

The District School Board of Indian River County met on March 8, 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 Session was called to order by Chairman Simchick.

- II. ITEMS PLACED ON AGENDA BY BOARD MEMBERS
 - A. **Mr. McCain**
No items requested.
 - B. **Charles Searcy**
No items requested.
 - C. **Claudia Jiménez**
 1. Board Attorney Evaluation
After discussing the issue at length, the Chair directed Ms. Stang to obtain a copy of the last RFP that was done to obtain a District School Board Attorney for legal representation and to obtain a copy of the last research that was done regarding examples of evaluation forms used by other School Districts in Florida. Chairman Simchick said that she would add this subject under her name on the Agenda for the next Discussion Session.
 2. Update on the Town Hall Dates
Dr. Rendell said that he would give an update at the next discussion session.
 - D. **Chairman Simchick**
 1. Annual Review of Resolution #2014-08
The purpose of the Resolution was to establish School Board meeting protocols, providing severability, and providing for an effective date. As per the Resolution, the Board shall annually review its meeting protocols and make such revisions as it deemed appropriate. After discussing the Board Meeting Setup Procedures, it was recommended that the Superintendent's Workshop with the District School Board be added to the list on the fourth Tuesday of the month at 1 p.m. It was noted that all workshops were televised and held in the TEC. It was also recommended that the Information Sessions be either audio or video taped.

The Board also discussed citizen input at workshops and discussion sessions. It was agreed that if a Board Member wanted to hear from someone in the audience, the Board Member would let the Chairman know. With consensus, Chairman Simchick said this would begin now, on a trial basis, to see if it was effective, being mindful of the business of the Board.

2. Letter from Freedom from Religion

Chairman Simchick shared with the Board Members that Mrs. D'Agresta received a letter naming individual staff at schools, during sporting events, leading the team in prayer. She said that Dr. Rendell addressed the issue with principals, who would remind staff that it was not permitted to engage in religious prayer of any kind with students.

E. Shawn Frost

No items requested.

III. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

Ms. Jiménez reported on her attendance at the Executive Roundtable where they talked about the Kids at Hope Tunnel and upcoming reports on violence and gang activity.

Mr. Frost reported on the new duck weed business opportunity in Fellsmere that would employ up to 177 employees.

Chairman Simchick reported on her attendance at the Fellsmere and Sebastian Planning and Zoning meetings. She highlighted a new family recreation center being built in Sebastian that would include 17 bowling lanes and could possibly be an opportunity for Sebastian school students to re-establish bowling leagues.

IV. ITEMS PLACED ON AGENDA BY SUPERINTENDENT – Dr. Rendell

A. District Management Council (DMC), Time Certain 1:30 p.m.

Dr. Rendell introduced Sam Ridnick, Director; Kristen Keen, Senior Associate; and Melissa Donaher, Associate from the District Management Council that was hired by the District School Board to do a review of the District School Board's Exceptional Student Education Services Department. Mr. Ridnick presented a brief review of the process that included student outcomes, resources allocation, and operational efficiency. The process would include an emphasis on the Student Achievement Gap and 3rd Grade Reading initiative. Mr. Ridnick stated that this would be a three-year process. Ms. Kern talked about the diagnostic methodology. Board Members were given an opportunity to ask questions and share ideas. Ms. Kern talked about additional support and strategies for the coaching model. Mr. Ridnick explained that the right teacher, with more student instructional time, was proven to be successful; additional staff was proven not to show any significant student outcomes. He said that they would offer suggestions to better manage time and how to work within the District's budget.

Chairman Simchick called a five-minute recess at 2:36 p.m. Chairman Simchick reconvened the discussion at 2:41 p.m.

B. Update on Preliminary Legislative Budget Outcomes

Mr. Morrison presented challenges for the 2016-2017 District Budget that could result in no new initiatives and little or no flex for school requests. He verbally listed some of the items that were required to be budgeted. Dr. Rendell announced that three additional schools would be added to the District's Title I Schools. He said that no additional funding would be provided. Instead, the funding would be spread out equally to all Title I schools. Dr. Rendell said that the 75% level was established by the District for the Title I classification. Board Members were given an opportunity to ask questions and make suggestions. In summary, Dr. Rendell said that he would put together dollar figures that would project the amount that would come from the general fund. Board requested to find out what other School Districts used as their threshold for Title I classification. Mr. Morrison said that another challenge facing the District was the District Health Insurance. He said that Dr. Fritz would present the facts in an upcoming workshop setting. Mr. Morrison talked about the possible strategies that may be needed to meet the challenges for the 2016-2017 District budget.

C. School Start Times

Dr. Rendell said that the Transportation Department was looking into the student starting times for the 2016-2017 school year that would have secondary and middle schools starting later and elementary schools starting earlier (approximately 30-minute time difference). He said that they would first do a cost analysis and look around the State to see what worked for other School Districts. Dr. Rendell said that he would check Orange County School District to find out what they experienced with their time change. Dr. Rendell responded to questions from the audience.

- V. ADJOURNMENT – Chairman Simchick
Discussion adjourned at approximately 3:27 p.m.