

The District School Board of Indian River County met on July 22, 2014, at 3:30 p.m. The discussion was held in the Teacher Education Center located at the J.A. Thompson Administrative Center, 1990 25th Street, Vero Beach, Florida 32960. District School Board Members attending were: Chairman Carol Johnson, Vice Chairman Matthew McCain, and Board Members: Claudia Jiménez, Karen Disney-Brombach, and Dale Simchick. Dr. Frances J. Adams, Superintendent of Schools; and Suzanne D'Agresta, School Board Attorney, were also present.

Discussion Session Minutes

- I. Discussion was called to order by Chairman Johnson.
Chairman Johnson announced that Dr. Adams had three items that she wanted to discuss with the Board.

- II. ITEMS PLACED ON AGENDA BY BOARD MEMBERS – Chairman Johnson
 - A. **Dale Simchick**
Mrs. Simchick inquired as to the timeline for the Superintendent search. Chairman Johnson said that she would bring it up at the next discussion session.
 - B. **Karen Disney-Brombach**
No items.
 - C. **Claudia Jiménez**
 1. School Health Advisory Committee Update
Ms. Jiménez asked Board Members to review the annual report from the School Health Advisory Committee.
 2. Retroactive Pay Update – not discussed
 3. Student Code of Conduct – Discussed under Superintendent Items
 4. Legislative Platform
Ms. Jiménez presented a very rough draft of the Board's Legislative Proposal for the Board to discuss and to provide feedback. She envisioned having a draft ready for the next discussion session on August 12 and the proposal ready for adoption at the August 26 business meeting. Suggestions by Board Members included: Adding the District's position on the appropriation of funds from vouchers; removing critical operating needs; deleting or changing the 2 mills language to 1.5 mills; moving dual enrollment up on the unfunded mandate list; deleting school grading scale; and adding, as number 6 on the unfunded mandate list, funding for lowest 300 schools.
 5. New Board Member Orientation
Ms. Jiménez reported that she was working on a list of documents that would be beneficial to new Board Members and she asked for feedback.
 6. Article on Legislative Changes to Third Grade Retentions
Dr. Adams said that she did not see the article. She did say that when a student was left behind one grade, there were serious implications.
 - D. **Matthew McCain**
No items.

E. Chairman Johnson

1. Superintendent's Evaluation Instrument

Board Members discussed adding a box to the first page of the Professional Standards to indicate the final outcome. This change would be brought to the Board for approval. No other changes would be made to the instrument.

III. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS – Chairman Johnson

Mrs. Disney-Brombach gave a report on the Metropolitan Planning Organization meeting in regard to the All Aboard Florida Railroad initiative. She also reported on the changes to the Medicaid system.

Ms. Jimenez reported on the Economic Development Council. The bulk of the meeting was a report on the County-wide Economic Development Positioning Analysis.

IV. ITEMS PLACED ON AGENDA BY THE SUPERINTENDENT – Dr. Adams

A. Purchase Orders for Reoccurring Expenses

Mr. Morrison explained the purpose of the business meeting agenda item regarding a request to authorize the Superintendent to approve reoccurring expenditures. He said that past practice was that individual invoices over \$25,000 would be brought to the Board for approval. Board policy wording changed in August 2013, in that the authority was increased to \$50,000; however, the unintended consequence was that all requests to pay a specific vendor that exceeded \$50,000 would require Board approval. Mr. Morrison said that this would include the FPL electric bills, etc. Mr. Morrison said that the District was looking into language changes to Board policy to reverse the unintended consequence. It was noted by a Board Member that the Board intent was to keep the legal fees in check, not to preclude payment for reoccurring expenditures.

B. Code of Student Conduct

Dr. Adams asked the Board if they had any questions or concerns regarding the adoption of the Code of Student Conduct that was on the business meeting agenda for adoption. Hearing no comment, she said that the Code was recommended for adoption after the public hearing at 6 p.m.

Moving forward, Dr. Adams said that she had a couple of things that were brought to her attention by Ms. Jimenez that she would like to bring back to the Board at the August 12 business meeting for technical corrections. Dr. Torres-Martinez brought up the changes suggested by Ms. Jimenez that could be included in an introductory cover letter from the Superintendent and changes that would be brought to the Board in the form of a resolution. Board Members discussed the zero tolerance statement. A statement was made that the schools should provide a welcoming school environment in which students wanted to attend. It was noted by Dr. Adams and Mrs. D'Agresta that the zero tolerance language was the same language as was written and adopted in Board policy. The Board policy, under the rule making process, would not be able to be changed at the 6 p.m. meeting. A compromise would be to have Dr. Adams include a philosophical message in the form of a cover letter with the distribution of the Code of Student Conduct. A Board Member noted that the timing was not

acceptable because there was no opportunity to table the motion on the Code of Student Conduct. Mrs. D'Agresta answered questions on procedure.

C. Name Change for Highlands Elementary School

Mrs. Fannin, Principal at Highlands Elementary School, talked about the purpose and process regarding the recommendation for a name change. Mrs. Fannin said that the Committee unanimously recommended, "Indian River Academy". Mrs. D'Agresta spoke to next steps that would require bringing it before the Board. The Board was required to vote in favor of the name change with a super majority vote (4-1). Dr. Adams said that she would bring the name change to the next business meeting.

V. ADJOURNMENT – Chairman Johnson

With no further discussion, the session adjourned at approximately 4:45 p.m.