

The District School Board of Indian River County met on January 24, 2017, 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 Charles G. Searcy, Vice Chairman Shawn R. Frost, and Board Members: Dale Simchick, Laura Zorc, and Tiffany M. Justice. Dr. Mark J. Rendell, Superintendent of Schools; and Suzanne D’Agresta, School Board Attorney, were also present.

Superintendent Board Workshop Minutes

I. Workshop was called to order by Chairman Searcy.

II. **PURPOSE OF THE WORKSHOP**

Board Members discussed previous direction given to the Superintendent to provide all backup materials prior to all workshops, in order for Board Members and the community to have time to read the complex information that would enable the Board to ask pertinent questions and to give feedback. Board Member requested to postpone the workshop until they had time to review the backup information and to provide the information on the meeting site for the community. Mrs. D’Agresta stated that there was no legal obligation for staff to provide backup materials ahead of time. The Board discussed the issue at length. Dr. Rendell said that he would make every effort to ensure, in the future, to have the backup materials available on Friday, prior to the workshop date. Board Members agreed to move forward with today’s workshop, with the understanding that in the future all backup materials would be provided ahead of time.

III. **PRESENTATIONS**

Dr. Rendell stated that the first presentation would be on special education, next was to go over some changes regarding summer school offerings for 2017; followed by, information on new Legislation on Public School Choice, ethics and abuse hotline vendor information, and a Board request to discuss options for the Board Audit Committee and hiring of an internal auditor.

A. ESE Overview

Mrs. Dampier and Staff Members: Dr. Torres-Martinez, and Ms. Clark, and Mrs. Flood presented Board Members with an overview of the Exceptional Student Education Program. A PowerPoint was presented, with handouts that included the 2016 LEA (Local Education Agency) Profile from Florida Department of Education, Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services on enrollment; Florida Department of Education Chart on LRE (Least Restrictive Environment) by School for 2015-2016; and a list of schools by school name, student count, and number of students per school with disabilities. Board Members were given an opportunity to ask questions and to provide input. Dr. Rendell stated that the funding from the State and from Federal sources did not sufficiently cover funding for any one of the mandates.

Chairman Searcy called for a five-minute recess at 2:12 p.m. that he reconvened at 2:17 p.m.

B. Summer School

Dr. Rendell said that the presentation would be on summer school offerings for 2017. Mrs. Dampier and Staff Members: Mrs. Berg, and Dr. Long presented to Board Members an overview of the proposed Summer School Program. A PowerPoint was presented, with handouts that included Summer School 2017 offerings and 2017 Summer School Program Schedule. Board Members were given an opportunity to ask questions and to provide input. At a Board Member's request, Dr. Rendell said that staff could put together student data that would show whether the Head Start Program was successful. A Board Member suggested that it would be helpful to parents if the District would provide information regarding the best pre-schools in the County for parents to make the best choice for their child's academic success. Board Members discussed how to get information on pre-school private facilities out to the community. Dr. Rendell noted that the summer school instruction would not be done via computer. He said that there would be hands-on instruction with certified teachers.

C. Public School Choice

Dr. Rendell noted that there was, already, a lot of school choices in Indian River County; i.e., magnet schools, charter schools, out of zone waivers, and curriculum zone waivers for certain schools. During the last Legislative Session, a law was passed that any student could attend any public school within the State of Florida under Public School Choice. The School Districts throughout Florida were charged with creating a Districtwide open enrollment procedure. Mrs. Dampier went over the proposed process. Board Members were given an opportunity to ask questions and make suggestions. Some of the topics discussed included whether to list open seats on the website, moving of students during the school year at the parents' request, regulations regarding sports, disruption to classroom instruction, and implementing this process could be considered as taking away the intent of the law for school choice. Dr. Rendell noted that other Districts in Florida were mirroring the same process as was presented at this workshop. He said that staff would go back and take another look at how school choice could be implemented more than once per year. Board Member mentioned unintended consequences for teachers and students in the classrooms. Dr. Rendell said that he would bring this back for the first meeting date in February.

Chairman Searcy called for a five-minute recess at 3:30 p.m. and was reconvened at 3:33 p.m.

D. Ethics and Abuse Hotline

Dr. Rendell brought to the workshop information regarding a third-party vendor that could report back on a regular basis any ethics or abuse issues that would be reported anonymously. The handouts included: A one-page example of the process, claims, and cost from Escambia County and a copy of Risk Management Reporting Services vendor named, "The Network, A NAVEX Global Company".

Dr. Fritz stated that the example that was provided from Escambia County was at an annual cost of \$6,600 that could be lower if the cost was based upon student population. Board Members discussed the hotline that included how they would prefer the information to be reported, how it would be implemented, the need to see a copy of the contract, determine if the complaint could be disclosed, and when they would view the system. Dr. Rendell said that they would not stop searching, with just this one vendor. Chairman Searcy said that the Board would receive more information from the Superintendent before moving forward.

E. Board Audit Committee

Dr. Rendell reviewed the Board's prior discussion to create an Audit Committee and have an Internal Auditor. The handout was a copy of School Board Policy 6840 – Audit Committee. Dr. Rendell stated that each, individual, Board Member would bring forward a community member to serve on the Committee concurrent with the terms of the respective Board Member. The Superintendent shall appoint the highest-level District Administrator (other than the Superintendent) responsible for business and finance—Carter Morrison. Direction was given by the Board to move forward. Dr. Rendell stated that the next step was for each Board Member to bring forward their nominee; then, he would place the names on a business meeting for Board adoption of the Audit Committee Members. Board Members discussed how to recruit the best community member for the Committee.

- II. ADJOURNMENT – Chairman Searcy
Workshop adjourned at approximately 4:02 p.m.