

The District School Board of Indian River County met on August 11, 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 25th 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
 - A. Shawn Frost**
 1. Educators' Professional Liability Insurance
Dr. Rendell stated that Dr. Fritz was aware of the letter from Commissioner Stuart regarding Professional Liability Insurance and was going to speak to the Indian River County Education Association.
 - B. Chairman McCain**

No items.
 - C. Charles Searcy**
 1. 2016 Legislative Platform
Board Members discussed the platform prepared by the Treasure Coast Workgroup. Suggestions were to include no new mandates and to have the State directly fund tuition for dual enrolled students or create a State fund; otherwise, remove payment required from School Districts for dual enrollment. Dr. Rendell announced that they were working with IRSC to offer dual enrollment at Indian River School campuses at no extra cost, except for books that would be returned to the School District. Another item requested was to draft language for student testing solution. Dr. Rendell said that he would draft the language. Board Members were asked to bring back re-wording of Legislative Platform items and any new items to the next discussion session for the District School Board's Legislative Platform for 2016.
 2. Senior Volunteers
Board Members discussed the value of connecting senior volunteers with existing volunteer opportunities at schools. Dr. Rendell said that he would reach out to staff for ideas.

D. Claudia Jiménez

1. Impact Fees

The discussion was in response to a citizen input statement made by Charles Wilson that the School District unlawfully utilized impact fees. Mr. Morrison presented documentation from the District and from Indian River County that supported the School District's utilization of school impact fees in compliance with the law.

2. Elementary School Student Stations

Dr. Rendell stated that although the FISH (Florida Inventory of School Houses) Report contained over 800 student stations at Citrus Elementary School, once the School project was completed, the program capacity was projected to be less than 748 students. He explained that several special classes had smaller number of students, depending upon the type of instruction; i.e., smaller, exceptional student education classrooms. Board Members requested to have the FISH numbers and the program numbers on an annual basis to educate the community on available student stations.

E. Dale Simchick

1. Charter School Update

Board Members talked about the pending discussion session with charter schools and the requested mediation/arbitration. Mrs. D'Agresta addressed the mandatory arbitration clause contained within one of the charter's contracts and the course of action, moving forward, regarding the request for mediation. Dr. Rendell reported on an informal meeting he requested with Mr. Waddell and the Indian River Charter High School. He said that if there was a delay in the meeting date, he would send a letter to all charter schools regarding the delay in setting up a discussion session date with the School Board, pending requested mediation/arbitration.

2. Update on Indian River Academy Elementary School

Dr. Rendell reported that the new Principal changed the culture of the school and the increased teaching standards and that work had also been done on the physical appearance of the school. He said that the data was not available at the moment to report on the overall improvement of the school.

III. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS – Chairman McCain

Mr. Searcy reported on the SHAC meeting and handed out a copy of the final report from the School Health Advisory Committee that contained recommendations for the next school year.

Mrs. Simchick gave a report on the Sebastian Planning and Zoning Committee Meeting that included a lighting project for baseball fields and a new Youth Advisory Board.

Mr. Frost reported on the Economic Development Committee meeting. He noted that there was an internet firm interested in moving to Indian River County because of the school system.

Ms. Jiménez encouraged Board Members to read the SHAC Report. She stated that health affected students' ability to learn. Mr. Searcy stated that there were four District Staff who attend the meetings.

IV. ITEMS PLACED ON AGENDA BY SUPERINTENDENT

A. Absentee Policy

Dr. Rendell presented his research. He said that Brevard had the strictest policy that applied to all grades. Dr. Rendell said that both of Indian River County High Schools Principals were in favor of having an absentee policy. He said that they would work on writing the policy during the first semester; and, then, putting the policy in place as a pilot program starting with the second semester with no real consequences. Parents would be notified that their child would have failed if the policy was in place. The policy would then be brought forward for adoption for the 2016-2017 school year. Dr. Rendell would bring this back to the next Discussion Session.

B. State Testing Solution

Dr. Rendell presented a draft letter to the Commissioner of Education to replace the FSA (Florida State Assessment) with the IOWA nationally normed test in grades 3-8 and using the PSAT and SAT for grades 9-10. The letter supported the letter from Seminole Superintendent. Board supported the letter as written.

C. Internal Auditor

Hold for the next Discussion Session

Dr. Rendell requested approval to hold a Special Meeting on Friday, August 21, to approve items required for the first day of school. Board Members agreed to meet at 4:30 p.m.

V. ADJOURNMENT – Chairman McCain

Meeting adjourned at approximately 3:58 p.m.