

The District School Board of Indian River County met on May 23, 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's Workshop Minutes

I. Workshop was called to order by Chairman Searcy.
Chairman Searcy announced that Mrs. Zorc would be a few minutes late.

II. PURPOSE OF THE WORKSHOP
Dr. Rendell reviewed the topics that were to be presented.

III. PRESENTATIONS – Dr. Rendell

A. 2017-2018 Budget Update Number 3

Mr. Morrison went over the handouts that included a copy of the PowerPoint, Conference Report on SB2500, Preliminary Budget Book for 2017-2018 Fiscal Year, and the proposed Florida Retirement System Rates for 2017-2018. He stated that all figures presented at this workshop were subject to change, including the salary expenses. Mr. Morrison said that the ball would stop rolling on June 30, 2017, when the final State Budget was available.

Mrs. Zorc arrived at 1:05 p.m.

Mr. Morrison said that, so far, the only Bill that was given to the Governor to sign was HB 293. He reviewed the Bills that passed through the House and Senate and those that did not pass. Other Bills, including the highly controversial Bill 7069, had not been presented to the Governor to sign as of this date. Board Members discussed the Bills and the Legislative process. They also discussed why the State's proposal was for teacher bonuses, rather than raises. It was mentioned that during a bad financial year, bonuses could be eliminated or reduced as compared to raises that were continuous, along with the FRS contribution factor. Another factor was that salaries were negotiated between the District and the Unions. Mr. Morrison said that if the Governor vetoed the Bills, the District would have to start the budget process over again. Dr. Rendell, in answer to a question, said that he would research and get back to the Board regarding their question on the process for parents to apply for the Gardiner Scholarships.

Mr. Morrison gave a presentation on the following areas of the draft budget:

- ❖ 2017-2018 State and Local Funding
- ❖ Draft of 2017-2018 Millage Rates and Sample Tax Bill
- ❖ Review Budget Impactors and Superintendent's Budget Reduction Recommendations
- ❖ Update on Health Insurance Payment Plan

Board Members were given an opportunity to ask questions and request additional information. Dr. Rendell said that staff was almost finished working on a spreadsheet that listed what items the schools were cutting from their budgets this year. He said that he would share that with the Board. Mr. Morrison said that, overall, the proposed budget was reduced by \$3.3 million dollars. He said that the information provided today would be placed on the District's Website. Capital and Federal budgets were not included in today's presentations. The Board discussed the use of Internal Funds, facility charges for evening graduations to cover expenses incurred, and the continued use of impartial hearing officers from local attorneys, pro bono.

B. Career and Technical Center Presentation

Dr. Rendell said that the purpose of the presentation was to update the Board on the progress made towards creating a centrally located Career and Technical Education Center for both high school students and adult students utilizing the current Alternative Education facility. He said that the facility would be really good for our community. Mrs. Dampier said that they looked at other schools in Florida to develop a model for Indian River County School District. Dr. Arnett gave an overview of the program, using a PowerPoint presentation. Mrs. Shields, Principal of the Technical Center for Career & Adult Education, talked about the potential programs to be offered, job placement opportunities, general education options, and life-long learning opportunities. She also talked about their relationship with Human Resources at Indian River Medical Center. Dr. Arnett talked about career pathways to finish certifications at Indian River State College in the areas of air conditioning and welding. Board Members asked questions about current payments to IRSC, employment tracking, written agreements with IRSC, focus being on career or college ready as all students do not attend college, and Industry Certified opportunities. They also asked about CDL certifications, Fire Fighters' certifications, and courses to prepare students without the required, additional two years at IRSC. Dr. Arnett presented the proposed expansion of the Alternative Center in Phase I and Phase II. Board Member asked if the purpose to expand was based upon the spend down of Career and Technical budget. Dr. Arnett responded by saying "absolutely not". He said that it was driven by the Steering Committee to contribute to the local economy.

Board Member asked about students being dual enrolled at IRSC. Board Member asked about the District goal to have all students' college ready. Mrs. Shields said that students would have to apply and have a certain GPA to qualify. Board Member stated that the goal was to be career or college ready. It was also stated by the Board that there were a number of students who did not receive a high school diploma due to the FSA test; therefore, students should not be restricted and should be able to take a career certified class. Mrs. Shields said that there were certified courses that did not require a high school diploma. Board Member asked about providing transportation for students.

Mr. Donadio, from Donadio and Associates Architects, presented drawings of the proposed expansion of the Alternative Center. Scheme I cost was estimated to be between \$1.7 million and \$2 million. Scheme II cost was estimated to be between \$2.3 million and \$3 million. Mr. Donadio stated that both costs included furniture and fixtures. Board Member said that the Board was initially told that there would be no cost and asked if Mr. Donadio was being paid for his work. Mr. Donadio said that he received a work order. Dr. Rendell said that he would research that question. Board Member requested details of the proposed site work to include the difference between a retention pond and an impervious solution. Board requested a legible site plan with specifics and options.

Dr. Rendell said that the purpose of today's presentation was not to ask for any decisions from the Board but to present a proposal and ask for input from the Board regarding the Career and Technical Center concept. The costs would be paid from Adult Education and Vocational Training Program funds, with possibly utilizing Discretionary funds. Dr. Rendell said that more information would become available as staff worked through the process. Board Member mentioned that the taxpayers may not be receptive to utilizing funds for adult courses. Dr. Rendell said that he would get a list of certified programs currently being offered for both adult and students. Board Member said that the name of the school should not include the word "college". Dr. Rendell, in response to questions from the Board, said that he would present to the Board the budget for adult classes versus student classes.

C. District Management Group Update

Dr. Rendell said that the purpose of the presentation was an opportunity to present an update on the changes to the Student Services Department with recommendations from the District Management Group. Mrs. Dampier stated that the District had initiated a partnership with DMG last spring to examine and refine support for struggling students, both with and without special needs.

Ms. Keen, Associate from the District Management Group (DMG), presented the project overview of the work they did with the District and what was accomplished, and the next steps from March 2016 to date. Two key preliminary opportunities were identified as:

- ❖ Develop the capacity of general education teachers to ensure all students received academic support from a content-strong teacher.
- ❖ Clearly define models of ESE support to create continuum of services and more precisely allocated staff in support of the models.

Visions for both opportunities listed above were developed, with three identified, support strategies to achieve the vision. Dr. Torres-Martinez, Executive Director of Student Services, and Ms. Clark, Director of Exceptional Student Education, reviewed the milestones for Strategies A, B, and C. Ms. Keen presented key next steps that included the development of a monitoring plan and the implementing of a refined ESE service delivery model in school year 2017-2018. Board Members were given an opportunity to ask questions. Board Members' questions and concerns included; how important was DMG's role in the process, concerns from parents regarding the changes, and the extensive, certification training required for staff and teachers. Dr. Rendell said that classroom teachers would receive additional support dealing with behavior and special services in their classrooms that was stated as being a concern the Board wanted addressed. He said that the final budget may include an increase due to additional staff needed at schools.

- II. ADJOURNMENT – Chairman Searcy
Workshop adjourned at approximately 4:04 p.m.