

The District School Board of Indian River County met on February 23, 2016, at 1:00 p.m. The workshop 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.

Superintendent’s Workshop Minutes

I. Chairman Simchick called the workshop to order.

II. **PURPOSE OF THE WORKSHOP**

Dr. Rendell stated that there were four items on the agenda: Discussion with the Members of the NAACP, Presentation on the Citrus Bowl renovations, Presentation of Local School Report Cards, and summer school.

III. **PRESENTATIONS**

A. Discussion with NAACP

Introduction of Guests:

Tony Brown, President of the Indian River County Branch of the NAACP

Dr. Jacqueline Warrior, Chairman of the Education Committee of the Indian River County NAACP

Michelle Scott, Member of the Education Committee of the Indian River County NAACP

Julianne Price, Member of Executive Committee of the Indian River County NAACP

Rev. Scott Alexander, Senior Minister of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Vero Beach and Member of the Education Committee of the Indian River County NAACP

Willie Finklin, Secretary of the Indian River County NAACP

Dr. Rendell said that he asked, when setting up this discussion, if the NAACP could present a list of items for discussion. He reported that the NAACP preference was that this discussion be an open dialog. Dr. Rendell turned the discussion over to Mr. Brown. Mr. Brown talked about the desegregation order, regarding equal educational opportunities for African-American Students. He gave a short history of desegregation in Indian River County. Mr. Brown said that they (NAACP) were here today to find out what the School Board Members’ understanding was of the desegregation order and what the School Board believed was their responsibility and how it was going to move forward.

Chairman Simchick thanked them for coming and said that this was a good beginning. She said that she had hoped that there would be a list of concerns from NAACP. She said that she was familiar with the desegregation order. She said that her understanding was that the purpose of today's workshop was to find out where we were at and where we were going. Chairman Simchick asked if the NAACP wanted to start with the teacher ratio shortfall. Dr. Warrior asked about the report from Husch Blackwell. Dr. Rendell said that they did not have a report. He said that the District was aware that the District does not meet the District-wide requirements of black teacher ratios, as was reported by the School District in the past. He said that they had discussed working on recruitment practices. Dr. Rendell said that the District was aware that there were some schools that did not meet the membership requirements. He said that they had discussed these areas.

Dr. Warrior asked how they could work together to begin moving forward. She said she had two concerns: diversity of staff and Multicultural Plan. Board Members were given an opportunity to discuss the issue and offer suggestions. Dr. Rendell recap: When the Husch Blackwell report comes in, we would all sit down and go through it together. Today, what could surface were some of the issues and what we could do together to work towards a solution. He asked if the NAACP and Board wanted to start by brainstorming.

Board Member brought up unitary status and what we could do together and workforce issues and career and technical programs. Mr. Brown said they started to put together a list that included: recruitment, multicultural plan, school enrollment, charter schools, achievement gap, and putting us (NAACP) in areas where they could be effective; such as, Code of Conduct, and IEP workshops. He talked about the issue of recruitment and how it was accomplished in Dade County. Mr. Frost asked if Mr. Brown would be willing to go with the District staff to recruiting events. Mr. Brown said if the District would be honest, he would find NAACP Members to go with the District.

Chairman Simchick said that her thought today was to start the conversation with open dialog and covering a few things today. NAACP Members stated their desire to work side-by-side with the School District and School Board. Board Member stated that they had heard the complaints in the past but no solutions. He said the relationship needed to go both ways. Mr. Finklin suggested that for recruitment there should be a comprehensive plan with certain measures and outcomes; in order to be able to state that we did X, we did Y, and we did Z.

Other suggestions from NAACP were: Recruitment bonuses, or continuing education stipends for minorities, Recruitment at HBCUs and other universities, Local intern/external promote support staff, Home-grown program, Minority leadership training, and Career paths. Dr. Warrior suggested working together on the Multicultural Achievement Plan.

Chairman Simchick stated that monthly meetings would continue and the Board would schedule another meeting with the NAACP. Mr. Brown said it was important to be honest. He said that the purpose of the NAACP involvement was to make sure they made a difference to the students of Indian River County.

Board Member suggested that the School Board set a workshop on the Multicultural Achievement Plan and challenged the Board to ensure that there were protocols and procedures in place, with training and a workshop for new and existing Board Members. Ms. Scott noted that the Multicultural Achievement Coordinators, that she spoke to, were not familiar with what their role was and did not know who they were to report to. Ms. Price mentioned having the right people at the table when you were working on the plan. She said that a good place to start would be having the NAACP Members as part of that process. Mr. Finklin identified two priority areas: Multicultural Plan and teacher ratios. Mr. Brown thanked the Board for this opportunity and said he was hopeful that this was the genesis of the future.

