

The District School Board of Indian River County met on June 23, 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: Dale Simchick and Shawn R. Frost. Dr. Frances J. Adams, Superintendent of Schools; Suzanne D'Agresta, School Board Attorney; and Mark J. Rendell, Ed.D., Superintendent Elect, were also present. Claudia Jiménez, Board Member, was not present.

Budget Priorities and Review of Final Legislative Conference Report Workshop Minutes

Mr. Searcy was not present.

- I. Workshop was called to order by Chairman McCain.
Ms. Jiménez attended by telephone.

- II. Purpose of the Workshop – Dr. Adams
Dr. Adams said that the purpose of the workshop was to present the tentative budget and to review the final Legislative Conference Report. She turned the workshop over to Mr. Morrison and to Dr. Rendell, who had been working with staff.

- III. Presentation – Mr. Morrison
Mr. Morrison introduced Vern Crawford, Schoolhouse Consulting Group, Inc., who worked with the Treasure Coast Workgroup. Mr. Morrison directed the Board to make two corrections to the information provided. He stated that, under Article IX Section 1 of the Constitution of the State of Florida, it clearly articulated the State's responsibility to the public education system. Article IX stated, *"The education of children is a fundamental value of the people of the State of Florida. It is, therefore, a paramount duty of the State to make adequate provisions for the education of all children residing within its borders."*

Mr. Searcy was present.

Overview of the Education Legislation from Special Session

Mr. Morrison turned the presentation over to Mr. Crawford. Mr. Crawford talked briefly about non-reoccurring revenue that the State used in past years to cover reoccurring expenses. The non-reoccurring revenue was greatly reduced thus leaving a deficit to cover those expenses. He said that the State was back in a growth mode. Last year there were 21,000 additional students attending schools in Florida. The result was that there was less money provided, per student, by the State. Mr. Crawford said that the June session may have helped education a little bit. He said that next year a number of the issues taken off the table would be brought back, including Amendment #1. Mr. Crawford said that education was not a priority this year.

Update and Review of Major FEFP (Florida Education Finance Program) Components

Mr. Morrison read the following State policy on equalized funding: *“To guarantee to each student in the Florida public education system the availability of programs and services appropriate to his educational needs which are substantially equal to those available to any similar student notwithstanding geographic differences and varying local economic factors.”* He presented slides on the following:

- Update and review of the major FEFP components
- Review of the 2015-2016 estimated FEFP revenues
- Review Superintendent’s tentative budget recommendations by Leadership Team
- Review of the 2015-2016 Budget Calendar

In conclusion, Mr. Morrison stated that to balance the proposed budget \$79,936 would come from the General Fund Balance. Mr. Morrison presented a summary of voter approved uses for the 2015-2016 0.60 millage referendum proceeds. He thanked the community for their support.

Dr. Rendell stated that this was a first look at the proposed budget. He said that some of the items listed under recommendations would probably come off the list. Dr. Rendell said that he wanted the Board to be aware of all of the items before removing any of them.

Board Discussion/Questions

Board Members were given an opportunity to ask questions and make suggestions. Mr. Morrison talked about the \$7.4 million funding loss. Mrs. D’Agresta gave an account of the circumstances that provided an opportunity for Indian River to loan Osceola School money from the Classrooms for Kids funds. Mr. Morrison stated that the School District received about 5 percent interest, in addition to the payment of the loan amount. In response to a question from the Board, Mr. Morrison said that he would bring back the amount budgeted) for expenses for the Volunteer Audit Committee (Committee no longer exists), in order for the Board to consider instead of hiring an Auditor to report directly to the Board. Board Members asked staff to find a way to ensure that teachers had classroom funds at the beginning of the school year, rather than waiting until the funds were received. Dr. Rendell said that they would find a way to get the money into the hands of the classroom teachers sooner. Board Members wanted to know the dollar figure currently in the reserve fund.

V. Adjournment – Chairman McCain

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at approximately 10:50 a.m.