

The District School Board of Indian River County met on March 29, 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 Board Workshop Minutes

- I. Workshop was called to order by Chairman Simchick.
- II. Purpose of the Workshop
Dr. Rendell stated that the purpose of the workshop was to review the 2016-2017 Legislative Conference Report, follow up discussion with the Members of the NAACP, and to present a transition program for students with disabilities.
- III. Presentations
 - A. Review of 2016-2017 Final Legislative Conference Report**
Mr. Crawford gave an overview of the education legislation from the 2016 legislative session. Handouts were provided. Dr. Rendell said that he would bring back the issue of 0.60 millage referendum summary of recommended uses for further discussion. Mr. Morrison reviewed the Truth in Millage Calendar. Board Members were given an opportunity to ask questions and make recommendations.

At 2:17 p.m., Chairman Simchick called for a ten-minute recess.

B. Discussion with NAACP

Dr. Rendell said that the discussion was to follow up on the Discussion Session held in February 2016. He handed out a list of recruitment efforts that were or were soon to be underway that included travel to universities and benefit incentives. He stated that an offer for employment was made on the spot to an African-American Teacher and had been accepted.

Members of the NAACP Committee talked about the incident on the Vero Beach High School Campus regarding flyers being distributed to students with a picture of the Confederate Flag with racial slurs; such as, “the South shall rise again”. And the incident of the Confederate Flag being displayed on vehicles on campus. Chairman Simchick asked Dr. Rendell to speak to the incidents.

NAACP Members asked that the School Board disallow the Confederate Flag on campus and to enforce the Code of Conduct for inappropriate behavior, bullying, and inappropriate display causing a disruption to students' environment and students' safety. Mrs. D'Agresta was asked to address whether or not it was legal to disallow the flag or the picture of the flag on flyers or tee shirts. Chairman Simchick asked that this discussion be continued at the next Discussion Session. She said that she wanted more information from Mrs. D'Agresta regarding the District's legal position.

There was a discussion on the Desegregation Plan and what had and had not been accomplished over the years by the Multicultural Coordinator and the District. Board Members noted that when they hired Dr. Rendell, he was directed to address the Desegregation issue. An outside attorney was hired to prepare a report that would provide the Board and Superintendent with a clear picture of what was done in the past and what needed to be done in the future. Chairman Simchick said that the report would be completed in April 2016. Dr. Rendell said that he would ensure that Dr. Warrior was contacted regarding the Committee meeting dates. Mr. Brown stated that the School District needed to hire more male/African American Teachers as role models for the male/African-American Students.

At 3:46 p.m., Chairman Simchick called for a short recess.

C. Career Education for Students with Disabilities Transitioning Program

Dr. Rendell presented information on the proposed career education class for students with disabilities for students leaving the school system. He said that this was a collaborative effort between the Exceptional Student Education Department and the Technical Center for Career and Adult Education. The purpose was to prepare and accredit students at varying levels of culinary proficiency for career opportunities in food preparation, food services staff, and as cooks. The initial funding would be provided in part from Food Services budget. Mr. Hunt explained the program, eligibility, membership, and use of the existing test kitchen. Mrs. Shields talked about the budget priorities, costs, and sustainability of the program. It was noted that job coaching would be included. Dr. Rendell said that all necessary approval requests would be brought back to the Board.

- IV. ADJOURNMENT – Chairman Simchick
Workshop adjourned at approximately 4:27 p.m.