

The District School Board of Indian River County met on March 3, 2015, at 6:00 p.m. The special meeting 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. Suzanne D'Agresta, School Board Attorney, was also present. Dr. Frances J. Adams, Superintendent of Schools was not present.

Special Meeting for Superintendent Search Minutes

- I. Meeting was called to order by Chairman McCain.
Chairman McCain announced that the meeting was being audio taped.

- II. Establish a List of Finalists – Dr. Blanton
Chairman McCain introduced Florida School Board Representatives: Dr. Blanton; Mr. Bill Graham, Interim Executive Director; and Andrea Messina, Director of Board Development. Dr. Blanton stated that this was his second day of retirement and his 84th Superintendent search. He said that his first search was in Indian River County. Dr. Blanton said that he never had more qualified candidates before. He stated that there were a total of 69 applicants. Dr. Blanton and his staff reduced that number to eight, highly-qualified candidates. Those included in their list were:
 - Dr. Donna Cianfrani
 - Dr. Mark Rendell
 - Dr. Frank Rodriguez
 - Dr. David Christiansen
 - Mr. Scott Howat
 - Dr. Rocky Killion
 - Dr. Phyllis Edwards
 - Dr. Helen WildDr. Blanton and his staff talked about each candidates' qualifications, experience, and how each candidate could be a good fit for Indian River School District. The floor was opened to Board Member questions. Board Members indicated an interest in interviewing Bruce Green, Dewey Hensley, and John Lynch. After discussing the candidates, the District School Board Members reduced the list to five candidates. Those included on the list to be interviewed were:
 - Dr. Mark Rendell
 - Dr. Frank Rodriguez
 - Dr. David Christiansen
 - Dr. Helen Wild
 - Mr. Bruce Green

Dr. Blanton stated that the process was not over until the Board voted. He said that if the Board was not satisfied, Florida School Boards Association would come down and do it again. Mrs. Messina noted that all of the candidates were in-state and none of the candidates have held superintendent positions. Ms. Jiménez stated for the record that she was disappointed that there were no out-of-state candidates being interviewed. Chairman McCain thanked Dr. Blanton and Florida School Boards Association Staff for their assistance.

Chairman McCain called for a break at 10:06 a.m. Dr. Blanton and Staff did not attend after the break. The meeting was reconvened at 10:20 a.m.

- III. Set Interview Dates, Site Visits, Selection Date, Travel Reimbursement – Chairman McCain Board Members reviewed the interview process that would include 45 minutes, prior to the interview, for the community to, informally, meet the candidate. There would be a form in the back of the room to provide any feedback they wanted to share with the School Board. There would be a facilitator to ensure everyone present had a chance to speak to the candidate. Board Members would not attend the community session. The Board would, then, interview the candidate for no more than two hours. After the interview, Board Members would have either lunch or dinner with the candidate that would be advertised and open for anyone who wanted to attend. Board Members would pay for their own meals and the chairman would pick up the candidate's meal. All of the meals would be held locally at independently-owned restaurants. No food would be provided to the public. Chairman McCain said that Ms. Stang would attend the lunches and dinner with the candidates to take minutes.

Chairman McCain assigned Board Members to reword questions from the list used during the last search. After Board Members had completed the list of questions at the interview, time permitting, Board Members could ask any follow-up questions that might result from the interview. In closing, the candidates would be asked if they had anything they wanted to share with the Board. Chairman McCain asked Board Members to bring their wording changes to the Discussion Session scheduled on March 10. Board Members agreed to schedule two interviews in one day, rather than one interview per day. Mrs. Simchick was asked to bring back a list of local restaurants.

Board Members also talked about site visits. It was noted that there was nothing to prevent a Board Member from visiting the candidates' sites on their own. They also discussed why it was important to meet with candidates outside the Board Room setting.

IV. Discussion on Contract negotiations – Chairman McCain

Board Members were asked to read the Superintendent’s contract and bring back any changes to the Discussion Session on Tuesday, March 10. One Board Member was against any buy outs. Another Board Member said not to pay for sick leave from another District. Chairman McCain asked Miss Stang to send the Board the link for the Superintendent’s contract and the spreadsheet prepared by Mrs. D’Agresta regarding contract comparisons with benefits. Chairman McCain said that travel reimbursement would be paid at the standard out-of-pocket rate as per State Statute and Board policy. He asked Miss Stang to try to get all five candidates scheduled for the week of March 16. Chairman McCain said that the finalist would be conducted by Special Board meeting, using straw votes.

V. Next Steps – Chairman McCain

Chairman McCain said that he would contact the top five candidates and he would place the Superintendent Search on the March 10 Discussion Session.

VI. Adjournment – Chairman McCain

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at approximately 11:47 a.m.