

The District School Board of Indian River County met on November 4, 2014, at 1:00 p.m. The session 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, 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 session was called to order by Chairman Johnson.

II. ITEMS PLACED ON AGENDA BY BOARD MEMBERS – Chairman Johnson

**A. Claudia Jiménez**

1. Desegregation Order

Mrs. D'Agresta stated that this was one of many subjects that she would cover with the new Board Members. Dr. Adams said that the Desegregation Order was on the website as information for the new Board Members. She said that the newly revised School Improvement Differentiated Plans included data to address student achievement. Dr. Adams told the Board that Mr. Fritz had just completed the Ethnicity Report, school-by-school that would be forwarded to the Board. Ms. Jiménez said that she would like to have this conversation with the new Board in a workshop setting, sooner rather than later, in order to take a look at the District's major issues to be considered with the hiring of a new Superintendent.

2. Student Testing

Ms. Jiménez said that she would place this subject on the December Discussion Session to give the Superintendent time to submit background information on what tests were mandated by the State, what tests were diagnostic, and what tests were mandated by other categories such as federal dollars. Dr. Adams talked about the changes/reductions in the testing schedule this year. She said that they were continuing to look at it. It was noted that there was a statement out in the community that we were testing all students every day except 30 days. This statement was not true and needed to be corrected. The Board asked about the accuracy of the tests. Dr. Adams said that Curriculum had new benchmarks and they were pulling in people to go over them.

3. Observations from the Chair

Chairman Johnson said that she was working on it and would be happy to do it by November 17, 2014.

4. Contract with Brown & Brown

Mr. Fritz reported that the contract was placed on the agenda but needed to be removed in order to work out some of the details.

**B. Dale Simchick**

No requests.

**C. Matthew McCain**

No requests.

**D. Chairman Johnson**

1. Organization Meeting – Committees

After reviewing the draft agenda for the organization meeting, Board Members agreed to add the Community Leaders Literacy Committee to the committee list and to take off the Obesity and Diabetes Task Force because it no longer existed. Under Information B, the Board agreed to eliminate the Principal of Sebastian River High School. Mrs. D'Agresta said that she would take a look at the original Trust Agreement. All other revisions to the Organization Meeting Agenda would be made after the new Board was in place.

2. Update on Superintendent Search

Chairman Johnson gave an update on the search. She shared with the Board the Community Comments sheet that she prepared and used for the last search. After discussing the cost for advertisements in *Education Weekly*, the Board agreed to increase the advertising from three to six ads (as originally suggested by Dr. Blanton) and to include the special offer of unlimited online posting of all School District positions to take advantage of a cost savings. They discussed the increase in the budget that was needed to cover the additional advertising costs.

3. Report on Information Session with State Representative Mayfield

Chairman Johnson, Ms. Jiménez, and Dr. Adams gave snippets of information discussed at the session. Representative Mayfield requested the session to discuss with the Superintendent her concerns and to receive input regarding the recommended resolution language regarding testing/accountability to "Opt Out" received from the "Florida Stop Common Core Coalition". Chairman Johnson asked Miss Stang to give all Board Members and new Board Members a copy of the handout from Representative Mayfield. It was also recommended as a cost savings to the State to reduce the number of audits to School Districts, with a proven track record of clean audits, in order to spend more on education and less on auditing. Representative Mayfield requested additional information on student testing and mandated audits.

**E. Mrs. Disney-Brombach**

1. Mrs. Disney-Brombach reported on her Metropolitan Planning Organization meeting. She stated the importance of sending a letter from the School Board for any future mitigation that may be significant to the safety of the students who crossed the railroad tracks at 45<sup>th</sup> Street and 49<sup>th</sup> Street. The deadline was December 3, 2014, to submit the letter to AAF. Direction from the Board was to put a letter for Board approval on the November 18, 2014, business meeting.

2. Treasure Coast Council of Local Governments

Chairman Johnson asked Miss Stang to contact TCCLG to let them know the Board does not have anyone to attend the next meeting.

III. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS – Chairman Johnson

Mrs. Simchick reported on the Sebastian Planning and Zoning Meeting. Commercial property located near the Sebastian Charter Jr. High may be changed to special condition.

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

**A. Update on Wellness Center and Health Insurance Premiums**

Mr. Fritz reported that the reviews from the new Wellness Center were generally positive. He said that the dietician scheduled six classes. Mr. Sanders was working on the sign placement and door entrance painting.

Mr. Fritz reported on the health insurance plan and premiums. He handed out information on revenues and expenditures. Mr. Fritz said that there was a significant deficit in the retiree portion. It was recommended to increase the premiums for retirees. After reviewing the three employee plans, they proposed changing the benefit year to coincide with the fiscal year for the School District (July 1 through June 30, rather than by calendar year). Trending with CareHere would be better in April. Negotiating would begin in January with both unions. Open enrollment would be held as usual in November/December, with the premium increase of 10% held until the first day of the new fiscal year, July 1, 2015. It was hopeful that there would be a decrease from the 10% proposed increase and a shift from the highest plan to the lower two plans. Mr. Fritz stated that the School District was unable to piggyback on the County's plan and the County paid significantly more of the employee portion than the School District.

V. ADJOURNMENT – Chairman Johnson

With no further discussion, the session adjourned at approximately 3:25 p.m.