

The District School Board of Indian River County met on Tuesday, February 10, 2015, at 9:30 a.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.

Code of Student Conduct Workshop Minutes

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

- II. Purpose of the Workshop – Dr. Adams
Dr. Adams said that this was a work in progress. She said that last year they felt there needed to be a change in the mindset. Dr. Adams said that Dr. Torres-Martinez took the lead on the changes, with the assistance of the Committee. She said that members of the Committee were present in support of the new Code and to answer questions.

- III. Presentation of Code of Student Conduct Update – Mr. Rynberg/Dr. Torres-Martinez
Mr. Rynberg reviewed the documents that were given to the Board. He said that this had been a journey to establish a positive school climate. Mr. Rynberg said that it started with direction from the Board to re-visit the Code of Student conduct, with community stakeholders. The presentation would focus on suspensions and removals, keeping in mind the impact to minorities and students with disabilities. Mr. Rynberg said that IRFIL training would assist teachers in developing the school climate, relationships, and student self-efficacy to establish stronger student outcomes.

Dr. Torres-Martinez talked about the change in the system of consequences that removed punitive action and instilled best practices. A short video was shown to observe the collaborative efforts of the Core Team. Dr. Torres-Martinez said that the Team members included administrators, teachers, community stakeholders, and students. They analyzed the consequences to ensure that they were measurable to the infraction. She said that there was rich debate. The results were more positive and less punitive. Going forward, they studied the matrix for accountability and responsibility that included teachable moments. Mr. Rynberg said that the workshop would focus on Section 5 as it related to the degree of severity, menu of options, restorative practices, and reportable infractions. Examples were given as to how the Code differed from the current code.

Board Members were given an opportunity to ask questions and offer suggestions. Questions included areas of code enforcement, code consistency, and student safety. They also discussed the need for an appeals process under Board Policy #5610.05 Prohibition from Extra-Curricular Activities. They discussed the need to remove disruptive students from the classroom. They talked about the support teachers needed when students were sent to the office for disruptive behavior and sent back ten minutes later. Another question was how teachers received training to handle these situations and how teachers were to find the time for training. It was also noted that there should be consequences for Tiers 1 and 2, and more accountability from the outside in. Dr. Adams said that there were Student Support Specialists in every school to support teachers. She said that they would have further discussion at the Discussion Session.

It was suggested that students be reminded that there were cameras on the buses. This would be a good way to help students think twice. Another question was the possible utilization of the Alternative Education Center to reinstate programs such as H.O.P.E.

IV. Adjournment – Chairman McCain

With no further discussion, the session adjourned at approximately 10:44 a.m.