

Volusia County Schools
 ~School Board Notes~

December 8, 2015
School Board Meeting

SCHOOL DISTRICT UPDATE

The school board heard a [presentation](#) regarding transparency in budgeting and financial results. The school district is required to pass a balanced budget. A budget may fit the statutory definition of a balanced budget, but may not be financially sustainable. A budget that includes use of non-recurring revenues, such as reserves to fund ongoing expenditures, is not in structural balance. A true structurally balanced budget is one that supports financial sustainability for multiple years into the future.

The fund balance has been declining since 2011 after the infusion of Federal ARRA money. Giving a 3% raise to all employees this year, paid from reserves, would bring the district to the brink of a financial disaster, require notification to the state and put the district's credit rating at risk. There already is a \$6.3 million deficit going into next year. A 3% raise this year would mean using another \$9.2 million in reserves and then an additional \$9.2 million would need to be set aside next year for those raises, which equals a total of \$24.7 million from reserves. The ending fund balance at the end of FY15 was \$32.7 million (a decrease of \$3.8 million from FY14).

ADMINISTRATIVE APPOINTMENTS

PRINCIPALS	
SCHOOL	ADMINISTRATOR
Osceola Elementary	Kevin Flassig
Port Orange Elementary	Tennille Wallace
Sunrise Elementary	Joshua Wycuff
ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS	
SCHOOL	ADMINISTRATOR
Osteen Elementary	Laura Figueroa
Silver Sands Middle	Todd Leathead
McInnis Elementary	Michele McFall-Conte
Palm Terrace Elementary	Karen Mitchell
DISTRICT	
POSITION	ADMINISTRATOR
Director, Technology Support & Innovation	Melissa Carr
Area Superintendent	Susan Freeman

STRATEGIC PLAN

The school board approved Volusia County Schools' [Strategic Plan](#), which is a detailed roadmap that will lead the district toward a future of continuous academic success. Initial work began in January 2015. Six major focus areas were identified by the school board. A representative committee was organized, consisting of students, parents, teachers, administrators, staff members, and community leaders, with the task to develop a three-year strategic plan for the Volusia County School District.

Six sub-committees were identified and met to accomplish their assigned tasks. The superintendent and cabinet reviewed the goals, performance targets and strategies, receiving input from their respective departments. Final edits were reviewed by a representative team. Baseline data and progress on the targets will be managed, with summative progress monitoring linked on the district's website for public view.

SCHOOL BOARD POLICIES

The school board approved advertising proposed amendments to:

- School Board Policy 801, [Public Participation In School Board Meetings](#), to consolidate the time dedicated to public input to one segment of the agenda, rather than two. Currently, the agenda includes two times for public input on the agenda. The first time is dedicated to items on the agenda. The other time is much later on the agenda for members of the public to speak on items not on that agenda. This has the effect of delaying that opportunity for public input to much later in the meeting. This proposal would authorize an agenda that has a dedicated public input time to address items on the agenda, and not on the agenda, at the same time. This will also be more convenient for members of the public that are limited to the second public input session because they wish to address items not on the agenda. The proposal will be returned to the school board for adoption at a later meeting date.
- School Board Policy 217, [Student Appearance, Dress and Uniform Code](#). Based on direction received by the school board at its meeting of November 10, 2015, a proposed school uniform policy was prepared and developed with the input of several school administrators. In addition, reference was made to other school uniform policies adopted by other Florida school districts, such as Flagler, Osceola, Polk and Alachua counties. The board provided additional changes, including adding Oxford style shirts and black denim pants, and allowing principals to designate up to four weeks (instead of two weeks) to suspend requirements for school events or other activities.

SALE OF BOSTON AVENUE PROPERTY

The school board approved selling the property known as Boston Avenue School, which was returned to the district after closure of Boston Avenue Charter in 2013. Two sealed bids were received in 2014 for \$75,000 and \$101,000. These were rejected. The current [offer](#) is for \$210,000 with a 30-day inspection period.

REFUNDING CERTIFICATES OF PARTICIPATION

The school board authorized refunding the 2007 series Certificates of Participation (COPS) at a net value savings of approximately \$6 million, equivalent to \$400,000 per year.

REVISION TO 2016 SCHOOL BOARD MEETING DATES

The school board approved changing the date of the July 19, 2016 board meeting to July 26, 2016. The change is due to the state's deadline of July 19 for providing the Truth in Millage (TRIM) rate to the school district.

RECOGNITIONS

- The school board recognized the annual bus safety awareness contest winners:

Poster Winners

First Place - Abigail Folden, eighth grade, Heritage Middle

Ms. Elizabeth Doran, teacher

Second Place - Kendall Clements, ninth grade, DeLand High

Mr. Thomas Gilbert, teacher

Third Place - Kennedy O'Brien, third grade, [Cypress Creek Elementary](#)

Ms. Ektemal Francis-Hanna, teacher

PSA Winners

First Place - [Champion Elementary](#), fifth grade students: Kayden Frost, Daniel

Masiglat, Trinity Lawrence, Jamison Watson, Jonathan Williams and Ms.

Jacqueline Ouellette, teacher

- The school board recognized [Champion Elementary](#) students for winning 11 awards at the Jim Harbin Media Festival sponsored by the Florida Association for Media in Education. Forty-two students collected a school record of 11 awards from the competition which consists of 3 first place, 6 second place, and 2 third place trophies. This group of students is sponsored by the school's media specialist, Jacqueline Ouellette, and produced entries in 14 different categories.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

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

- [Digital Classroom Plan](#), which supports the district's new strategic plan by providing schools professional development to support redesign of instruction with the goal of creating a student-centric school district that accelerates learning toward college and career readiness.
- Ninety Seabreeze High students to travel to Annapolis, Maryland to participate in the International Music Festival
- Entering into a one year [agreement](#) with the New Teacher Center to partner in the SEED Grant Program and to be a sub-recipient
- [Contract](#) with BRPH Architects-Engineers, Inc. to provide professional design and construction administration services for the replacement school at Pierson Elementary. The contract provides for the base architecture/engineering fee of \$900,000 consistent with the Department of Management Services fee structure and outlines additional services which are expected to be required.

- [Purchase](#) of laptops for the high school AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) program, which provides an opportunity for high school students to prepare for higher education
- Appointment of Mr. Craig Conway and Mr. Mark Patten to the FUTURES Foundation Board of Directors

NEXT SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

Regular Meeting: Tuesday, January 12, **5:30 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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