

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

August 25, 2015
School Board Meeting

SCHOOL DISTRICT UPDATE

The school board was updated regarding the GCA custodial contract. When former Aramark custodians transitioned to GCA, health insurance was offered retroactively so that employees would not experience a lapse in health insurance coverage. Most companies and organizations, including Volusia County Schools, have a delay in coverage of 30-45 days. There were “catch-up” deductions to pay for the July coverage that in some cases impacted two pay periods. This caused a financial hardship for 62 custodians. GCA reimbursed those employees for 50% of the health insurance premium costs for the month of July. GCA has done a tremendous job at getting our schools ready for opening day in the seven weeks they have had this contract.

Superintendent Russell reported that he and 23 superintendents from around the nation met in Detroit regarding the Ford Next Generation Learning Communities. Volusia is held in high regard with respect to the academies in our high schools. Ford’s mission is to transform secondary schools and the entire workforce development system in order to compete in the global marketplace. Ford encouraged career academies to include the power of workplace relevance and business relationships in order to prepare students for careers, college and citizenship. There are three strands in this process: teaching and learning (meaningful learning experiences for real world challenges); secondary school experience (career- and interest-themed academies); and business and civic engagement (engaging employers, educators and the community in career academies to build/sustain a transformed secondary school experience).

Volusia has 35 career academies that are ranked gold, silver, bronze, purple and developing. If there is not improvement in academies that are purple or underperforming, the academy label will be removed. This district must deliver at a high level what is being promised from these programs. If the academy label is removed, the career and technical education (CTE) course will still be taught, but not as part of an academy. In addition, a strategic plan for the CTE department will be developed, including the location of future academies, succession planning, and providing a clear direction and plan for academies and CTE programs.

FIRST DAY SCHOOL REPORT

The area superintendents shared a report that included photos and celebrations throughout the district on the first day of school, such as the Million Father March at Turie T. Small Elementary and a red carpet welcome for students at Spruce Creek Elementary. Seven schools had first time principals welcoming students to a new school year. The energy and excitement at all of the schools was evident as students returned for another great year of learning and growing.

RECOGNITION

The school board recognized [Ms. Farrah Johnson](#), Deltona High teacher, for being named Florida's Teacher Mentor by the National Association of Agricultural Educators. This program recognizes the critical role experienced agriscience educators play in motivating and encouraging beginning agriscience educators to enter and remain in the teaching profession.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

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

- An [agreement](#) with the Volusia County Health Department for oral health care services for students in kindergarten through fifth grade.
- An agreement funded by Duke Energy to install a photovoltaic (PV) system at [Galaxy Middle](#) and [University High](#). The systems will be wired to each school's main electrical distribution panel to provide power to the portions of the schools that are used for emergency shelters. The systems will reduce electrical costs during normal school operations and during emergency operations.
- [Purchase](#) of computer hardware and carts for the refresh of the 6th grade level, focusing on English/Language Arts and Science, as well as meeting Career and Technical Education requirements.

NEXT SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

Regular Meeting: Tuesday, September 8, 4 p.m., DeLand Administrative Complex, 200 N. Clara Ave., DeLand. A hearing to take comments from the public regarding the tentative budget will be held at 5:15 p.m. The presentation of the tentative budget will be immediately prior to public comment.

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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