Dr. Rendell's notes:

- This is the first of the meetings with the NAACP.
- We wanted to partner on many of these issues in order to work together on solutions.
- He said they would ensure that the NAACP was included in the recruitment trips in the spring.
- Put together a committee/task force on the Multicultural Achievement Plan.
- Schedule a workshop on the desegregation order, itself.
- Schedule a workshop on what the District was already doing for struggling students.
- Next step would be to schedule another discussion session with NAACP on March 29 at 1 p.m. for a 90-minute follow up. (Due to a conflict, the time was later re-scheduled for 2:30 p.m.)

Recess called by Chairman Simchick at 2:16 p.m. She reconvened the workshop at 2:24 p.m.

B. Citrus Bowl Renovation

Dr. Rendell said that they would present a perspective of the Phase I and II projects. Mr. Morrison presented information regarding the timeline, emergency action for safety concerns, ADA and Health Code corrections, track, and funding recommendations. Mr. Sanders presented a timeline that would affect the 2016-2017 football, band, and various athletic activities. This timeline situation was due solely to address the track surrounding the football field. Dr. Rendell said that an alternate plan was to move the track field to another location on the Vero Beach High School Campus that was closer to the Freshman Learning Center. Mr. Sanders presented the pros and cons and costs associated with the proposed new location. Mr. Morrison addressed the costs for the 2016B COP for \$8 million, folding in the Five-Year Budget costs for the Vero Beach High School Freshman Learning Center that would be needed for the new track location. Dr. Rendell said that the Phase II recommendation was to go with the placement of the track field outside of the Citrus Bowl because it was more cost efficient and would avoid all of the problems associated with the disruption to sporting events and would promote the ability to hold multiple events simultaneously.

Mr. McCain was not present.

Board Members were given an opportunity to ask questions and make suggestions. Board Members asked about the effect of delaying the track renovations. Dr. Rendell said that the high school did not have a regulation track or a regulation soccer field that would fit right inside the track field. Board Members discussed whether or not this proposal was needed for students and ADA requirements. Right now, Dr. Rendell stated that the District was not providing the optimal experience for sports and an equal experience for sports as compared with the Sebastian River High School campus. He also noted that the track project and the Freshman Learning Center building were on the Five-Year Plan but moved up. Mr. Sanders noted that if the project was not done now, the costs would increase for the same project in out years. Mr. Copeman said that in order to meet the ADA requirements and receive a certificate of occupancy for Phase I Citrus Bowl, the items listed on Phase II had to be done. Board Members discussed removing the recommendation to move the track from Phase II. The plan would, then, be to resurface the existing track within the Citrus Bowl.

Mr. Morrison reviewed the need to finance the ADA requirements for the Citrus Bowl and the repayment of the \$1.75 million to the general fund at the end of this school year. Board Members discussed the financing and the proposed plan for Phase II.

TRIM (Truth In Millage)

Mr. Morrison reviewed the proposed timeline that would be brought to the next business meeting for information and placed on the District website.

C. School Report Cards for 2014-2015

Dr. Rendell talked about the local District Report Card, as well as the State Report Card. Mr. Green talked about the parent surveys, demographics, detailed information on how grades were derived, annual measureable objectives, gains, Value Added Models, SAT10 data, weighting, overall data, attendance, discipline indicators, and referral data. Dr. Rendell noted that the targets were set very high; etc., 5% for suspensions. Mr. McMahon explained how the District arrived at the 5% target. Mr. Green talked about Moonshot Moment target, grade level data, and ELA Gateway Performance. Dr. Rendell noted the positive trend lines, as compared to the State. He noted the increase in student performance as they moved from one grade to the next. Mr. Green talked about the screen shot of the District website information that would be available to the public. Board Members were given an opportunity to ask questions and make suggestions.

Chairman Simchick called a brief recess.

D. Summer School

Dr. Rendell noted that Mr. Rynberg would present the student performance over the past few years and the plan for summer school this year. Mr. Rynberg presented backup on the training, costs, and locations. He noted that tonight's item included \$355,000 from general fund, with the bulk from community partnerships and State funding and other areas of funding. A short video was shown for Title I Reading/Enrichment two-week Camps in 2015. Mr. Rynberg stated that Ms. Long was not present due to a death in the family. Mrs. Berg presented information on Title I, V-PreK transition into kindergarten programs, community support extension program, increase in number of students participating, progress from two-week program, 3rd grade summer program, voluntary PreK program, and ESY summer programs. Mr. Rynberg talked about the algebra I graduation requirement and boot camp created to assist those having difficulties. A short video was shown from a student's perspective on the boot camp experience. Mr. Rynberg talked about the course and credit recovery computer-based programs for middle and high school students. Board Members were given an opportunity to ask questions and make suggestions.

- V. ADJOURNMENT – Chairman Simchick
Workshop adjourned at approximately 4:34 p.m.