

The District School Board of Indian River County met on October 25, 2016, at 1:00 p.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 6500 – 57th Street, Vero Beach, Florida 32967. District School Board Members attending were: Chairman Dale Simchick and Board Members: Claudia Jiménez and Charles G. Searcy. Dr. Mark J. Rendell, Superintendent of Schools; and Suzanne D’Agresta, School Board Attorney, were also present. Vice Chairman Shawn R. Frost and Board Member Matthew McCain were not present.

### **Superintendent’s Workshop Minutes**

Ms. Jiménez was not present.

I. Chairman Simchick called the workshop to order.

#### **II. PURPOSE OF THE WORKSHOP**

Dr. Rendell stated that the purpose of the workshop was to go over information regarding the Community Schools initiative at Pelican Island Elementary, proposed School Calendar for 2017-2018, and proposed school start times for 2017-2018. He pulled the fraud and abuse hotline discussion for a future workshop date. In its place, Dr. Rendell had information to share with the Board regarding job description changes for three positions.

#### **III. PRESENTATIONS**

##### **A. Community Schools Presentation by Andry Sweet, Chief Strategy Officer for Children’s Home Society Corporate**

Ms. Jiménez was present at 1:05 p.m.

Dr. Rendell introduced Pelican Island Elementary School Principal, Chris Kohlstedt; and Ms. Andry Sweet, Chief Strategy Officer for Children’s Home Society Corporate. Ms. Sweet explained that the Community School partnership with Pelican Island Elementary would bring to the school outside services to assist students and families with social issues regarding hunger, sickness, and homelessness that negatively affected student learning. Mrs. Blanco presented data from the survey done in 2014, US Census Data, and Health and Community data that explained the need for services and the school grade for Pelican Island Elementary School that was below State Standards for academic success. She said that the school population consisted of 83.16 percent of the families at or below poverty levels. Board Members discussed the Community Schools concept and asked questions regarding the support needed for student success. Board Members said that more parents needed to be included on the Steering Committee.

**B. School Calendar for 2017-2018**

Dr. Rendell stated that the proposed 2017-2018 School Calendar and Survey had been posted to the homepage of the District's website. Dr. Suit reviewed the process and the makeup of the Calendar Committee. Dr. Rendell explained that the feedback from the Superintendent's Cabinet was to split the dates for orientation between elementary and secondary to give parents, with multiple children, an opportunity to attend orientations at multiple schools. This would also give elementary teachers a few additional days in the fall to prepare for orientation, as opposed to high school teachers that preferred the earlier orientation date. The proposed start date for Teachers was August 7, 2017. The proposed start date for Students was August 14, 2017. The last day for Teachers was proposed for May 25, 2018, and for Students it was May 24, 2018.

Board Members asked whether or not early release dates were beneficial for student achievement. Dr. Rendell stated that the early release time was beneficial for student achievement, from the feedback he heard from the Teachers' Union. He said that this year's training opportunities were menu driven and included a choice for technology training on FOCUS. Board Members discussed a concern about the lack of meaningful teaching on half days on Fridays for secondary schools. Dr. Rendell noted that the half days were Union negotiated and that there were ways to address their concern. He stated that his Student Council reported that they were still getting valuable instruction on the half days. Dr. Rendell said that he could bring back information from Professional Development to see if it was beneficial. Community Member spoke on the subject. Board Member asked if all employees received a copy of the proposed calendar. Dr. Rendell said that it was on the website but that he would send an email to all employees, with a copy of the proposed calendar.

**C. School Start Times for 2017-2018**

Dr. Rendell announced that the District was scheduling two, town hall meetings to present the proposed, new start times for 2017-2018 as follows:

November 1<sup>nd</sup> at Oslo Middle School at 6 p.m.

November 3<sup>rd</sup> at Sebastian River Middle School at 6 p.m.

The proposed, new start times were:

Proposed School Start Times:

7:45 am – 2:35 pm High School

8:25 am – 3:10 pm Elementary School

9:00 am – 3:45 pm Middle School

The purpose for the meetings was to share information and receive input from the community. Each meeting would feature a presentation from District staff, local medical experts, and conclude with a question and answer session. Anyone interested in learning more or wishing to give input about the proposed school start times would be encouraged to attend.

Dr. Rendell stated that research had proven that teens were more productive with the later start times and elementary students were ready to learn earlier in the day. He said that there were advantages and disadvantages. Dr. Rendell said that they truly wanted feedback from the community. He said that there may be issues that the District had not considered. Dr. Rendell said that Indian River School District was one of the few Districts left in Florida that had not changed their start times to coincide with research. Board Members discussed the issue and suggested that they bring up the disadvantages as well as the advantages.

**~~D. Fraud and Abuse Hotline~~**

**Job Descriptions Market Analysis**

Dr. Rendell noted that in place of the fraud and abuse hotline discussion, Dr. Fritz would present recommendations for three job descriptions and related salaries based on the Incentivize's Position and Market Analysis. The positions discussed were for Construction Manager, Data Specialist, and Human Resources Manager. Board Members discussed the information provided. They also requested that information be provided to clearly state what the current salary level was, what job duties were being added, and if the position was new or being combined into one position. It was also suggested that the District advertise the position before determining that a higher salary was justified to fill the position. Board Members asked when they would have an opportunity to discuss salaries for janitors and teachers who have had their duties increased over time.

- IV. ADJOURNMENT – Chairman Simchick  
Meeting adjourned at approximately 3:59 p.m.