

The District School Board of Indian River County met on July 22, 2014, at 9:30 a.m. The workshop was held in the Teacher Education Center located at the J.A. Thompson Administrative Center, 1990 25<sup>th</sup> Street, Vero Beach, Florida 32960. District School Board Members attending were: Chairman Carol Johnson, Vice Chairman Matthew McCain, and Board Members: Claudia Jiménez, and Karen Disney-Brombach. Dr. Frances J. Adams, Superintendent of Schools; and Suzanne D’Agresta, School Board Attorney, were also present. Board Member, Dale Simchick, was not present.

### **2013-2014 School Grades Workshop Minutes**

- I. Workshop was called to order by Chairman Johnson.
- II. Purpose of the Workshop – Dr. Adams  
Dr. Adams stated that the workshop was called to present additional data to fully understand what the data meant to Indian River County schools. She introduced Brian McMahon, Performance Data Analyst.
- III. Presentation – Dr. Adams  
Dr. Adams turned the presentation over to Mr. McMahon and Mr. Rynberg. Mr. McMahon, using a PowerPoint presentation, began by quoting; *“Education is growth...- by John Dewey”*. He said that you never reach a goal because education never ends. Mr. McMahon said that the purpose of the workshop was to give the Board insight as to where the numbers started and where the numbers were today. He stated that beginning with the 2011-2014 school year, the State instituted a “Safety Net” provision in the school grading system. The safety net provided that no school would drop more than one letter grade each year. This provision remained in effect through the 203-2014 school year.

Mr. McMahon gave examples of why school grades did not depict true growth/proficiency of schools. He presented information that gave the actual reading and math proficiency scores showing the percentage of growth as compared with the 2012-2013 year; actual grade improvement without the safety net; actual points earned; overall learning gains; and lowest quartile learning gains. Mr. McMahon stated that the State’s School Grading System contained a complex set of rules with provisions for both bonus points and penalties. He said that if a school did not show adequate progress of the lowest quartile of students, the grade earned would automatically be lowered. Mr. McMahon said that Osceola Magnet and Pelican Island both had their grades lowered one level for 2013-2014. He said that Osceola received a B grade but actually earned an A. Mr. McMahon said that they may appeal the grade. He said that the grading system contained a lot of if this, if that, if this... The new Commissioner recognized the problem and was taking away all of the, if this, if that’s because it was not fair or equitable. Mr. McMahon reviewed the new changes to the grading system.

Mr. McMahon stated that the Schools of Innovation (Glendale, Highlands, and Dodgertown) were given greater flexibility in their approach to educating students. All three schools saw tremendous changes and were no longer considered failing. Dr. Adams said that the school improvement was due to the leadership, teachers opening up to technology support, and a change in school culture. Dodgertown had a gain of 65%. Mr. McMahon said that Glendale's team was hungry for data. Dr. Adams said that all of the schools were good schools. She said that it was about explaining the data to the parents and community. Dr. Adams said that there was no blame or shame. She said that the District made gains and there was work to be done.

Mr. McMahon talked about what to expect for high school grades. He said that the State continued to raise the bar as high schools made improvements. He said that a high school could show significant growth but go down one grade. Dr. Adams said that the high school grades included a lot more data in addition to FCAT. Mr. McMahon explained the changes to the State's grading for high schools. Dr. Adams said that delays in getting information from the State was frustrating for the District. She said that they were going into a new year with new Florida Assessments and without information. Mr. McMahon said that it was up to the District, not the State, to decide whether or not to hold teachers harmless.

Dr. Adams said that the good news was that the standard diplomas were now uniformly applied throughout the U.S.A. She also noted that she just received news that Fellsmere Elementary was the only school that remained in the lowest 300. The District would add an extra hour of instruction every day for the school. Dr. Adams said that approximately 90% of the students were minority and on free and reduced lunch.

#### **Highlighted Areas**

Summer Enrichment Programs had over 1500 students participating.

Windsor provided \$75k for Summer Literacy on the Lagoon program.

Vocational Programs ranked first in the State for average FTE earned per high school

Evan MacKay received second place at Intel International Science and Engineering Fair.

Lyndsey Matheny was one of five finalists for Florida Teacher of the Year.

AP and IB Program Success, National Merit Program, and Service Academies

IRFIL Indian River Fellowship for Instructional Leaders, Foundations, Professional Development

Early Warning System

#### IV. Adjournment – Chairman Johnson

With no further discussion, the workshop adjourned at approximately 11:15 a.m.