

The District School Board of Indian River County met on January 13, 2015, at 1:00 p.m. The workshop was held in the Teacher Education Center located in the School District Office at the J.A. Thompson Administrative Center located at 1990 25th 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.

**Policies, Student Progression Plan, and
Poverty and Performance PowerPoint Presentation Workshop
Minutes**

- I. Workshop was called to order by Chairman McCain.

- II. Purpose of the Workshop – Chairman McCain
Dr. Adams stated that the afternoon workshop would focus on a new policy that did not have a number yet, presentation on the Student Progression Plan revisions, and would close with a PowerPoint on Student Achievement and Poverty.

- III. Board Policies – Dr. Adams
Dr. Adams stated that in the back of the policies binder was a section on new, non-legislative changes. The new policy to be considered is titled, “Random Student Drug Testing for Interscholastic, Extracurricular, and Competitive Activities Participants”. Dr. Adams gave a brief history of drug testing in Indian River County Schools. She said that the goal was to have drug free schools. Mr. Stutzke, Mr. O’Keefe, and Mr. Racine were present to speak to the new policy. Mr. Stutzke stated that drug testing was put into place nineteen years ago at Sebastian River High School. He said that the policy was proactive, was preventive, and was non punitive. It was never the desire to be punitive. The goal was to get students enrolled in proper treatment programs through Substance Abuse of IRC, with the incentive of being allowed to continue to practice. Upon successful completion and a clean drug test, the student would be reinstated. Mr. Stutzke reviewed the process. He included a visual of the bingo wheel that was used to select the random number for drug testing and the visual of the actual drug testing kit. He distributed a 2007 publication on the benefits of drug testing. Mr. Stutzke said that more than half of all high school students have used some form of drug. Drug testing was effective. Parents had been very thankful that we had a program in place that was helpful to their children.

Mrs. D'Agresta spoke to the known court cases in regard to drug testing. She said that it was permitted to expand to performing arts that were categorized as competitive, extra-curricular activities. Mrs. D'Agresta recommended a word change to "interscholastic". She did not recommend drug testing all students in K-12. Dr. Adams said that this expansion first approached by School Board discussion and was then discussed with staff. The policy would be effective, if approved by the Board, July 1, 2015. This would allow time to notify parents and to obtain the student/parent signatures for participation in the performing arts and athletic programs. Dr. Adams spoke to the confidentiality of the information. There would be a designated coordinator to work directly with the principals, parents, and coach.

Board Members were allotted time for discussion. Board Members spoke to the new policy. Board discussion resulted in the expansion to include interscholastic, extracurricular, and competitive activities participants, rather than just athletics and performing arts participants. Dr. Adams said that she would report back to the Board with any changes that would include adding the word "interscholastic". She would also report back on the question of how charter schools were able to randomly drug test all students within the law. Mrs. D'Agresta said that staff needed to develop a bucket list to further define the groups affected. Mr. Stutzke stated that at Sebastian River High School there was no cost to taxpayers. Funding was obtained through general fundraisers. Principals talked about the implementation process.

IV. Student Progression Plan – Dr. Adams

The Student Progression Plan was postponed until the afternoon workshop due to available time. Dr. Adams stated that based on the policy changes presented during the morning workshop, the Student Progression Plan needed to be revised based on student retention, promotion, and assessment revisions. Mr. Rynberg reviewed the changes that were summarized on the list titled, Student Progression Plan changes 2014-2015. The language in blue depicted changes that were local. Other changes were legislative.

Board Members were allotted time for discussion. Dr. Adams told the Board that she would look into the question from the Board regarding the benefit of having an articulation agreement with Brevard College. Dr. Adams noted that the new message from the State was that students must get a standard diploma. Mr. Rynberg said, in response to the Board, that staff would work on language to include a definition on when students were not required to take a particular test based on their A/P scores, etc. Dr. Adams agreed. Another question was whether or not it was possible to provide parents' access to a calculator for GPAs, especially in regard to the Top 10%.

Recess: Chairman McCain called for a recess at 3:12 p.m. He reconvened the workshop at 3:24 p.m.

IV. Poverty and Performance PowerPoint Presentation – Dr. Adams

Dr. Adams said that she was going to end the workshop with a story about school performance and if we were competitive. Mr. Green narrated the PowerPoint that was based on free and reduced lunch rates. The data was presented to show the effect on student testing success/findings. Mr. Morrison narrated the PowerPoint on the economic factors affecting our District. Dr. Adams said that the District had to beat the odds because poverty was an issue in our District. She encouraged Board Members to get out there to see the schools and their odds.

Board Members were allotted time for discussion. There was one concern that was requested to be discussed, in the future, regarding students whose parents signed their children up for free and reduced lunches that may not be accurate. The question would be how to prevent fraud. The fraud could cause the data to be skewed.

V. Adjournment – Chairman McCain

Note: After the Board Meeting adjourned, Chairman McCain spoke to the Board regarding the upcoming Visioning Session to be held on Tuesday, January 27, 2015. He asked the Board who and if they wanted to facilitate this session. Board Members agreed that they would like to ask Kerry Bartlett to facilitate the session.

Chairman McCain asked Board Members if they were going to participate in the Martin Luther King Parade, as they had done in the past. He asked Miss Stang to email the starting time.

With no further discussion, the workshop adjourned at approximately 3:55 p.m.