

The District School Board of Indian River County met on November 3, 2015, at 4:00 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.

Discussion Session Minutes

I. Discussion was called to order by Chairman McCain.

II. **ITEMS PLACED ON AGENDA BY SUPERINTENDENT**

Dr. Rendell stated that the purpose of the following two items was to present, as requested by the Board, an update on the Wellness Center and Student Services data.

A. Health Care Services Update

Dr. Fritz introduced his guests. Updates were given regarding the Employee District Wellness Center from September 2014 to September 2015, under the management contract with CareHere Services. Charts were shown regarding the 90% usage, facility costs, pharmaceutical costs, administrative costs, and projected trends both past, present, and future. They also presented information on employee feedback, employee access to dieticians, employee wellness training sessions, and hours of operation. Board Members asked questions and requested additional information regarding the breakdown of costs per month to include the facility costs (utilities, maintenance, telephones, etc.), in addition to the administrative costs, pharmaceutical costs, and operation costs. Board Member also inquired as to the Safe Harbor requirement. Dr. Fritz explained that past health insurance premiums were presently being recouped from the Teachers' Union and negotiations were underway to recoup past expenses from the CWA Union. Until those expenses were recouped, the District would operate in the red. Other steps being taken to cut costs included: keeping an eye on claims, clinic mitigation, and pharmaceutical usage and costs for non-generic drugs.

B. Student Services

Dr. Rendell stated that Dr. Torres-Martinez would present services and data regarding Student Attendance. He said that the issue of appropriate student rewards for perfect attendance would be discussed with Principals. Dr. Torres-Martinez, using a PowerPoint presentation, presented information in the areas of Collaboration with Community Organizations, Positive Climate and Discipline, Code of Student Conduct Handbook, Multi-tiered Systems of Support, Suspension Expulsion Review Team Data (SERT), Health Services, Mental Health, Social Services and Behavior, Attendance, Guidance Counselors, and Elementary Enrollment.

She talked about restorative practices, bullying trends and practices, and the new eight-step plan for student intervention that included additional student services. Board Members asked questions regarding in-house suspension practices. Other Districts were moving toward having no out-of-school suspensions, as a District practice. There was a question as to the number of student clusters for ESE student populations. Dr. Rendell stated that there was a dramatic decrease in the number of suspensions. Dr. Torres-Martinez stated that they were no longer using the traditional suspension practices. Dr. Rendell said that the decrease was proof that the two schools that had Restorative Justice worked and would be expanded to other school sites. Board Member requested to add to the next Discussion Session a discussion regarding the training, retaining, and rotation of attorneys assigned to Student Hearings. Board Members discussed the attendance trends, dental sealants, adequate staffing, and increased outside services referrals.

III. ITEMS PLACED ON AGENDA BY BOARD MEMBERS

A. Chairman McCain

1. Organization Meeting Agenda "Draft"

Board Members were asked to review the organization agenda and submit any suggested changes to the Board Office. Dr. Rendell suggested moving the second business meeting in March 2016 to March 29. He added that a second meeting in July might be necessary due to the early start date. Board Member suggested moving the business meeting that would be held on Election Day to another date.

B. Charles Searcy

No items.

C. Claudia Jiménez

1. Summary of Personnel Resignations, Terminations, and Suspensions

Board Members discussed the issue of asking the Superintendent to prepare a report for each business meeting. A suggestion was to have individual, informal conversations with the Superintendent.

D. Dale Simchick

Mrs. Simchick requested to add, under her name, an item to the December 8 Discussion Session regarding the attestation of payments made to contractors by utilizing an outside firm to research possible overpayments of \$10,000 or more. Board Members requested a copy of the policy and contract used in the past by the School District. Mrs. D'Agresta stated that there were several other School Districts that utilized outside firms. She said that she did not know if any School Districts handled this in house.

E. Shawn Frost

Board Member stated that he hoped that the School District was doing exit interviews.

IV. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

No reports.

V. ADJOURNMENT – Chairman McCain

Meeting adjourned at approximately 5:54 p.m.