

The District School Board of Indian River County met on February 10, 2015 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 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.

Discussion Session Minutes

- I. Discussion session was called to order by Chairman McCain.

- II. Items Placed on Agenda by Board Members – Chairman McCain
 - A. Charles Searcy
 1. Capital Dollar Sharing with Charter Schools

Board Members discussed the development of a system to share capital dollars with charter schools. Dr. Adams explained that charter schools received a pro-rate share from the millage. She said that it was approximately \$3 million dollars or 12%. Mr. Morrison presented information regarding charter school funding and the District’s lack of funding to keep up with the ongoing replacement of roofs, air conditioning, and other infrastructure needs. He called it the “can’t afford list”. Mr. Morrison said that he would ensure that all of the information presented at this meeting was available on the District website for the public. Board Members were reminded that before making a decision on funding charter schools, they would first have to decide what repairs would have to come off the list. Mr. Sanders addressed the security camera purchase for student safety. Mr. Earman presented information on the roof replacement schedule. Board and Staff discussed the issue of spreading out debt over a much longer time frame such as 30 years. It was noted that it would be at a higher cost. Mr. Morrison explained the difficulty in projecting revenues and legislative action over a ten-year period or longer period of time. Board Members agreed to discuss the subject of charter school financing over the summer. A Board Member said that the Board needed to first have a complete understanding of what dollars were going to charter schools and what their needs were for capital funds.
 2. Desegregation Order Compliance and Where We Stand on the Matter

Board Members discussed the Order and the question of moving forward to have the Order dismissed by a judge. Mrs. D’Agresta explained the process and the required gathering of information needed to successfully have the court order removed. Mr. Fritz presented data. The problem was in the area of unsuccessful attempts in recruitment. Mr. Searcy said that we needed to get started.

B. Claudia Jiménez

1. Board Policy #5610.05 Prohibition from Extra-Curricular Activities

There was continued concern that the process was not included in policy and there was no due process for students and parents. Dr. Adams said that she would bring this Policy discussion to the next Discussion Session. Mrs. D'Agresta discussed the policy adoption process.

2. Utilization of Alternative Center for Education

Suggestion was made to use available space at the school to reinstate the H.O.P.E. program (or a similar program) for at risk students who were expelled/suspended and who needed assistance with homework. Dr. Adams said that the space was being utilized in compliance with the request from the NAACP for adult education and IRSC classes. In response, Dr. Adams was asked to do a ten minute presentation on some of the programs that went away due to the recession.

3. Random Drug Testing of All Students and Desegregation Order Non-compliance at Charter Schools

After discussing the issue of compliance with federal laws, the Board directed the Superintendent to take the first step by sending a letter to the charter schools. Dr. Adams said that she would send a letter letting them know that we would like to work with them. It was mentioned by one Board Member to have the Superintendent personally contact the charter schools to discuss the issue.

C. Dale Simchick

1. Mrs. Simchick noted that she would attend a lunch and learn at Grand Harbor Club regarding the Moonshot Moment. She said, in compliance of the Florida Sunshine Law, that no other Board Members would attend.

D. Shawn Frost

No items.

E. Chairman McCain

1. Superintendent Search

In response to a question from employees on how to give input on the Superintendent search, the Board agreed to have Ms. Stang distribute, via email, a memo to all employees. Dr. Adams suggested utilizing a neutral party for groups such as the Principals' Meeting to prepare input for the Board.

The Board talked about what to expect during the meeting with Dr. Blanton from Florida School Boards Association on March 3, when the Board would select their top candidates to interview. Chairman McCain said that the Board would also need to hold an information session to discuss any changes to the current contract. Board Members discussed the list of questions that was used during the last search. Dr. Adams said that the list of questions were in line with the position. It was noted that after the basic questions were presented, if there was sufficient time left during the interviews, the Board could ask additional questions that may

surface during the interview. It was also stated that the community would have one hour prior to the interview to talk to the candidates. Forms could be provided to the community, if they wanted to share any thoughts on the candidates with the Board. Chairman McCain said that a staff member was needed during the two weeks of interviews to transport candidates/spouses and to arrange for the breakfast/lunch/dinner reservations and seating. Board Members were interested in video recording, in case a Board Member wanted to refer back, but not streaming the video. Chairman McCain, hearing no response, said that the Board would use the straw voting method for the final vote. Board Members agreed that they wanted a couple days between the last interview and the special meeting before making a final decision. Chairman McCain asked the Board to let Ms. Stang know what dates between March 16 and March 27 (for interviews) would not work.

III. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS – Chairman McCain

Mrs. Simchick reported on the Sebastian Planning and Zoning Committee meeting.

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

Dr. Adams talked about the request to change a job description for Pre-K that that was on the business meeting agenda, changing it to a twelve-month position. Dr. Adams said that she would have the salary increase figure available at the business meeting.

V. ADJOURNMENT – Chairman McCain

With no further discussion, the session adjourned at approximately 3:50 p.m.