

The Indian River County District School Board met on Tuesday, October 11, 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: 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 was not present.

### **Bullying, Arrests, and Gang Update Workshop**

- I. Called Workshop to Order – Vice Chairman Johnson  
Vice Chairman Johnson announced that Mr. McCain was unable to attend.
- II. Introductions and Purpose of the Workshop – Dr. Adams  
Dr. Adams said that the purpose of the workshop was to present data to the Board. She said that, additionally, there were people here who handled these situations every day, who would present what was happening in the schools.
- III. Presentation –Mrs. Gielow/Sgt. Young

#### **Bullying**

Mrs. Gielow, Director of Student Services, stated the intent of Florida Statute 1006.147 and School Board Policy 5.39 as follows:

- The intent of the law was to provide instruction for identifying, preventing, and responding
- Use evidenced-based methods for prevention - how to identify and respond (school-based programs for students)
- Provide support information in the Code of Student Conduct, in posters, displays, and other means; such as, assemblies as a reminder to students and staff

Mrs. Gielow reviewed a PowerPoint that was created by and for District Staff and Students to ensure that everyone was using the same language and to ensure that adults knew how to respond. She stated that half of the students reported that they have been cyber bullied but do not say anything to anyone. Education would be essential to empower students with the right way to respond to all forms of bullying. Mrs. Gielow stated that the PowerPoint was created as an instructional tool and was required to be presented on an annual basis. Board Members were given an opportunity to ask questions. Mrs. Gielow stated that the discussion with students was conducted at the beginning of the school year along with the Code of Student Conduct. Board Members asked about marginalized bullying, and expanding Board policy on prevention to include instructional and staff training.

Mrs. Gielow reviewed data trends for 2009-2011, School Reporting of Bullying/Harassment, and Other Discipline Incidences through TERMS. Board

Members were concerned about the reporting of low incident numbers. Mrs. Gielow explained that in the future, schools would report on incidences reported but found not to be issues related to bullying. Board Members and Superintendent agreed that parents needed to know what constitutes bullying.

Mrs. Gielow reviewed what the next steps were once students were identified. Board Members were interested in more proactive education. Vice Chairman Johnson asked that Staff begin working on a policy that would work towards changing the culture of the schools by strengthening the direction given to schools. There was a discussion on victims.

Presentations were made by Karen Malits, Treasure Coast Elementary School's Student Support Specialist; Shawn O'Keefe, Storm Grove Middle School's Principal; and Dr. Rain Newbold-Coco, Sebastian River High School's Student Support Specialist, along with Mr. Dan Gilbertson, Sebastian River High School's Principal. Each school presented the instructional tools and steps they used for school behavior incidences. Board Members agreed that having a Student Support Specialist was beneficial. Other issues brought up were gay and lesbian slander, 20/20 Program on "Bullies Mentality and the Victims", and suicide.

### **School Arrests**

Mrs. Gielow presented how arrests were handled on campus. She said that reporting requirements included 23 types of incidents in which 18 were required to be reported to School Environmental Safety Incident Reporting and were expected to include consultation with law enforcement. Mrs. Gielow said that the matrix was in the Student Code of Conduct. Sergeant Ladell Young, School Resource Officer Program Director, talked about training of SROs, Bullying Conference he attended, and their involvement in the community. Sergeant Ladell said that there were a total of 743 Juvenile arrests last year outside of school campuses. He said that the SROs service about 7,000 students. Of that number 114 had to be referred to other programs. Sergeant Ladell explained at what point the SROs had to be called in to handle a school incident. He explained the levels of action required. On the first level teachers were able to break up the fight. On the second level the SRO had the option to present a "Civil Citation". The third level was usually when the victim requested to press charges requiring that the student be arrested. He explained that to determine what action to take the SRO considered the nature of the offense, the age of the student, and an event or incident that may have occurred before with the same student. Sergeant Young said that no Officer wanted to arrest a student.

Gang Update – Discussion was carried over to the Round Table at 1:00 p.m.

V. ADJOURNMENT – Vice Chairman Johnson

With no further discussion, the workshop adjourned at approximately 11:43 a.m.