

The Indian River County District School Board met on Tuesday, February 12, 2013, at 9:00 a.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 Carol Johnson, Vice Chairman Claudia Jiménez, and Board Members: Jeff Pegler, Matthew McCain, and Karen Disney-Brombach. Dr. Frances J. Adams, Superintendent of Schools, and School Board Attorney Suzanne D'Agresta were also present.

Curriculum Updates Workshop

- I. Called Workshop to Order – Chairman Johnson
- II. Purpose of the Workshop – Dr. Adams
Dr. Adams said that staff had a lot of information to share. She said that it was important for the community know what to expect with the Common Core. Dr. Adams turned it over to Mrs. D'Albora, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction.
- III. Presentation – Mrs. D'Albora
Mrs. D'Albora was delighted to have an opportunity to share some of the things happening in schools in the area of critical focus in curriculum. She introduced Mrs. Jody Bennett, Executive Director of Core Curriculum; Mrs. Deborah Long, Director of Secondary Education and Professional Development; Mrs. Cheryl Conley, Coordinator of Professional Development; Ms. Pat Shaw, Reading Specialist; Teresa Rockwood, Science Specialist; and Laura Lane, Math Specialist.

Mrs. Bennett said that today the Board would be presented with an overview of the Common Core State Standards independently adopted by the State of Florida, along with 45 other States, in 2010. Meetings were held with the community to present the Common Core State Standards. A video was shown to show why it was in the best interest of students to be on the same testing grounds, at the same grade levels as all students across the Nation. The Common Core State Standards provided consistent, strong, benchmarks with clear goals.

Ms. Shaw talked about the six shifts in English Language Arts Standards that included balancing informational and literacy text; knowledge in the disciplines; staircase of complexity; text-based answers; writing from sources; and academic vocabulary.

She stated that reading, writing, language, listening, and speaking skills were all included in the comprehensive English Language Arts standards. She spoke of the text complexity that took into account three different factors: quantitative measures, qualitative measures, and reader and task consideration. Texts were

ranked in grade-level bands of complexity. Ms. Shaw said that teacher training was critical for student success in Common Core State Standards. Time for teacher training and time for teachers to plan collaboratively was crucial. Ms. Shaw mentioned a link to PARCC that would replace the FCAT (Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Career).

Mrs. Lane reviewed the key instructional shifts in mathematics that included focus that would deepen students' knowledge about fewer topics; coherence that was linked across the grade levels; and rigor and fluency. Mrs. Lane said that there was going to be a transition from Next Generation Sunshine State Standards to Common Core. Again, it was stated that time for training was essential for student success. Mrs. Lane talked about upcoming training opportunities for all levels. She gave the Board an example of how technology would play a much larger role.

Mrs. Rockwood presented science in the Common Core. She stated how science, English, language arts, and math were integrated into the science curriculum. Mrs. Rockwood explained that reading strategies were brand new for science teachers and would be new language for them to learn. She explained how students would be allowed to feel uncomfortable with the learning process and how students would go back and forth with the teacher on independent research opportunities. Dr. Adams noted that students and teachers were learning a new delivery model.

Mrs. Bennett reviewed the summer curriculum opportunities. Families were encouraged to invest in some type of summer learning opportunity to prevent the summer slide that naturally occurs. Mrs. Long reviewed the middle and high school credit recovery opportunities, and how the high school A+LS (Anytime Learning System) Virtual Classes would be applied.

Mrs. Conley gave an overview of the Marzano Art and Science of Teaching, Teacher Evaluation Model, Learning Map. She stated that planning and preparedness was the key to success. Mrs. Conley described the series of training rounds that the administrators were participating in and the teachers who volunteered their classrooms as the teaching tool. She also talked about the three-day teacher training and how those teachers would apply what they learned into their classrooms and into sharing with other teachers. Dr. Adams spoke to the quality of teachers and administrators that we have, with fidelity. She said that the new teaching methods were very overwhelming at every level. Mrs. Conley stated that teacher feedback was that the training tied it all up (Common Core, Marzano, grading practices). Dr. Adams noted that teachers coming from other states were familiar with Common Core.

IV. Questions – Chairman Johnson
Board Members were given an opportunity to ask questions and offer suggestions.

V. ADJOURNMENT – Chairman Johnson

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at approximately 11:10 a.m.