

The Indian River County District School Board met on Tuesday, August 14, 2012, at 1:00 p.m. The workshop was held in the Teacher Education Center located at the J.A. Thompson Administrative Center, 1990 25th Street, Vero Beach, Florida. School Board Members attending were: Chairman Jeff Pegler, Vice Chairman Carol Johnson, and Board Members: Matthew McCain, Karen Disney-Brombach, and Claudia Jiménez. Dr. Frances J. Adams, Superintendent of Schools, and School Board Attorney Suzanne D'Agresta were also present.

Workshop on Board Policy 6.14 Student Participation in Interscholastic, Extracurricular, Student Activities Workshop

I. Called Workshop to Order – Chairman Pegler

II. Purpose of the Workshop – Dr. Adams

Dr. Adams stated that the purpose of the workshop was to revisit the policy regarding athletic participation and arrests. She turned the workshop over to Dr. Torres-Martinez.

III. Presentation – Dr. Torres-Martinez

Introductions

Dr. Torres-Martinez, new Director of Student Services, introduced Mrs. Janis Spero, School Social Worker; Mrs. Donna Brewer, School Social Worker; Mrs. Tracey Crawford, School Social Worker; Mr. Mike Stutzke, Sebastian River High School Athletic Director; Mr. Leonard Jankowski, Vero Beach High School Athletic Director; Deputy Ladell Young, Indian River County Sheriff's Department; and Dr. Michael Ferrentino, Executive Director of Exceptional Student Education and Student Services.

Discussion

Dr. Torres-Martinez reviewed Florida State Statutes, focusing on Section 4 regarding conduct, felony, delinquent act, and the discretion of Board to establish a District policy. She also reviewed Board Policy 6.141 adopted by the Board on October 25, 2011. Board Members discussed the State Statutes and Board policy to determine if the Board policy was too restrictive.

Civil Citation

Deputy Young explained the Civil Citation Program and its limitations. He stated that they considered each case to determine if the student was eligible for the Program. The victim must be cooperative and the case must be non-violent in nature, misdemeanor crime, with no priors. And, the student entering the Program must admit to being guilty to his/her crime. The student's parents must also cooperate. Deputy Young said that about 80% of the students do not meet the criteria.

Dr. Torres-Martinez talked about how other Districts addressed the same issue. As an example, she talked about two particular cases in Indian River County and how the coaches and principals used their discretion by going above/beyond Board policy.

Note: Mrs. Disney-Brombach left the workshop for a therapy appointment.

IV. Questions – Chairman Pegler

Board Members talked about setting standards that would take the responsibility of making a decision off of the coaches and principals. The Board was interested in hearing what staff would recommend. Both coaches stated that participating in sports was a privilege, not a right. It was noted by one School Social Worker that other activities such as band, chorus, orchestra, etc., should be included in the policy as well as athletics.

Dr. Adams summarized the workshop by stating that what she heard the Board say was that the student was responsible for reporting arrests and that the Board also agreed to make the policy broader. She said that they would come back with wording to address misdemeanors and felonies. Board Members mentioned the inclusion of an appeal process. Chairman Pegler said to bring back areas of arrests, pending adjudication, how to address misdemeanors, and include all extra-curricular activities. Dr. Adams mentioned the wording in the Student Code of Conduct. One Board Member mentioned the Board's philosophy to rehabilitate students, giving students another chance as human beings. Dr. Adams was asked to come back with language and asked that the SROs forward their thoughts on to the Superintendent.

V. ADJOURNMENT – Chairman Pegler

With no further discussion, the workshop adjourned at approximately 2:49 p.m.