25 information Session with the Local Legislative Delegation. Mrs. Disney-Brombach said, "Yes". Mr. Morrison was asked to prepare a list of unfunded mandates before August 25. Ms. Jiménez encouraged Board Members to attend the September 28<sup>th</sup> meeting with the Local Delegation Meeting at the County Commission Office. Vice Chairman Johnson said that we could find out where we were on the Agenda. Dr. Adams said that they could speak as a group regarding unfunded mandates and budget cuts. Chairman Johnson said that they needed to know that for those of us that have been doing what needed to be done were going to miss out on funding. They all agreed that PECO funds were a great example. Mr. Pegler said that it was not right that Legislature was cutting State funds and forcing local School Boards to levy taxes to cover the loss.

#### VI. ADJOURNMENT – Vice Chairman Johnson

Vice Chairman Johnson thanked Mrs. Disney-Brombach for representing the District on both the state and federal levels.

With no further items, the discussion adjourned at approximately 4:29 p.m.