

Volusia County Schools  
~School Board Notes~

August 9, 2016  
School Board Meeting

The school board held its regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, August 9. Items on the agenda for consideration are listed below. To access details, including the motion and voting on each agenda item, visit: <http://www.boarddocs.com/fla/vcsfl/Board.nsf/Public>.

**ADMINISTRATIVE APPOINTMENT**

Megan Pellicer, teacher on assignment at Ormond Beach Elementary, was appointed to the position of assistant principal at Spruce Creek Elementary.

**DISTRICT UPDATE**

**Opportunity Scholarship Program**

The school board heard a presentation on the Opportunity Scholarship Program. The state mandates school districts offer the program to students in schools that have earned three “D” grades in a row or an “F.” Campbell Middle School missed earning a “C” by 3 points and has made great strides to enhance the educational experience for its students, including a partnership with Bethune-Cookman University, an academic camp, STEM-related programs and the Campbell Night Alive after-school program. The district was notified by the state on July 18 and letters were mailed to affected families on July 28. Students are being offered the opportunity to attend either Hinson Middle or Ormond Beach Middle based on the student’s home address on file. The number of students who have requested transfers as of August 8 is 161.

**Incomplete School Grades**

The school board heard a presentation regarding why four high schools received “I” grades. Under the old grading system, there was no penalty if less than 95% of the students tested, except if the school would have earned an A rating. With the new grading system, schools are automatically rated an “I” if less than 95% test. The district researched why this happened for each high school.

- One reason related to access geometry classes for ESE students. These students are not required to test in year one, only year two; however, all four schools were penalized for students who did not test in year one. Deltona High would meet the 95% tested if this is adjusted through an appeal.
- A second reason is 10<sup>th</sup> grade students who did not score a Level 3 or higher can retake the ELA assessment. The state did not include retakes in the percent tested calculation. All four schools were penalized; however, New Smyrna Beach High meets the 95% test rate if this is adjusted through an appeal.

- A third reason is chronically absent students (more than 15 days per year) who make up the bulk of students who were not tested. The district is beginning an initiative called Every Student, Every Day to help reduce the chronic absenteeism.

The district will appeal all four I's based upon a combination of these issues and demonstrate that the non-tested students did not impact the overall school grade of the school. The appeals are due to the Department of Education by August 11. A report on an initiative to improve student attendance will be presented at the next school board meeting.

## **PRESENTATIONS**

### **Succession Planning**

The school board heard a presentation that recognized the importance of succession planning to maintain continuity of operations in the district with the least impact to the students, staff and the community of Volusia County Schools. Volusia County Schools has developed a contingency plan for key positions as well as implemented programs for succession planning for both the principalship and for district-level administrative positions. The presentation provided an overview of the district contingency plan, as well as the Principal Internship Program and the Volusia Leadership Academy, which are leadership training opportunities delivered by the Human Resources Division to employ, empower and engage employees.

## **BOARD ACTION ITEMS**

- Ratification of the Collective Bargaining Settlement with the Volusia Teachers Organization (VTO)
- Ratification of the Collective Bargaining Settlement with the Volusia Educational Support Association (VESA)
- Ratification of the Collective Bargaining Agreement with the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, Council 79, Local 850
- Approval of Wages and Benefits Adjustments for Non-Bargaining Employees
- Appointment of a Citizen Member to the County Value Adjustment Board

## **CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

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

- Curriculum and School Improvement Services
- Human Resources
- Financial Services
- Operations Services – Facilities
- Operations Services – Purchasing
- Operations Services - Technology

## **NEXT SCHOOL BOARD MEETING**

**Regular Meeting: Tuesday, August 23, 5:30 p.m.,** DeLand Administrative Complex, 200 N. Clara Ave., DeLand

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