

The District School Board of Indian River County met on July 26, 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. Meeting was called to order by Chairman Simchick.

II. ITEMS PLACED ON AGENDA BY BOARD MEMBERS

A. Chairman Simchick

1. Presentation from Husch Blackwell on the Desegregation Order Report

Chairman Simchick announced that the presentation from Husch Blackwell would be removed from the Discussion Session. She explained that the Board was notified by the attorney that because there was an ongoing Court Order on the Desegregation Order, the information would be presented to the District School Board in Executive Session. Mrs. D’Agresta explained that the information was from an attorney hired by the School Board and that the information was client privilege information. Once the Board read the report and met in a closed Executive Session, the Board would decide whether or not the report contained information that could be shared with the community. On behalf of the Board, Chairman Simchick apologized to those in attendance. Community Members were invited to speak on this topic. Board Members discussed the issue at length. Chairman Simchick wrapped up the conversation by stating that the Board would schedule an Executive Session, preferably on August 9, 2016. It was noted that if the attorney was not able to attend in person, they would be willing to have the attorney attend remotely.

There was a discussion on what the District had already put into place in regard to recruitment of black teachers, Multicultural Plan, Equal Opportunity Schools Contract to identify and upgrade African American students, and training teachers on how to educate black students. Chairman Simchick thanked everyone for attending.

Chairman Simchick called a five-minute recess and reconvened at 2:22 p.m.

2. School Board Audit Committee

Chairman Simchick stated that the Board had already discussed this topic and decided to wait until the new Board was seated.

3. 2016-2017 Superintendent's Goals

Dr. Rendell reviewed the proposed 2016-2017 Goals. Board Members were given an opportunity to discuss and make suggestions. Dr. Rendell stated that a new Committee, that would be made up of Community Members, was being brought together in order to develop a Five-Year Strategic Plan. He said that the Plan would replace the use of Goals. Community Members spoke to the topic. The Goals would be placed on the August 9, 2016, business meeting for adoption.

Mr. McCain left at 3:52 p.m.

4. Superintendent's Evaluation Tool and Timeline

With the Board in agreement, Chairman Simchick asked that the tool be revised to include the ranking of each goal. The purpose of the change was to assist the Chair in preparing the final rank for the Superintendent's evaluation, with input from all five Board Members. Mrs. D'Agresta stated that in accordance with the Superintendent's contract, the overall rating of satisfactory or unsatisfactory was appropriate. The 2016-2017 goals, evaluation tool, and timeline would be on the August 9, 2016, business meeting.

B. Shawn Frost

1. Revisions to Code of Student Conduct Handbook

Mr. Frost said that he would work with the Committee regarding changes to the 2017-2018 Handbook.

2. Fraud Hotline Information

Mr. Frost handed out information regarding a hotline to prevent workplace fraud, waste, and abuse regarding District owned property/facilities/equipment. Chairman Simchick asked Dr. Rendell to report back at the next Discussion Session, after reading the information and speaking with staff.

C. Claudia Jiménez

Ms. Jiménez spoke to those in attendance regarding the Board's 3-2 vote on the Code of Student Conduct. She talked about particular changes to the Handbook that two Board Members voted against. A Community Member spoke to this discussion. Board Member explained his requested change that would take out the details and list it simply as; i.e., protected class, bullying, etc. A Board Member brought up his issue with the attendance policy that should include a minimum number of acceptable absentee days. Dr. Rendell said that both high schools were developing attendance incentives for this coming year. He said that for the secondary level, nine days per semester was the standard used by the majority of high schools throughout the State, with the opportunity to file an appeal.

D. Charles Searcy

Mr. Searcy brought up Supervisor training and performance surveys. Dr. Rendell said that they would look at that in the future.

E. Mr. McCain

No requested discussion items.

III. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

No reports

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

No items requested.

V. ADJOURNMENT – Chairman Simchick

With no further discussion the session adjourned at approximately 4:04 p.m.