

The District School Board of Indian River County met on January 10, 2017, 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 Charles G. Searcy, Vice Chairman Shawn R. Frost, and Board Members: Laura Zorc and Tiffany M. Justice. Dr. Mark J. Rendell, Superintendent of Schools; and Suzanne D’Agresta, School Board Attorney, were also present. Dale Simchick, Board Member, was not present.

Discussion Session Minutes

I. Discussion was called to order by Chairman Searcy.

II. ITEMS PLACED ON AGENDA BY BOARD MEMBERS

A. Shawn Frost

1. Mr. Frost reported on his meeting with Dr. Rendell regarding their discussion regarding the possible creation of an internal audit committee, and an ethics and abuse hot line to be added to the next Superintendent’s Workshop. Dr. Rendell said that the results of the discussion would then be brought to the Board for approval the first meeting in February, with possible implementation in March. Board Members discussed the recommendation and requested more information.
2. MPO- Go-Line Depot at SRHS and VBHS Baseball Fields Property
Board Members discussed the feasibility of having a dual-use option for the baseball fields and the Go-Line, with a possible land swap. Dr. Rendell recounted past discussions with the County Staff. Board Member handed out a list of unused property owned by the School District. Board Member asked if the past could be put aside to see if a land agreement could be negotiated for the best interest of the students and for future needs. Board Member brought up the need for the District to spend money to repair current infrastructure and the County’s need to preserve green space. Board Members encourage staff to open up dialog with the County.

B. Laura Zorc

1. Appointment to School Board’s Land Use & Acquisition Committee
Board Member recommended Wesley Davis’ appointment to the Land Use & Acquisition Committee. Mr. Davis had 8 years’ experience as a Board Member and 12 years’ experience as a County Commissioner, and extensive experience in real estate. The appointment was listed on the business meeting for Board action.
2. MPO Alternate Position
Board Member requested to withdraw her position on the MPO because her husband served on the same committee. The appointment to reassign the position was on the business meeting for the Chairman to make a new appointment to the MPO Alternate position.

3. Legislative Platform

Board Members discussed a handout listing talking points for the District's Legislative Platform. Mrs. Zorc reported that she and Dr. Rendell met with Senator Mayfield to go over the list. Board Members were encouraged to contact Legislators. Dr. Rendell said that he would find out for the Board if the School District was paying for information provided by Dr. Mixon for his Legislative Services to the School District. Mrs. Justice noted that she, too, meet with Senator Mayfield on the State's need to provide funding to School Districts to avoid having to go out for Tax Anticipation Notes for start of the year expenditures and the issue of Class Size Amendment flexibility being the same as for charter schools. The issue of VPK funding, accountability, and quality of education was discussed; as well as, unfunded mandates. Dr. Rendell said that he may do a presentation at a future meeting on unfunded mandates. Dr. Rendell stated that the list of talking points were ranked in the order of importance for the School District. It was suggested that the final list of talking points be forwarded through Miss Stang to the Board.

C. Dale Simchick - Absent

D. Tiffany Justice

1. Career and Technical Education Steering Committee

Mrs. Justice gave a report on the Steering Committee that included a conversation on the use of career and technical education funds from the new special millage, community awareness of what courses were currently being provided, engaging the community in the plan, consolidation of courses between the two high schools, and opportunities for growth. Dr. Rendell noted funds that were available from Adult Education that he would bring to the Board for career and technical education. Board Member was interested in having a list of all District Committees and how Board Members could contribute. Dr. Rendell said that he would provide the Board with a list. Mrs. D'Agresta addressed the issue of Board Member attendance at Committee meetings.

2. Literacy Week

Mrs. Justice announced that literacy week was January 23 through 27. Board Members were encouraged to attend the kickoff at Vero Beach Elementary School and to volunteer to read to a class. Mrs. Justice also talked about the Friday, January 27, Drop Everything and Read event. Dr. Rendell said that the Drop and Read event included all schools, departments, and District Office from 9:30 a.m. until 10:30 a.m. on Friday, January 27.

Chairman Searcy called for a 5-minute break. He reconvened the Discussion Session at 2:39 p.m.

E. Chairman Searcy

1. Monthly Budget Comparison Report

Chairman Searcy spoke to the Board about having a monthly report regarding how much of the budget was spent to determine if the expenditures were meeting or exceeding the budget to ensure that the District would not have to acquire a Tax Anticipation Note for startup funding for the next school year. Mr. Morrison handed out an example of the monthly reporting that was currently included on the Business Meeting Agenda under Information. Dr. Rendell said that he had direction from the Board to work towards preserving sufficient funds to cover the lean months before the revenues were received. Mr. Morrison said that he would bring back to the Board suggestions on how the information could be presented in a format that would be easier to comprehend.

2. Superintendent Evaluation Timeline

Chairman Searcy distributed and reviewed the Superintendent's annual review, timeline, and goals.

III. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

No reports.

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

A. Strategic Plan

Dr. Rendell reported that the Strategic Plan process would begin in February. He said that the purpose was to create a five-year vision and, then, put into place how to achieve those goals.

B. Use of Concretable Buildings for VPK

Dr. Rendell reported on a plan that he would like the Board to consider for a public/private partnership utilizing the concretable buildings that must be removed from Beachland Elementary. The purpose was to benefit the VPK Program, with highly-qualified staff for structured preschool, focusing on students who would attend Dodgertown Elementary School. He said that right now the only investment from the School District would be the concretable buildings.

C. School Start Time Committee

Dr. Rendell reported that the Committee would meet and bring forward their findings to the Board. Board Member cautioned that she would not be interested if the result would be a \$1.4 million increase in the budget for additional bus routes.

V. ADJOURNMENT – Chairman Searcy

Meeting adjourned at approximately 3:48 p.m.