

The Indian River County District School Board met on Tuesday, August 9, 2011, at 9:00 a.m. The workshop was held in the Teacher Education Center located at the Central Administrative Offices, 1990 25th Street, Vero Beach, Florida. School Board Members attending were: Chairman Matthew McCain, Vice Chairman Carol Johnson, and Board Members: Karen Disney-Brombach, Claudia Jiménez, and Jeffrey Pegler. Dr. Frances J. Adams, Superintendent of Schools, and Suzanne D'Agresta, School Board Attorney, were also present.

### **Osceola Magnet School Replacement Workshop**

I. Workshop was called to order by Chairman Matthew McCain.

II Purpose of the Workshop – Dr. Adams

Dr. Adams said that the purpose of the workshop was to clarify and discuss the Osceola Magnet School relocation to Pointe West. She said that before they began, they wanted to honor the request of Chuck Mechling, President of Pointe West Community, to speak to the Board on behalf of Pointe West. Mrs. Johnson called a “point of clarification” to state that since this was a Board called workshop, other people may also be called upon to speak as well. She also added that the Board would have the option to ask the speaker questions. It was agreed that for future Board called workshops, Board Members would be notified ahead of time that they had the option to invite speakers.

In summary, Mr. Mechling talked about the original concept of the Pointe West community that was to have a school that the children of their community would be able to attend. He stated that they utilized the footprint for the Liberty Magnet agreement to create one for Pointe West, with some modifications. Mr. Mechling stated that Pointe West spent \$1.3 million on improvements for the school site. He said that they were looking for common consideration for the agreement.

III. Osceola Magnet School Replacement Workshop – Dr. Adams/Mr. Morrison/Mrs. D'Albora/Mrs. Roberts

Dr. Adams presented information and gave a brief history of the agreement and the timeline to date. She said that it all began on May 4 of 2000, with the Option to Purchase Agreement to build an elementary school on the site. Dr. Adams spoke of the condition of the current Osceola Magnet School. She talked about their meetings with parents and staff of Osceola Magnet, the issuance of a QSCB in December 2010 to fund the rebuild; and ensuing Board Workshops, meetings with Pointe West, and telephone calls made in order to work out the details.

Mrs. D'Albora presented the unique characteristics of magnet schools. The guidelines for enrollment being racial balance, sibling preference, and a lottery selection process for kindergarten positions. Mrs. D'Albora stated that there were currently 199 students on the waiting list. She talked about the

opportunities for enrollment for Point West students. Mrs. D'Albora said that their goal was to honor the magnet school concept and the currently enrolled students and to give opportunities to the Pointe West students to attend Osceola Magnet School as well. She explained the enrollment opportunities presented to Pointe West.

Dr. Adams said, in summary, that Pointe West wanted new families moving into the community to be assured that their children would attend Osceola Magnet that could mean that we would have to ask current children to leave.

Board Members were given an opportunity to ask questions and offer suggestions. The Board had questions as to the purchase of 300,000 sq. ft. of additional retention property, additional retention property required for Vero Beach Elementary rebuild, being involved in discussions before hand, budget estimate, access for all students, minority students on waiting list, additional classroom rather than a Prekindergarten class, moving another elementary to Pointe West other than a Magnet School, need for compromise, and the need for student generation rates. Mrs. D'Agresta explained the need to go back to reapprove the Option Agreement to include the current owner's name and clear up other issues such as the additional retainage and student and road access in order to address everything at once.

IV. Next Steps – Chairman McCain

District School Board directed staff to complete the due diligence. Mr. Mechling spoke in regard to retainage, student access, site plan, assurance that all Pointe West students would have the option to attend, and the need to go back to the Bank for a change in egress.

The next steps would be to reapprove the Option to Purchase contract, with the property owner, and with a second agreement between the parties to include such items as,

- Rebuild Osceola Magnet (Elementary) School
- Negotiate a fair dollar figure for the additional 150,000 sq. ft. retainage
- Negotiate other site plan agreements; i.e., ingress and egress and roadway agreement
- Negotiate Pointe West student enrollment considering class size, then racial balance, then siblings, then 25% Pointe West students, and then open to other new enrollees—ensuring no seated students were asked to leave the school

With no further discussion, the workshop adjourned at approximately 11:12 a.m.