

The District School Board of Indian River County met on July 28, 2015, at 2:30 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 25<sup>th</sup> 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. Mark J. Rendell, Superintendent of Schools; and Suzanne D’Agresta, School Board Attorney, were also present.

### **Discussion Session Minutes**

- I. Discussion was called to order by Chairman McCain.
  
- II. ITEMS PLACED ON AGENDA BY BOARD MEMBERS – Chairman McCain
  - A. Dale Simchick**

No items.
  - B. Shawn Frost**
    1. Failure Due to Absence  
Board Members discussed putting into place a Board policy on student absenteeism. Dr. Rendell said that he would speak to Principals, research other Districts, and bring back information and suggestions to the next Discussion Session.
    2. Academic Calendar  
Dr. Rendell reported that the Calendar Committee had already met and prepared two versions of the Academic Calendar. He said that he would bring to the Board two choices for Board approval at the second business meeting in August or by the first business meeting in September.
    3. K-8 Uniform Policy  
Dr. Rendell reported on the uniform dress code requirement. He said that there was not enough time to properly notice parents. Dr. Rendell also noted that the larger School Districts would have a better chance at receiving State funding that was being offered on a competitive basis. Dr. Rendell said that if they knew about this before, he would have supported the initiative. He said that it needed to be supported within. It was noted that Storm Grove Middle School was opened with a uniform policy and was the highest performing middle school in the District.
    4. American Founders' Month  
Board Members discussed whether or not to ask the Superintendent to bring forward a policy to include a yearly declaration of September as “American Founders’ Month”. Dr. Rendell said that a proclamation could be produced for the first meeting in September and all teachers could be made aware of it and be asked to incorporate some of this into their instruction. It was agreed not to create a Board policy.

5. Seminole County Testing Solution

Dr. Rendell reported on the Seminole County testing solution of three tests and how the solution was not accepted due to the fact that it did not tie into the Florida Standards test. He suggested communicating from the Superintendent, with School Board approval, a letter to the Commissioner and to Legislators in support of fewer tests. Dr. Rendell said that he would have the letter ready for the August 11 meeting.

**C. Chairman McCain**

No items.

**D. Charles Searcy**

1. Osceola Funds

Dr. Rendell stated that the funds would be placed in the Operating Funds budget for 2015-2016 proposed budget. Board Member was concerned about using Capital funds for Operating expenses. Mrs. D'Agresta stated that the funds, by Statute and by signed Agreement, could be used for any lawful purpose. Board Members discussed the financial need for Operating funds.

2. Legislative Platform

Board Members were asked to submit items to be included in the District School Board's 2016 Legislative Platform. Board Member said that she would bring a few suggestions forward for the August 11<sup>th</sup> Discussion Session.

**E. Claudia Jiménez**

1. Suspension Rates vs. Referral Rates

This item was in reference to addressing the issue of the Desegregation Order and Unitary Status. Dr. Rendell suggested setting a date for a workshop. He said that he had already starting working on the issue. Dr. Rendell said that he would ensure that all stakeholders were included in the workshop.

2. Follow-up with Charter Schools

It was noted that this was a subject that Dr. Rendell was going to bring to this Discussion Session. Mrs. D'Agresta addressed the issues regarding charter school funding. It was noted that the Board was not obligated but agreed to provide 5% of the .6 millage to charter schools and the District had honored that agreement. A Board Member requested to have the snippet of tape recording that the Board gifted/donated funding for Charter Schools. Dr. Rendell suggested that the Board schedule a follow-up meeting. He said that he had already opened up conversations and visited charter schools. Dr. Rendell said that the District was working on other chart school requests. After discussing the subject, Chairman McCain said that a meeting date would be scheduled and that it would begin at 4 p.m., with a two-hour time limit. Dr. Rendell said that meanwhile, he and Mrs. D'Agresta would schedule a meeting with Mr. Waddell.

Mrs. D'Agresta gave an update as to the issue of Indian River Charter High School's procedure of drug testing students as part of the admission's requirement.

3. **Teacher Leave Policy**

Dr. Rendell reported that both the District and IRCEA Contract Negotiating Teams had agreed to language to clarify the Teacher Leave Policy and Union Contract language and that the language would be included in the next contract bargaining agreement.

III. **BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS – Chairman McCain**

Ms. Jiménez reported on a conference she attended regarding minority student achievement. She shared the information with the Superintendent. Ms. Jiménez also reported on her attendance at the Florida School Boards Association's Joint Summer Conference. She talked about the Board's decision not to renew its membership in the Florida School Boards Association and the Greater Florida Consortium of School Boards Association.

IV. **ITEMS PLACED ON AGENDA BY SUPERINTENDENT – Dr. Rendell**

**Teacher Lead Funding**

Dr. Rendell reported that the Teacher Lead funding would be included in the teachers' second payroll check. Those starting after the first week would receive a pro-rated amount.

**Driver's Education Program**

Dr. Rendell gave an update on a proposed Driver Education program. Vendors were contacted to participate in an afterschool program, two days per week, with funding from the Doris Slosberg funds through the County, with a January start date.

**Request for Internal Auditor to Report to the Board**

Dr. Rendell gave an update on the Board's request for an Internal Auditor and stated how the position could be funded. Board Members agreed to have Dr. Rendell come back with models used by other School Districts and his recommendations.

**Air Conditioning Replacements Needed**

Dr. Rendell reported on the emergency need to replace air conditioning systems. The schools were: Vero Beach Elementary School, Gifford Middle School, and Oslo Middle School. The question was whether to move forward with Performance Contracting or find funding to replace the systems. Board requested information on financing options. Chairman encouraged Board Members to speak to Mr. Morrison and Dr. Rendell for further information/understanding. Mr. Rendell was directed to bring a recommendation to the next business meeting.

V. **ADJOURNMENT – Chairman McCain**

Meeting adjourned at approximately 4:30 p.m.