

The District School Board of Indian River County met on April 02, 2019, at 6:00 p.m. The Board Discussion Session was held in the Joe N. Idlette, Jr. 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 Laura Zorc, Vice Chairman Tiffany M. Justice, and Board Members: Teri Barenborg, Jacqueline Rosario, and Dr. Mara Schiff. Dr. Mark J. Rendell, Superintendent of Schools; and Suzanne D’Agresta, School Board Attorney, were also present.

Special Discussion Session Minutes

I. Meeting was called to order by Chairman Zorc at 4:30 p.m.

II. Presentation

Chairman Zorc started the session by explaining that this meeting was a special discussion session with the discussion limited to the review of the Superintendent search, process, and timeline. She stated that no formal action would be taken, as any action regarding the Superintendent’s contract would be taken as an Action agenda item at a regular Board meeting with proper notice to the public. She added that the next Board meeting would be on April 9, 2019, at 6:00 p.m. and that the public is invited to give comments during all business board meetings.

Chairman Zorc stated, that today’s Discussion Session is limited to the review of the Superintendent search process and timeline. The Board received an email from Dr. Rendell last Monday informing the Board that he intended to seek employment outside the jurisdiction of the Board. As reviewed at the last meeting, he is required by his contract to give the Board a 30-day written notice, if he does choose to take a position elsewhere. In response to his actions, we have a duty, as custodians of the District, to set an action timeline in play. She stated that the Board was there to be proactive and to ensure what is in the best interest of our 18,000 students, 2,200 employees, parents, tax payers, and our \$287 million budget that we are entrusted to oversee.

Chairman Zorc gave a brief description of three past timelines. In the Fall of 2014, Dr. Adams gave 10 months’ notice that she was retiring in June of 2015. It took 10 months to find a Superintendent and no interim was needed. FSBA was used for this search and Mr. Wayne Blanton, who led the search, has since retired. Dr. Rendell was hired to replace Dr. Adams. In 2011, Dr. La Cava completed his contract and was replaced by Dr. Adams, no outside interim was needed. In 2008, Dr. La Cava replaced Mr. Maher, who was terminated by the Board eighteen months prior. The Board hired Dr. Pat Pritchett as Interim for eighteen months to stabilize the District and to assist in a Superintendent search. FSBA was also used for that search. Historically, the Board has utilized FSBA to conduct the search process from beginning to end.

Chairman Zorc asked the Board to look at the backup information she had provided on FSBA. In the packets were the Agenda, the Superintendent Search Process, information on St. John's County and Hernando County searches, *Why select Florida School Boards Association for your search?*, background information on the FSBA Superintendent Search Team Members, and the timeline.

Chairman Zorc opened floor for discussion. Each Board Member had the opportunity to speak multiple times. Discussion topics were:

- Superintendent and/or Interim Superintendent Search
- Historic perspective of past Superintendent searches
- FSBA Membership
- Sunshine Law
- Budget for Superintendent Search
- Possibilities:
 - Extend Superintendent's contract or not
 - Termination of contract with or without cause
 - Superintendent's resignation

There was consensus that the Board wanted to have an informal Discussion Session on the Superintendent's contract and would meet with FSBA to discuss the search process and ask questions on April 9, at 12:00 p.m. The topic of the meeting will be Superintendent's Employment Contract.

- III. Adjournment – Chairman Zorc
Meeting adjourned at 6:34 p.m.