

The Indian River County District School Board met on Tuesday, September 18, 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: 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. Chairman Jeff Pegler was not present.

### **Constitutional Amendments on November 2012 Ballot**

- I. Workshop was called to order by Vice Chairman Johnson.
- II. Purpose of the Workshop – Dr. Adams  
Dr. Adams stated that the purpose of the workshop was to review the Florida Constitution Amendments on the November 2012 ballot affecting education.
- III. Discussion of Amendments – Vice Chairman Johnson  
Vice Chairman Johnson turned the discussion over to Mrs. Disney-Brombach. Mrs. Disney-Brombach introduced Vern Crawford, President and Consultant at Schoolhouse Consulting Group, Inc., working with Treasure Coast School Districts on legislative issues.

Mr. Crawford began with a review of Amendments 2, 5, 6, 9, 11, and 12. He stated that the cost (impact) to implement the Amendments would not be shown on the ballot. To view the costs, he suggested that the Board refer to the EDR, Office of Economic and Demographic Research's website [www.edr.state.fl.us](http://www.edr.state.fl.us).

Mr. Crawford reviewed the following Amendments that could affect public school funding as follows:

- Amendment 3 – State Government Revenue Limitation (Intent, in a good economy, would be to increase the portion paid by the State in order to decrease the portion paid by local tax dollars.)
- Amendment 4 – Property Tax Limitations (Refers to non-homestead property tax cap reduction from 10% to 5%. School district levies would not be affected; however, services to Cities and Counties would be affected.)
- Amendment 8 – Repeal of “No Aid” Provisions - Title on Ballot would be “Religious Freedom”. (The intent was for open school choice that would essentially have no civil rights protection, no requirement for highly-qualified teachers, and no instructions as to accountability and oversight.)
- Amendment 10 – Tangible Personal Property Tax Exemption (Exemption doubles to \$50,000 with no major effect and was not optional for Cities and Counties.)

Amendment 1 – Health Care Services (Prohibits laws or rules from compelling any person or employer to purchase, obtain, or otherwise provide for healthcare coverage. Essentially, this would prohibit implementation of the provisions of the federal Affordable Care Act.)

- IV. Summary – Vice Chairman Johnson  
Board Members discussed the importance of being educated voters and how the Board could assist by holding community forums, inform employees, and provide website access.
- V. Adjournment – Vice Chairman Johnson  
Vice Chairman Johnson thanked Mrs. Disney-Brombach for her involvement in the area of legislative issues affecting the School District.

With no further discussion, the workshop adjourned at approximately 2:31 p.m.