Volusia County Schools
~School Board Notes~

February 25, 2014
School Board Meeting

FINANCIAL STATUS OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT
The superintendent discussed proposed legislation and major concerns of the school district:
- Dual Enrollment – Many students enroll at Daytona State College for dual enrollment courses, which is a cost of about $1.5 million. The state is now requiring school districts to pay for the tuition.
- Opportunity Scholarships – There is proposed legislation which will allow any business to contribute sales tax to scholarship opportunities for students regardless of financial need. If tax dollars go to private schools, there should be appropriate accountability measures in place.
- Charter Schools – The proposed application/contract for new charter schools is more lenient than the standards currently in place by the school board.
- Instructional Materials – There is strong support in the legislature to eliminate responsibility for textbook adoption at the state level and leave it to local school districts. This will have a major financial impact on all school districts to ensure textbooks meet state standards.

HALF-CENT SALES TAX EXTENSION
The school board approved a resolution directing that a referendum election be scheduled on August 26, 2014 for the extension of the half-cent capital outlay surtax for an additional 15-year period. State law requires a school board to first adopt a resolution to direct the referendum election. The Volusia County Council is then required by state law to place the referendum question on the ballot. Attached to the resolution is the recommended capital projects list of the Citizens' Capital Needs Committee as approved by the school board on January 28, 2014. Revenue from the renewed half-cent sales tax is dedicated for capital project and technology implementation, including school security improvements.

HEALTH INSURANCE RENEWAL
The school board heard an update regarding the upcoming health insurance renewal. Rates will be reviewed by the insurance committee in order to make a recommendation to the school board at a future meeting.

SCHOOL BOARD POLICY
The school board approved adopting amendments to School Board Policy 508, *Grievance Procedure*, which provides a forum for internal resolution of violations of school board policy or law. The amendments provide a mechanism for an alternate reviewer of discrimination and harassment claims and clarification of rules that govern grievance meetings.

MIDDLE SCHOOL STEM LABS
The school board heard a presentation regarding preliminary district data which indicate that students who participate in Career and Technical Education / Science, Technology, Engineering & Math (CTE/STEM) programs earn higher mean scores on the science and mathematics portions of the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT). The objective for middle school STEM labs is to provide necessary resources to ensure an integrated and fully functional experience to students enrolled in these programs.

READ ACROSS AMERICA DAY RESOLUTION
The school board approved a resolution proclaiming March 3 as "Read Across America Day," a national celebration of Dr. Seuss's birthday.

RECOGNITIONS
The school board recognized the following:
- Kevin Tierney, Spruce Creek High senior, for being one of six students selected in the entire state of Florida for the Leaders for Life fellow scholarship. The fellowship will provide a minimum of five students annually who are already enrolled in Take Stock in Children with funds for housing, meal plans, computers, books, supplies, other college-related expenses and internship opportunities. This is the first time a Take Stock in Children student has been selected in Volusia County on the state level.
- Susan Persis, principal of Pine Trail Elementary, for winning the FCITL (Florida Council of Instructional Technology Leaders) Innovative Principal of the Year award. This program is designed to highlight excellent efforts of school-based principals in Florida who have demonstrated successful program implementations utilizing technology to further student achievement.
- Florida FFA State Winners – The following middle and high school students earned first place rankings in leadership events from the 2013 Florida FFA Convention:
    - DeLand Middle - Austin Efird and Baleigh Oliver - Team - Agriscience Fair- Animal Systems Division 3
    - DeLand High - Tyler D'Angelo - Individual- Sheep Proficiency Award and Haley Stark, Karoline Harpster, Tyler D'Angelo and Alex Andrews - Team - Floriculture CDE
    - New Smyrna Beach High - Meghann Daniel - Individual - Equine Science Placement Proficiency Award
    - University High - Abby Marion- Individual - Agriscience Fair - Social Systems and Poultry Production Proficiency Award

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS
The school board approved the following items:
- A Memorandum of Understanding with the Florida Department of Health and Health Schools for providing students flu vaccine. Pain-free FluMist Quadrivalent vaccine will be offered for students with no out-of-pocket expense. Medicaid, Kidcare or private insurance will be billed. Students with no insurance will be provided flu vaccine at no cost.
- Field trip for two Taylor Middle-High students to travel to Washington, DC to attend the CLOSE UP Washington for New Americans High School Program.

NEXT SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

Regular Meeting, **Tuesday, March 11**, 4 p.m., DeLand Administrative Complex, 200 N. Clara Avenue, DeLand

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

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