

Volusia County Schools
~School Board Notes~

June 23, 2015
School Board Meeting

SCHOOL DISTRICT UPDATE

The school board was updated regarding the state budget and how it will affect the school district. With the changes that were made, Volusia will receive \$3 million less than what was anticipated, even though the base student allocation did go up. That leaves a deficit of \$4.36 million that must be addressed prior to the adoption of the budget on September 8.

ADMINISTRATIVE APPOINTMENTS	
SCHOOL/DEPARTMENT	ADMINISTRATOR
Turie T. Small Elementary	Stephen Hinson
Director, Transportation	Al Chandler

REORGANIZATION OF CENTRAL OFFICE

The superintendent stated the district has been working on restructuring and reductions at the central office since April. Decisions have been made based on supporting classrooms, reducing costs and improving efficiencies. Substantial reductions have been made while minimizing the impact on classrooms, teachers and school-based administrators. Through the years, there has been an overreliance on the reserves to balance budget. The goal is to restore the reserves to 5% for unassigned fund balances. Currently, approximately \$9.8 million in general fund budget reductions and other savings have been identified leaving a deficit of \$4.36 million.

The restructuring of district departments and support functions was meant to bring Volusia in line with other Florida school districts. The changes were necessary to improve accountability and efficiencies, which can be maximized to garner future savings. The goal was to reduce central office budgets by 5%. Approximately \$2.18 million was identified or 6.2%. Thirty-two positions were eliminated in district departments and support functions; however, no employees were laid off. This is the ninth year of reductions to non-school support positions and functions and they cannot responsibly be reduced further. In the future, attention must be directed at health care costs, where even modest changes to benefits can generate substantial savings.

ANNUAL REPORT: CHARTER SCHOOLS AND ALTERNATIVE PROGRAMS

The school board heard a [report](#) regarding charter schools and alternative programs, including Easter Seals Pre-K Charter School, Ivy Hawn Charter School of the Arts, Pace Center for Girls, Reading Edge Academy, Richard Milburn Academies (middle and high) and Samsula Academy.

CONTRACT RENEWALS/REVIEWS: CHARTER SCHOOLS AND ALTERNATIVE PROGRAMS

Burns Sci-Tech

The school board approved renewing the [contract](#) with Burns Sci-Tech, which is located in Oak Hill and is a K-8 charter school, through June 30, 2020.

AMI Kids

The school board approved renewing the [contract](#) with Ami Kids, which is located in Daytona Beach and is an education provider for the Department of Juvenile Justice clients, through June 30, 2016.

Chiles Academy

The school board approved renewing the [contract](#) with Chiles Academy, which is located in Daytona Beach and serves pregnant and parenting teens, through June 30, 2020. The school board also approved extending the [lease agreement](#) for the use of the former Bonner Elementary property.

LEGACY SCHOLARS ACADEMY

The school board approved an [agreement](#) with Legacy Scholars Academy at the Florida United Methodist Children's Home (FUMCH) in Enterprise. The program is designed to provide a positive learning environment that will teach academics, coping mechanisms, social skills, anger-management skills, and emotional skills that will build the resiliency of children that have endured severe trauma and/or have experienced significant loss and change in their lives. The ultimate goal of this program is to provide students with the skill sets they need in order to have seamless transitions either into a traditional public school, a career, college or simply into life in general.

EMPLOYEE HEALTH INSURANCE

The school board heard a detailed timeline and cost analysis regarding employee health insurance for 2016-17, including an [overview](#) of self-funding.

SUPERINTENDENT'S EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT

The school board approved an employment agreement with James "Tom" Russell, superintendent, through August 31, 2016.

SCHOOL BOARD POLICIES

- The school board approved advertising amendments to School Board Policy 208, [Code of Student Conduct and Discipline](#) – proposed revisions are a result of stakeholder input and will serve as the annual update for the 2015-16 school year. The incorporation of any needed updates resulting from the special legislative session will be returned to the board for adoption in August 2015.
- The school board approved the creation of School Board Policy 426, [Vendor Relations](#). The proposed policy establishes more restrictive ethical restrictions on district employees than required by state law by: 1) applying the same \$50 limit on gifts that applies to school board members under state law to employees involved in the district purchasing process from actual or potential district vendors; and 2) prohibiting the receipt of

compensation from district vendors. Violations of the policy may result in disciplinary action.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

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

- A [contract](#) with Easter Seals Society for the continuation of services to provide occupational therapy and physical therapy to students with disabilities
- The 2014-15 Annual Comprehensive Safety Inspection Reports: [elementary schools](#) and [all others](#)
- [Purchase](#) of computer hardware to support the e-Learning transition from a district program to a school-based program. This model will provide opportunities for more students to complete graduation requirements by opening options for enrollment in virtual courses during the school day
- An [interlocal agreement](#) with the city of New Smyrna Beach for the use of the city's sports complex by New Smyrna Beach High
- An [agreement](#) with the Volusia County Sheriff's Office for volunteer criminal background checks in 2015-16

NEXT SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

Regular Meeting: Tuesday, July 21, 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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