

The District School Board of Indian River County met on September 8, 2015, at 1:00 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.

Curriculum Discussion Minutes

- I. Discussion was called to order by Chairman McCain.

- II. Purpose of the Discussion Session
Dr. Rendell stated that there were three items to go over with the Board that included the 2016-2017 Instructional Calendar, Virtual School franchise, and the Student Progression Plan.

- III. Presentations
 - A. 2016-2017 Instructional Calendar**
Dr. Rendell stated that the proposed 2016-2017 School Year Calendar had a start date of Wednesday, August 10 and students' last day would be June 24, 2016. Dr. Fritz stated that the start date would allow the School District to give exams prior to winter break to bring more continuity of instruction. Dr. Suit reported on the process that was used to develop the Instructional Calendar and the membership of the Calendar Committee. Next year the Committee would also include the President and Secretary of the Communication Workers of America (CWA). Dr. Suit said that the Calendar was vetted through the Executive Leadership Team and the Superintendent of Schools. Board Members were given an opportunity to ask questions and make suggestions. Questions included the dates for graduation, day off for conferences in September, District rationale to support exams before winter break, two-hour early release Wednesdays, effect on band and football programs, IRSC calendar, advantage of students who were eligible to graduate in December, report card dates, and the testing schedule. Board Members indicated that they would be interested in having a testing calendar for the visual effect. Dr. Rendell said that would not be too difficult. It was requested to include whether the test was State mandated or local option.

B. Virtual Schools

Dr. Rendell reminded the Board about the costs associated with the mandated virtual schools option for students that was unfunded by the State. The District also had to pay the costs for books that were not required to be returned. He said that in order to recoup the expense, the District was proposing to opening up a District Virtual School franchise with Florida Virtual School that should open in January 2016. Dr. Arnett, using a PowerPoint presentation, presented F.S. 1002.37 The Florida Virtual School and F.S. 1003.4282 (4) online course requirements, and 1002.45(b) requirement to provide at least three options for full-time virtual instruction. He presented information on the number of students currently enrolled full time and part time, list of courses, FTE funding, and recalibration (squishing down of FTE funding that resulted in a loss of \$617,572.18). Dr. Arnett presented information on the proposed franchising opportunity with Florida Virtual School to reduce the cost of virtual classes. The advantages for both the students and the District were presented; such as, adjunct teachers being less expensive, textbooks savings, virtual teacher physically available to mentor students, expanded credits, full-time homeschooled students back in the FTE system, and the ability to offer classes not offered through SDIRC.

Board Members were given an opportunity to ask questions that included additional opportunities for teachers, wording, profit for FVS, breakeven figures, FTE savings, cost for the franchise and adjunct teachers, and the role of the teacher. Dr. Rendell stated that the initial startup would include classes with only the highest enrollment in virtual schools. He said that the franchise would be run as a separate school, with an administrator, a guidance counselor, and adjunct teachers. Dr. Rendell said that he hoped to start the virtual school franchise with the second semester starting January 2016. Dr. Arnett noted that the most important point was that this opportunity would improve student achievement.

C. Student Progression Plan

Dr. Rendell said that he would reschedule the Student Progression Plan.

V. Adjournment

Discussion adjourned at approximately 2:30 p.m.