

The District School Board of Indian River County met on December 9, 2014, at 1:00 p.m. The session was held in the Teacher Education Center located in the School District Office at the J.A. Thompson Administrative Center located at 1990 25<sup>th</sup> Street, Vero Beach, Florida 32960. District School Board Members attending were: Chairman Matthew McCain, Vice Chairman Charles G. Searcy, and Board Members: Claudia Jiménez, Dale Simchick, and Shawn R. Frost. 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 McCain
  
- II. ITEMS PLACED ON AGENDA BY BOARD MEMBERS – Chairman McCain
  - A. **Chairman McCain**
    1. Meeting Setup Procedures  
School Board Members performed their annual review of Board Meeting Setup Procedures as stipulated in Resolution #2014-08. No changes were requested. The Board agreed to try a new podium location, moving it from the middle of the meeting room to the side of the room, angled towards the dais for the evening business meeting. Board Members agreed that no formal action was required.
    2. General Information/Protocol  
Chairman McCain read the general protocol for the Board. In reference to the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council and the Treasure Coast Work Group, Chairman McCain stated that it would be appropriate for the Board's Legislative Liaison to attend when there were issues related to the School District. He noted that the Treasure Coast Council of Local Governments was assigned to Mr. Frost to attend when there were issues concerning the School District.
    3. Land Use and Acquisition Committee  
Chairman McCain reviewed the purpose and responsibilities of the Board Members' volunteer appointments to the Board's Land Use and Acquisition Committee. Board Members requested a packet be prepared for their applicants as was given to Mrs. Simchick by Mr. Sanders. It was noted by the Chair that Board Members were to submit their volunteer application to Miss Stang for the January business meeting. Dr. Adams said to let Miss Stang know who the new person was and they would get a packet out to them.
    4. Superintendent Search Update  
Chairman distributed an update on the Superintendent search. He stated that binders would be prepared for each Board Member. Question was asked regarding who picked the finalists. Chairman McCain said that the School Board Members would select the finalists.
    5. Superintendent Assessment for 2014-2015, Timeline  
Not discussed.

**B. Charles Searcy**

1. Ethics Training for Elected Officials  
Mr. Searcy suggested and Board Members agreed that Mr. Searcy should lobby State Representative Mayfield to ask for a change in statute to reduce the four-hours training to one-hour training and to keep the four-hours training session for new Board Members.
2. Chapter 119 Public Records Requests  
Board Members discussed the issue. Dr. Adams explained the process. Mrs. D'Agresta reviewed the requirements under the law. There was a discussion on determining personal information versus public information. Dr. Adams stated how the process worked. All requests for copies of emails were redacted only for student information, social security numbers, etc.; but not for personal versus work related emails. Board Member wanted assurance that all employees were aware of who they should contact and what the process was for Chapter 119 requests.
3. Crisis Management Representative  
Mr. Fritz stated that he was the spokesperson for Risk Management for the District. He said that Human Resources drafted Press Notices for the Superintendent. Board Member wanted assurance that all employees were aware of the name of the person who was in charge and what the process was.
4. Location of New School District Administrative Center in the County Seat  
Question was in regard to statute/law. Mrs. D'Agresta stated that the statute regarding the location of the building did not apply to School Boards, just to municipalities.

**C. Claudia Jimenez**

1. Resolution in Recognition of 1994 Passage of the African American History Required Instruction  
After discussing the request received from the Florida School Boards Association to adopt a resolution in support of the 1994 Passage of the African American History Required Instruction, the Board agreed that it was not needed because the School District was in compliance with the 1994 Passage.
2. Scheduling Workshops  
Board Members discussed the need to review the District's initiatives such as the Moonshot Moment and the Desegregation Order. It was suggested that instead of having a morning workshop and an afternoon workshop, there should be a four-hour workshop, with breaks. Dr. Adams presented a list of workshops for 2015. She noted that the Discussion Session in January would be replaced with an afternoon workshop on changes to Board policies. Dr. Adams went over the list of proposed workshops. Dr. Adams stated that the start time for workshops would remain at 9:30 a.m.
3. Superintendent Search  
Board Members discussed whether to hold a visioning session to include goals and expectations; list of questions; and community input. After discussing the issue, Board Members requested that a Discussion item be added to the January 27 business meeting for Community Input on the Superintendent search. [Board Members decided to set a visioning session on January 27, 2015, and that Chairman McCain would contact Dr. Massey.](#)

**D. Dale Simchick**

Mrs. Simchick deferred to Mr. Frost, as his item was on the same topic.

**E. Shawn Frost**

1. Freedom from Religion Letter/Invocation

Board Members discussed the letter received by Mrs. D'Agresta from the Freedom from Religion Foundation on September 4, 2014, regarding the subject of Unconstitutional Prayers at Board of Education Meetings. Mrs. D'Agresta spoke on her findings regarding this topic and the choices available to the Board. The majority of the Board, after discussing the choices, agreed to direct the Board Attorney to draw up a "draft" to consider as a formal process for invocations. Mrs. D'Agresta said that she would prepare a few "drafts" for the Board to choose from. Chairman McCain said that until the Board had an opportunity to make a decision, the Board would continue with the present practice of having an "inspirational moment".

III. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS – Chairman McCain

Ms. Jiménez reported on the Florida School Boards Association's and the Greater Florida Consortium of School Board's Legislative Platforms. She also reminded the Board about upcoming events that included the FSBA Day in the Legislature on March 11 and 12 that she would be attending and the Florida School Boards Association Joint Conference on June 10 through 12. Other dates of interest were mentioned. Ms. Jiménez attended a workshop at the FSBA Conference at which Mr. Gene Waddell presented information on charter schools. She mentioned other hot topics that were covered at the conference.

Mrs. Simchick asked the Superintendent to report to the Board if and when there were any ADA accommodations made in the District. She reported on the Sebastian City and Fellsmere City Planning and Zoning Committee meetings. Dr. Adams advised the Board to keep an eye on growth in Sebastian.

Mr. Searcy asked if the Florida School Boards Association was still in pursuit of the lawsuit against the State. Ms. Jiménez said that they were and that they also prepared a Resolution on Assessment and Accountability with bullets for our Legislators.

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

Dr. Adams said that in line with some of our next steps in Student Assessment and Accountability, the Florida Association of District School Superintendents was supporting the removal of the required start date for schools from language in State Statute.

V. ADJOURNMENT – Chairman McCain

With no further business, the discussion session adjourned at approximately 3:24 p.m.