

The District School Board of Indian River County met on January 12, 2016, 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 6500 – 57th Street, Vero Beach, Florida 32967. District School Board Members attending were: Chairman Dale Simchick, Vice Chairman Shawn R. Frost, and Board Members: Matthew McCain, Claudia Jiménez, and Charles G. Searcy. 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 Simchick.

- II. ITEMS PLACED ON AGENDA BY BOARD MEMBERS
 - A. Matthew McCain**
No items
 - B. Charles Searcy**
No items
 - C. Claudia Jiménez**
 1. Superintendent’s Evaluation Timeline/Contract Discrepancy
Dr. Rendell noted that the revised timeline was suggested in order to have available the performance data from the Department of Education to complete his evaluation. Also, moving the goal setting date to August would enable the Board to set realistic goals. Mrs. D’Agresta said that if the Board wished to use these dates, the employment agreement would need to be amended. Chairman Simchick stated that the Board could go ahead and adopt the timeline proposed on the business meeting this evening and direct the Board Attorney to bring back an amendment to the Superintendent’s employment contract.
 2. Graduation Rates
Dr. Rendell gave an update, school by school, on the recently publicized school grades.
 - D. Chairman Simchick**
 1. Update on Charter School Mediation regarding .6 mill and Appeal of Somerset Charter School Applications
Mrs. D’Agresta reported that the Department of Education Mediator was called in and a resolution was not met. She said that the School District was waiting to receive from the Commissioner of Education a letter to indicate that the issue was at impasse. She said that in regard to the two Somerset Charter School applications, the School District was waiting for the Department of Education to schedule the matters on their Calendar.

2. Number of Students per Guidance Counselor

Dr. Rendell noted that the School District was in line with the number of students per Guidance Counselor around the State. He talked about the advantages of having a Graduation Coach/Social Worker to work one-on-one with students to provide student support to relieve Guidance Counselors. He noted the importance of the person in the position as being the key to success in providing that support. Board Member noted the importance of making this issue a priority to ensure that the money was available in the budget.

E. Shawn Frost

1. Senate Bill 1360 regarding Gaetz Bill on Student Assessments:

Mr. Frost talked about Senate Bill 1360. The language of the Bill was, "Student Assessments; Authorizing a district school board to choose to implement certain rigorous alternative assessment options by a certain school year; requiring each school district to annually notify students and parents of standard high school diploma requirements by a specified date; requiring a classroom teacher's performance evaluation to be based on the performance of certain students, etc." Mr. Frost said that the District's decision would be due by April and had to be budget neutral. He talked about some of the advantages for students and teachers. Board Members and Superintendent discussed the Bill.

III. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Frost reported on the highlights of his first MPO (Metropolitan Planning Organization Meeting).

Chairman Simchick reported on her attendance at the Sebastian Planning and Zoning Meeting.

IV. ITEMS PLACED ON AGENDA BY SUPERINTENDENT

A. Follow-up on Continuous List

- All completed items on the list would be removed
- Remove creation of policy on student absenteeism
Board asked Superintendent to have the Attendance Officers meet directly with chronically absent students to find out why and what the District could do for them and report back to the Board. Board Member asked to find out how many Attendance Officers were in the District and to consider Restorative Justice for these students. Change this item title.
- Charter School Follow-up
Update given earlier by Mrs. D'Agresta

- **Desegregation Order and Unitary Status Update**
Dr. Rendell gave an update that included the invoice, work accomplished, and a request for a report on the final estimate on the cost to prepare a list of recommended areas to be included in the firm's research, with a timeline. Board Members requested to contact the NAACP for a list of what the School District was not doing; and, then, set a public meeting date in February on the second or fourth Tuesday of the month at 9 a.m. to meet with NAACP to open communications and to build relationships.
- **Internal Auditor Reporting Directly to the Board**
Dr. Rendell asked for direction. After discussing the issue, the Superintendent was directed by the majority of the Board to re-establish an Audit Committee, consisting of representation from each Board Member. Mrs. D'Agresta noted that there was a Board Policy giving direction for an Audit Committee.
- **Report on ESE Transition Services**
Dr. Rendell said that, with Board direction, he would bring back information that may also include additional information but it would not be ready for January 26.
- **Sick and Vacation Leave**
Dr. Rendell asked for direction. Board Members requested a workshop/discussion session on basic information on how much was budgeted, how much was owed, and the liquidity status, with projections. Chairman asked that both the budget information and the Board Policies be included in the discussion session/workshop.
- **Baseline Data tied into Desegregation**
Dr. Rendell asked for direction. He suggested that the title be changed to Equity Report Data. Board Member requested that instead of data tied into desegregation, present baseline data for students in the lowest percentiles. Dr. Rendell said that he would have Mr. McMahon give him a report that he would send to the Board first. Board Member brought up confidence-based learning (mastering skills), rather than age-based learning levels. Additional thoughts were to consider a Schools of Innovation pilot and separate classrooms for boys and girls.
- **Attestation Policy for Over-payments to Contractors**
Dr. Rendell said that this one could be removed because it was on the evening business meeting.
- **Meeting Places**
Dr. Rendell reported that it would be difficult to hold live, business meetings in other locations. Board requested to hold evening, town hall meetings, one north county and one in the south county. Dr. Rendell mentioned holding the meeting in school sites. Chairman Simchick suggested doing a State of the School District Report first and then open it up to the public, with a five minute limit per speaker. It was suggested doing it over YouTube. Board Members discussed the timeline

for next year's Referendum on .6 mills. Dr. Rendell would focus on town hall meetings in March 2016. He would come back to the Board with dates.

- Fellsmere Phase I Attestation/Payment from Pirtle
Dr. Rendell said that he would have the payment before the evening business meeting.
- List of Pro Bono Attorneys for Student Hearings
Dr. Rendell said that he was working with Dr. Martinez on this project.
- Book Purchase
Dr. Rendell gave an update and said he would report back when he had all of the information.
- Local School Grades
Dr. Rendell said that he should be ready to present information at the next Discussion Session. Board Member asked about having a student piece included in the District Report Card. Dr. Rendell said that there would be some reference but this year it would not be included in the main information page.

Question regarding the Salary Changes Listed on the Evening Business Meeting:

Dr. Rendell said that Dr. Fritz would respond to questions regarding the changes. He said that no one received a reduction of pay. Employees received a letter and should contact Human Resources, if they have any questions.

Address Change as per Bylaws:

Mrs. D'Agresta said that those changes would be coming forward for adoption.

Chairman's Items:

Chairman Simchick reminded the Board to forward their changes for their business cards. Mr. Searcy suggested that the Board include their District numbers. Dr. Rendell noted that he would be present to represent the District School Board at the January 26 Moonshot Moment Literacy Breakfast Series. Board Members agreed that those interested in walking in the Martin Luther King Parade would join the Indian River County Commissioners or other groups.

- V. ADJOURNMENT – Chairman Simchick
Meeting adjourned at approximately 3:11 p.m.