

The District School Board of Indian River County met on October 11, 2016, at 6:00 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: Claudia Jiménez, and Charles G. Searcy. Dr. Mark J. Rendell, Superintendent of Schools; and Suzanne D’Agresta, School Board Attorney, were also present. Board Member, Matthew McCain, was not present.

Discussion Session Minutes

- I. Discussion was called to order by Chairman Simchick.

- II. ITEMS PLACED ON AGENDA BY BOARD MEMBERS
 - A. Chairman Simchick**
 1. Organization Agenda
Board Members were asked to review the Agenda and submit any suggestions for changes/revisions. Board Members agreed to add the Executive Roundtable to the list of committee assignments.
 - B. Shawn Frost**
 1. School Board Policy Revisions
Board Members discussed Board Policy #5500 Student Conduct for the use of the word “shall” versus the word “may” regarding student expulsions. Dr. Rendell said that after discussing this with staff he changed the word to “may”. Board Member asked about the absentee policy for students and asked for data from both high schools to include seniors with 36 or more absences and how many of those students graduated in June for the 2015-2016 school year. Board Member requested that the discussion take place after the new School Board Members were seated.
 2. Legislative Platform
Board Members moved this item to the December 13 Discussion Session, when the new Board would be seated.
 3. Discussion
Board Member brought up issue regarding discussion between two Board Members during an open meeting and the Sunshine Law.
 - C. Claudia Jiménez**
 1. Mental Health First Aid
Dr. Torres-Lopez gave an update on the mental health training scheduled for District staff. Dr. Warrior requested to speak on this topic.
 2. Custodial Services
Chairman Simchick asked Ms. Weisberg, CWA Custodial Area Vice-President, to attend to speak to this issue. Ms. Weisberg spoke on the topic of privatizing custodial services.

Dr. Rendell stated for the record that the Board had not given direction to privatize services and that the School District looked into it for cost savings purposes but had not taken any action to move in that direction. Dr. Fritz clarified his conversation at union meetings. He said that the District no longer had a substitute pool to cover absences; therefore, outside services were used due to a concern about the cleanliness of facilities. Mr. Morrison presented the financial side of the staffing issue. Board Members asked questions on staff supervision, Principals responsibility, absenteeism, misbehavior, incompetence, incentives, proper equipment/supplies, training, union representation, and evaluations. Dr. Rendell talked about options for management of custodial services personnel. A Board Member asked about the supervision of ESE staff.

3. School Secretaries

Dr. Rendell reported that hourly staff, who were authorized to work overtime, needed to be compensated. Principals were asked if they needed additional staff to handle the additional workload that was added for student enrollment. He said that those who requested temporary help were assisted by District staff. Dr. Rendell stated that the secretary who received injuries from a parent had occurred during the regular school day. He said that they would continue to monitor the school secretaries' workloads. Chairman suggested that when issues were brought up during Citizen Input, it might be better to give the Superintendent an opportunity to speak immediately following while the citizens were still present.

4. New Construction & Implications for the School District

Dr. Rendell reported that new construction posed no immediate concerns; however, North County schools were at capacity, with the probability of future rezoning to alleviate the capacity issue. He said that for student services funding, it was better to be growing than declining. Dr. Rendell said that the need to build had not been determined at this time.

5. ESE Audit Update/Inclusion Pros & Cons

Board Member stated that it was probably time to discuss the advantages and disadvantages of inclusion, once the ESE Audit was finalized. Mrs. D'Agresta gave a short version of federal and state laws that required the use of the least restrictive environment for ESE students. She said that parental consent was required and there was not a one-size-fits-all resolution. Dr. Rendell stated that the District's job was to place students in the best educational environment. He said that this topic would be included during the October 25 workshop.

D. Charles Searcy

1. Dr. Rendell reported that all School Districts in Florida were trying to get FEMA to pay the money owed from past hurricanes. It was noted that \$2 million was owed to the Indian River County School District.

E. Matthew McCain

(Absent)

III. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

No reports.

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

No items requested.

V. ADJOURNMENT – Chairman Simchick

Discussion adjourned at approximately 2:56 p.m.