

The Indian River County District School Board met on Tuesday, February 21, 2013, at 9:00 a.m. The discussion 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 Claudia Jiménez, and Board Members: Jeff Pegler and Karen Disney-Brombach. Dr. Frances J. Adams, Superintendent of Schools, and School Board Attorney Suzanne D'Agresta were also present. Chairman Carol Johnson and Board Member Matthew McCain were not present.

### **Arrest Reports for Indian River County Students Discussion**

- I. Called Discussion to Order – Vice Chairman Jiménez
- II. Welcome Statement and Introductions – Vice Chairman Jiménez  
Guests attending were:  
Captain Don Smith, Indian River County Sheriff's Department  
Dr. Jacqueline Warrior, Juvenile Justice Council  
Sergeant Ladell Young, Indian River County Sheriff's Department, School Resource Officer (SRO)
- III. Purpose of the Discussion – Dr. Adams  
Dr. Adams stated that the Board Members brought forth questions that resulting in this discussion session being scheduled. She said that the Department of Juvenile Services would present data from the State and County Juvenile Arrest Reports, and Staff would present data from Indian River County Schools.
- IV. Presentations – Dr. Torrez-Martinez/Sgt. Young  
Dr. Torrez-Martinez stated that the conversation would begin with Dr. Warrior and, then move to information regarding schools. Dr. Warrior appreciated having the opportunity to have this conversation. She clarified that she was not part of the State Department of Juvenile Justice. Dr. Warrior said that she was with the local Juvenile Justice Council that was mandated by State Statute. Dr. Warrior said that their role was to provide direction back to the State regarding the needs of the local community and to bring interest groups to the table for discussion and to work with local entities; such as, the Probation Department, Judges, Courts, and Public Defenders. She spoke of the Early Intervention Plan that was a five-year plan addressing disproportionate minority contact. Dr. Warrior said that her charge was to collectively address the issue. As Chair of the Planning Committee, she said that the data on the State Reports was five-years old but it had, recently, gotten better. Dr. Warrior presented the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice, 2012 Disproportionate Minority Contact Benchmark Reports, *A long-Term Trend Study*, Florida Department of Juvenile Justice, *Delinquency in Florida's Schools, An Eight-Year Study (2004-05 through 2011-12)*; a report from Indian River County Juvenile Justice Council, Planning Committee, *Disproportionate Minority Contact*, and a list of definitions. She presented the

figures on County and Statewide Relative Rate Index Trends for Black and Hispanic youth, as compared to White youth. Board Members and Dr. Adams were given an opportunity to ask questions and provide feedback.

Dr. Torres-Martinez presented a PowerPoint on Demographics and Arrest Data from Indian River County Schools. She noted that last year the total number of arrests was 75 students at high school level (2% of total population), with 7 civil citations; 40 students at middle schools (1% of total population), with 2 civil citations. Board Members were given an opportunity to ask questions and provide feedback.

Sergeant Young stated that the purpose of a School Resource Officer was, initially, to go into schools to show a positive presence and to talk with students. He said that today they were at schools to help create a safe environment. Sergeant Young noted that School Administrators were faced with making difficult decisions on campuses. Sergeant Young reviewed, using a graph, the school arrests broken down by physical arrest (handcuffed), Juvenile Complaint Affidavit, Juvenile Civil Citation, and Adult Notice to appear and then by White, Black, Hispanic, and Other ethnicities. Sergeant Young noted the ethnic makeup of the SROs as compared with the number of minority arrests at middle schools, as an example.

There was a discussion regarding the confidentiality of student information and the caution about identifiable information. Sergeant Young stated that the SROs reviewed the arrest data on a regular basis, looked at how the arrests were handled, and what alternative actions could be used in the future. He showed a video to give the Board a typical fight scene at school and how quickly the situation could escalate that could cause injuries to other students and staff. Dr. Adams talked about the large numbers of students that gathered during an incident. She said that 175 incidents were handled by Administrators sending a message of behavior expectations to students.

Dr. Torres-Martinez talked about the strong link between court referrals and drop-out rates. She also talked about what the District was doing by the creation of an Absenteeism Think Tank, Bullying Team, and Moonshot Moment literacy campaign. Dr. Torres-Martinez said that the goal was to work toward students wanting to be in school and students wanting to be connected to school. She said that "School connectedness could contribute to less delinquency".

V. Open Discussion – Vice Chairman Jiménez  
Board Members were given an opportunity to ask questions and provide feedback.

VI. ADJOURNMENT – Vice Chairman Jiménez  
With no further discussion, the session adjourned at approximately 11:24 a.m.