

Volusia County Schools  
~**School Board Notes**~

**June 16, 2015**  
**School Board Meeting**

**SCHOOL DISTRICT UPDATE**

The superintendent stated at the June 2 school board workshop, high school athletics was addressed. This is the first time high school athletics has been recognized by the school district as a priority and that funds have been dedicated to capital improvements. While this gives us new opportunities, it is important to remember that there are limitations, particularly in regard to maintenance and school responsibilities. The school district is currently collecting data and input from stakeholders. Issues range from problems with fields, tracks, lighting and bleachers to inadequate equipment and storage. Cost estimates will begin soon and a report is tentatively scheduled to be made to the school board on August 11. A 10-year capital improvement plan will be drafted and presented to the board in early 2016 with a final plan in the spring of 2016. This plan will be updated every five years as long as the dedicated funding source exists. There will not be adequate money to address all problems, shortages and inadequacies. Schools will still require fundraising and partnerships.

Regarding state end-of-course exams, overall we are pleased with the performance of our students.

- In every grade level, students who took biology for the first time exceeded the state average in passing biology. Overall, Volusia was 10 points above the state and saw an increase in the passing rate from 74% to 75%. The state saw a decrease from 67% to 65% passing.
- In history, Volusia had 68% of first time test-takers score level 3 or higher, which was higher than the state average of 66%.
- Volusia's civics scores were just below the state average of 64%, with 62% of students scoring level 3 or higher.
- In FCAT science, 5<sup>th</sup> grade remains above the state as it has since 2007. Volusia had 59% of students score level 3 or higher, the state had 53%. That's a 6 point difference. Eighth grade remains above the state as it has since 2007. Volusia had 58% of students score level 3 or higher, the state had 48%. That's a 10 point difference.

**ADMINISTRATIVE APPOINTMENTS**

<b>ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL APPOINTMENTS (<a href="#">PHOTO</a>)</b>	
<b>SCHOOL</b>	<b>ADMINISTRATOR</b>
Starke Elementary	Eilene Ahr
Deltona Lakes Elementary	Tonya Griffin

## **CUSTODIAL SERVICES CONTRACT**

The school board approved the [contract](#) for custodial services and supplies with GCA Education Services. The contract completes the remaining three-year term of the original five-year term under the contract with Aramark. The contract with Aramark expires on July 1, 2015 and the contract with GCA will expire on July 1, 2018. The superintendent stated the goal is for every student and teacher to return to clean schools on August 24.

The annual contract price of the GCA contract is \$11,869,444, which reflects two years of consumer price index adjustments to the original proposed price of \$11,413,194 in accordance with the terms of the requests for proposals. This annual contract price is slightly less than cost of the Aramark contract of \$12,028,147 had it been continued past July 1, 2015, in accordance with the applicable consumer price index adjustment.

The contract provides for the opportunity of either the district or GCA to terminate the contract without cause upon 60 days notice, rather than the 180 days under the previous contract. The contract may be terminated for cause upon 30 day written notice to the other party.

The parties have included additional language into the contract to address several issues raised by the school board. This language is found in addendum no. 1 on page 26 of the contract and includes such areas as:

- requirement for establishment of communication plan with school principals to ensure immediate communications on service needs and feedback;
- reminder of existing contract language that requires GCA to maintain adequate supply of paper products, soaps and other supplies for all buildings;
- specific requirement for pressure washing of food courts, benches and sidewalks and the purchase and maintenance of equipment;
- ongoing training efforts of staff;
- monthly evaluations by principals based on cleaning specifications, including enhanced access to performance results; and
- weekly progress reports to district during summer 2015 preparation for the school year.

## **VENETIAN BAY K-8 PUBLIC SCHOOL PROPOSAL**

The school board heard a [report](#) regarding a public-private partnership that will facilitate the design, construction and operation of a K-8 public school to be located on the school board owned 20-acre parcel in Venetian Bay, New Smyrna Beach. The partnership includes financing options that would result in faster construction of the school than if the school district followed its traditional method for funding construction. The school board directed staff to further investigate the proposal and bring forward a recommendation and possible agreement.

## **SAFETY AND SECURITY ASSESSMENT REPORT**

The school board heard a [presentation](#) and approved submitting the annual [Safety and Security Assessment Report](#) to the Department of Education Office of the Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability (OPPAGA). Each school district is required to use safety and security “best practices” to conduct a self-assessment of the school district's current safety and security practices. The district is in full compliance with each of the 30 state requirements.

## **SUPERINTENDENT'S EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT**

The school board tabled discussion of an employment contract with James "Tom" Russell, superintendent. The agreement will be discussed and voted upon at the June 23 school board meeting.

## **CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

The school board approved the consent agenda, including the following items:

- Renewal of the [subscription](#) for Learning A-Z, which is used by elementary teachers as a supplemental resource in language arts
- Submittal of a grant [application](#) to the Florida Department of Education for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers Program to benefit students and families of Westside Elementary and Campbell Middle schools for the 2015-16 school year
- [Purchase](#) of Lenovo ThinkPads and carts for the high school math program, which will be purchased with Race to the Top funding and will support the new digital online programs

## **NEXT SCHOOL BOARD MEETING**

**Regular Meeting:** Tuesday, June 23, 4 p.m., DeLand Administrative Complex, 200 N. Clara Ave., DeLand

During school board meetings, a live audio broadcast can be accessed from the School District of Volusia County's website at <http://myvolusiaschools.org>.

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