The Indian River County District School Board met on Tuesday, September 25, 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.

Workshop
Mental Health Services in Schools and Community

I.   Called Workshop to Order – Vice Chairman Johnson

II.   Purpose of the Workshop – Dr. Adams
        Dr. Adams said that it was important to bring this information to the Board and to the community regarding services for students to remove barriers to learning.

III.   Presentation – Dr. Ferrentino
        Dr. Ferrentino introduced Dr. Jamie Robison, Program Specialist for Exceptional Student Education Services, who presented what they were doing in schools and how it related to the private sector. Dr. Robison stated that educational success was what the School District was all about. He mentioned the Vision and Mission of the School District and how to accomplish that mission. Using a PowerPoint presentation, Dr. Robison reviewed barriers to learning and overcoming barriers. He gave an overview of the service delivery model: "Tier 1: Prevention for ALL; Tier 2: Early Intervention for SOME (catch it early, fix it quick); and Tier 3: Remediation for a FEW (physical and mental intensive, individualized, severe, negative behaviors requiring assistance of outside agencies). Dr. Robison stated that they always made sure that they had parent involvement, with the exception of a crisis situation.

        Dr. Robison said that they could be more effective with more child psychologists in Indian River County and in the School District, and with more substance abuse programs in the County. He said that if a student was not in a public subsidy system, the student would probably not have insurance coverage for special services and would probably not receive help from outside services. Dr. Robison stated that the School District was providing all mandated services for students but could provide more if the economy was different or if the community could come forward with special project funding.

        There was a discussion of redefining the roles of the Exceptional Student Education professionals. Principals were contacting them with specific needs for students. Dr. Robison said that with the move away from mandatory testing, the school psychologists were now able to work with District programs for intervention.   Dr. Ferrentino stated that sharing School District psychologists

does hurt the delivery of services to students. He said that ideally there should be one school psychologist per school.

The presentation also included a list of collaborating community agencies. Trends of concern were the ages of students with emotional and behavioral needs that continued getting younger. Concerns included alternatives to suspension to keep students learning while out of the classrooms, the number of substance use and abuse among children and teens, and insufficient afterschool programming for students with emotional and behavioral problems.

Dr. Robinson said that the School District was fortunate to have a number of highly-educated and devoted personnel who were experienced working with the programming and were making a difference. He said that they would continue to look for ways to do more to meet student needs. Dr. Ferrentino mentioned their continued efforts to bring more services to the District through collaboration.

IV.   Questions – Chairman Pegler
Board Members were given an opportunity throughout the presentation to ask questions. Dr. Adams stated that the School District could not work as effectively without collaboration.

V.   ADJOURNMENT – Vice Chairman Johnson

With no further discussion, the workshop adjourned at approximately 2:59 p.m.