

The District School Board of Indian River County met on March 10, 2015, at 1:00 p.m. The discussion 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.

Board Discussion Session Minutes

I. Discussion Session was called to order by Chairman McCain.

II. ITEMS PLACED ON AGENDA BY BOARD MEMBERS – Chairman McCain

A. Claudia Jiménez

1. Discuss what kind of services should be available to students while they are not permitted on school campuses.

Dr. Adams said that only one student had been expelled so far this year. The District provided services to ESE students that included three hours of instructional services for three hours per week, for nine weeks, at a cost of about \$900.00 per student. Dr. Adams also noted the time that it would take the student's teachers to prepare the work. She said that their goal would be to maintain contact with the students to provide information on how the students could sign up for virtual classes. Ms. Jiménez asked how many students were suspended every year. Dr. Adams said that the Restorative Justice Program was being instituted at the middle schools and training would need to be done before the program begins.

2. Discuss invitation to CSAC Chair, Hope Woodhouse, to present results of Children's Assessment.

Ms. Jiménez said that she would find out if the presentation had already been televised by the County Commission.

3. Information about employees and living wage.

Ms. Jiménez said that she did not have the minimum wage information yet, with the pay for substitutes. She was concerned about not getting quality substitutes.

4. Discuss extracurricular policy revision request.

Ms. Jiménez requested to strike the following sentence from Board Policy #5610.05 – Prohibition from Extra-Curricular Activities. "Students prohibited from participation in all or part of any extra-curricular activity are not entitled to further notice, hearing, or appeal rights.

B. Dale Simchick

1. Public handouts at all workshops and discussion sessions, if available.

Mrs. Simchick requested that the Superintendent provide about a half dozen extra copies of all handouts for the audience and press. A Board Member requested that the handouts also be available on line. A Board stated that the documents were public record and this would support transparency.

2. Discuss future date certain for presentation from Mr. Waddell on behalf of charter schools.

Board Members discussed scheduling a Board Discussion Session to have a conversation with charter schools. Board Members, first, want to know what the charter schools wanted to discuss. The Board was interested in having the information prior to the Discussion Session. Issues mentioned were capital outlay funding and random drug testing policies. Chairman McCain stated that the Board was interested in scheduling a Board Discussion Session with the Charter Schools to include presentations, with discussion time for back and forth conversation between the entities. Board Members said that this would be a summer project, after the new Superintendent was appointed.

C. Shawn Frost

1. Letter on Child Safety, All Aboard Florida

Dr. Adams said that the School District provided data to the MPO but did not red flag the project. Board Member asked that the Superintendent provide the information to the new Board Members.

D. Chairman McCain

1. Superintendent Search (Dr. Adams was not present.)

Board Members decided to stay with the four candidates, after Dr. Rodriguez withdrew from the Superintendent search. Board Members reviewed the list of questions that they would use for the interviews. They were to submit rewrites to Ms. Stang. The Board set the Special Meeting date to select the finalist for Thursday, March 19 at 6:00 p.m. Straw votes would be used as the voting method. Meals with the candidates would include the Board Attorney, with minutes taken by the Executive Assistant to the Board. The meals would be immediately following the interview. A facilitator, designated by the Superintendent, would assist the candidate during the community input time. The Board also discussed contract negotiations with the finalist. Chairman McCain said that he would not agree to anything without discussing it with the Board. He said that there would be nothing more than what the current contract contained. The Board scheduled a short discussion session on Tuesday, March 24 at 5:00 p.m. (later moved to 4:00 p.m.), if needed, to talk about contract negotiation items. Mrs. D'Agresta stated that the severance pay needed to be changed due to a cap that was added by Legislation.

E. Charles Searcy

1. Safety inspections at all school sites and Citrus Bowl.

Board Members were concerned that a safety issue was overlooked. Mr. Morrison spoke to the actions taken and research that was ongoing as to the materials used. He said that the process in place now was better. Dr. Adams said that the District must ensure that we inspect the hard courts for safety issues. Mr. Copeman explained the inspection process. Board Members wanted assurance that a repair would not be held up waiting for the paperwork to go through the channels.

2. Holding back students in early grades.

Board Members talked about assistance for students in grades prior to the mandated testing for third-grade reading retention mandate. Dr. Adams talked about how students were being helped starting with the first day of school and the State mandates. She also mentioned her confidence in the Committees that make the recommendations for retention or promotion. Dr. Adams spoke about the negative emotional consequences for students who knew that they were being tracked and retained. Mr. Frost requested a copy of the report on multi-aged retention. Mr. Searcy requested a copy of the tracking methods.

III. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS – Chairman McCain

Mr. Frost reported on the Economic Development Plan and the Indian River County Planning and Zoning Committee.

Mr. Searcy report on the United Way event and the Value Adjustment Board meeting.

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

A. Instructional Calendars A and B

Dr. Adams talked about Calendars A and B that were on the business meeting agenda for Board approval. She recommended that the Board approve both A and B because the Legislative Session was not over until May. Dr. Adams said that the Calendar Committee did not see the Calendar with the August 10 start date. She said that the early start date was very recently proposed to Legislature. Dr. Adams said that the Board could either go with the early start date this year or next year. Mr. Fritz talked about other dates of concern that changed that included school on Veteran's Day because it would fall on a Wednesday and accommodations taken into consideration for Jewish holidays, and what had to be removed. The Board was interested in having a two-year calendar in the future.

B. Emergency Item - Approval of Request to Continue Suspension of Board Policy 2520

Dr. Adams spoke to the Board regarding her request to add an emergency item to the business meeting agenda. She said that for the 2015-2016 school year, the School District needed to select and purchase textbooks for at least four different subject areas from the State-approved textbook list. Under the current Board policy, the District was very concerned that the required local bid process would not be completed prior to the start of the new school year. Current Board Policy 2520 did not allow the District to take advantage of selecting textbooks from the State approved textbook list without a local bid process. In effect, Board Policy 2520 layered an additional bid process that was not required when purchasing from the State approved list. The local bid process was never part of Board policies in the past and was inadvertently added during the re-write of all Board policies. In accordance with the Superintendent's authority under School Board Policy 0132, Dr. Adams said that she suspended the implementation of Board Policy 2520, with regard to selecting textbooks from the State-approved list using a local bid process. She asked for Board support. Dr. Adams said that she was going to ask the Board to remove Board Policy 2520 from the adoption of policies and said that she would start the process to revise the policy and re-advertise a public hearing for adoption.

V. ADJOURNMENT – Chairman McCain

With no further discussion, the session adjourned at approximately 3:46 p.m.