

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

August 13, 2013
School Board Meeting

FINANCIAL STATUS OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT

The superintendent discussed Volusia County's Economic Development [Quarterly Report](#), which provides the most recent economic indicators that impact the county. There is some improvement in Volusia's economy, but growth is slow.

The school board held seven budget workshops with a focus on protecting student instructional programs, services and activities, as well as class size requirements, from further budget cuts. The final budget approval is scheduled for September 10.

SCHOOL BOARD POLICY AGAINST BULLYING AND HARRASSMENT

The school board approved adoption of amendments to School Board Policy 525 – *Policy Against Bullying and Harassment* as an emergency rule and approval to advertise the proposed amendments. During the 2013 regular session, the legislature amended state law governing the bullying and harassment of students and school employees. Specifically, the legislature amended language governing the prohibition of cyberbullying. While existing board policy already prohibited cyberbullying, some revision is necessary to comply with new changes to state law.

PREPLANNING ACTIVITIES

The school board heard a report highlighting the activities taking place by staff throughout the school district to prepare for the opening of school, including preparations at the schools and at the district in curriculum and instruction, staff development and training, facilities, transportation, emergency operations, technology services and human resources.

OUTSTANDING BUSINESS PARTNERS

The school board recognized First United Methodist Church of Port Orange and International Speedway Corporation for receiving the Commissioner's Business Recognition Award for exemplary partnerships.

PRINCIPALS OF THE YEAR AND SUPERINTENDENT'S OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT AWARD WINNER

The school board heard a report regarding the Bus Brigade that traveled the district to make the surprise announcements of the 2013 Principals of the Year and Superintendent's Outstanding Achievement Award winner. Elementary Principal of the Year: Joe Ronca, Pathways Elementary; Secondary Principal of the Year: Dennis Neal, University High; and Superintendent's Outstanding Achievement Award winner: Cecilia Rivera, Starke Elementary.

SCHOOL BOARD ATTORNEY CONTRACT

The school board approved the amended and restated contract with Doran, Sims, Wolfe & Kundid for legal services provided to the school board for three years through June 30, 2016. A termination clause was also added.

HALF-CENT SALES TAX EXTENSION

The superintendent stated she had received names from the school board members for appointments to the Half-Cent Sales Tax Committee. Additional members will be added. An outline for the district's plan will be brought to the school board for discussion on August 27.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Several consent items were approved by the school board, including:

- Renewal of the annual agreement with Clearswift Corporation in the amount of \$37,665 for content inspection/protection of the district's e-mail system through September 21, 2014.
- Renewal of the annual license agreement with Trapeze Software Group in the amount of \$37,565 for support of the Geographical Information Services routing software for Transportation Services.
- A contract for joint use of school buses with the Florida Art Education Association making four buses available, providing that such use will not adversely affect the transportation of Volusia students.

NEXT SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

Regular Meeting: Tuesday, August 27, 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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