

The District School Board of Indian River County met on Tuesday, August 23, 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 and Charles G. Searcy. Dr. Mark J. Rendell, Superintendent of Schools; and Suzanne D’Agresta, School Board Attorney, were also present. Board Member, Claudia Jiménez, was not present.

Superintendent Workshop Minutes

I. Workshop was called to order by Chairman Simchick.

II. **PURPOSE OF THE WORKSHOP**

Dr. Rendell stated that he removed Presentation B, Student Progression Plan, due to the fact that changes were received this past Thursday from the Department of Education that affected the Student Progression Plan. He said that he would bring the Plan back to in September. Under FOCUS, Dr. Rendell said that Mr. Green would present what was accomplished last year and what would be added this year. In regard to the Equity Report, he said that Dr. Fritz would present facts and figures from last year and this year. Under the Tax Anticipation Notes, Mr. Morrison and Mr. Ford would present facts and figures.

III. **PRESENTATIONS**

A. Update on FOCUS Implementation

Mr. Green, using a PowerPoint presentation, talked about the antiquated TERMS student information system that teachers were unable to access, the separate and isolated systems that were not integrated, and the variety of software applications that were being utilized, separately, for class size compliance and monitoring (as an example). He talked about the new FOCUS School Software, Student Information System that integrated all of the separate systems into one system that was accessible to administration, teachers, students, and parents; with one consistent interface and database. Mr. Green presented the yearly cost savings of \$24,268.00. He noted that over 20 years of data had been converted. Over 100 training sessions and workshops were held for new users. The upgrades were made possible with the Voter Approved 0.6 Millage. Mr. Green gave a live presentation of how parents could sign into their students’ profiles, access information, and interact with teachers. Board Members asked questions that dealt with getting the word out to parents, attendance robot calls, access to information, security issues, and scheduling. Community Members were given an opportunity to ask questions.

B. 2016-2017 Student Progression Plan

Removed

C. Annual Equity Report

Dr. Fritz, Dr. Suit, and Dr. Long reviewed the Report and talked about key information, current year hiring, and upcoming steps for Human Resources strategies and Curriculum strategies. Included in the report was information related to the Desegregation Court Order. The report included student information in the areas as advanced placement and dual enrollment numbers that were separated by the number of White, Black, and Hispanic students. The report also included the numbers and percentages of instructional personnel and administrative personnel that were African-American. A comparison of last year's hiring of White, Black, and Hispanic personnel was also included in the report. Dr. Fritz stated that District wide, the School District met the 9% required under the Desegregation Court Order. Board Members asked questions regarding Counselors, transferring teachers, instructional attendance, dual enrollment, male instructional personnel, local recruitment practices, recruitment bonus, buddy program, and television advertisements. Community Members were given an opportunity to ask questions. Dr. Fritz said that they did not have the data on Charter Schools but could obtain it and report back to the Board. Dr. Rendell presented an article on, "*Teaching Now*," regarding the need to encourage African-American students to go into the teaching field.

Chairman Simchick recessed the workshop at 2:29 p.m. and reconvened at 2:41 p.m. Mr. McCain and Dr. Rendell were not present after the break.

D. Tax Anticipation Note Discussion

Mr. Morrison and Mr. Ford, District Financial Advisor, presented information regarding the need and cost of obtaining a short-term, Tax Anticipation Note (TAN) that would provide a funding source to carry the District until the local tax funds were received in November/December 2016. This practice was currently being used by over 40 School Districts in the State of Florida. Mr. Ford presented the financial figures and process to obtain the TAN.

Dr. Rendell was present.

A Board Member noted for the public the inequity in that the School District had to wait for funds to be received from local tax revenue, compared to the fact that the School District was required to disperse the portion due to Charter Schools, even though the money was not yet received. Mr. Morrison noted that even though the amount due from local tax revenues may not come in at 100%, the School District was required to distribute the entire amount to Charter Schools, at a net loss to the School District. Board Members asked questions and made suggestions on subjects; such as, difference between School Districts, "donor" School Districts, budgeting rather than borrowing, Safe Harbor shortfall, short-term loan from Capital, and deferring projects.

Dr. Rendell stated that every year the District was going to try to budget for the short-term deficit, instead of going out for a short-term loan. His preference was to have the State provide the short-term funding, as was done in the past.

- IV. ADJOURNMENT – Chairman Simchick
Meeting adjourned at approximately 3:35 p.m.