

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

April 22, 2014
School Board Meeting

FINANCIAL STATUS OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT

The superintendent said the state conference committee will be meeting to reconcile the differences between the House and Senate budgets. If they do not come to an agreement, it will go to the appropriation chairs to work out the remaining issues. The budget must be agreed upon by midnight on April 29, 72 hours before it goes to final session on May 2.

At the conclusion of the legislative session, the school district will hold budget workshops. This year, two budget workshops will be scheduled and more will be added if necessary. The first budget workshop will be held at 1 p.m. on May 13, prior to the regularly scheduled school board meeting. Another workshop will be scheduled on June 24 prior to the regularly scheduled board meeting; however, a time has not been established.

SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT AND MUTUAL RELEASE

Relating to Former Boston Avenue Charter School

The school board approved the [settlement agreement](#) with the principals of the Boston Avenue Charter School and its management company, resolving all pending litigation and disputes. The settlement agreement provides for:

- the dismissal of the charter school's appeal contesting the school board's decision to non-renew the charter of the Boston Avenue Charter School;
- the prohibition of Doug or Micah Jackson to be directly or indirectly involved in any charter school in Volusia County, including as a board member, officer, consultant or employee;
- sworn affidavits by Doug and Micah Jackson that all public funds and property have been returned to the district;
- the reservation by the district to pursue legal action against the parties if information is later obtained that additional public funds or property exist, including the recovery of attorney's fees and costs by the district; and
- the dismissal of the district's lawsuit against the Jackson's business entities and defunct charter school for the return of all public property and funds.

The district has exhaustively exercised due diligence to recover public funds and property.

CONTRACT FOR SALE OF BOSTON AVENUE SCHOOL

The school board rejected all bids related to the sale of Boston Avenue School in DeLand. District staff will further review the property considerations and contract specifications in order to provide a new recommendation to the school board.

EMPLOYEE HEALTH INSURANCE RENEWAL UPDATE

The school board heard an [update](#) regarding the upcoming health insurance renewal. The insurance committee, comprised of representatives from all three bargaining units and management, met several times to review the current plan and a number of alternative plans and their related rates in order to prepare a recommendation for the superintendent's consideration. The school board will make a decision regarding which plans will be offered to employees at its meeting on May 13.

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN UPDATE

Burns Science & Technology Charter School

The school board heard a presentation regarding the progress Burns Science and Technology Charter School has made on their [School Improvement Plan](#), which was approved by the school board in October 2013. The plan was initially required by state law due to the school's grade.

CHARTER SCHOOL ANNUAL REPORT

The school board heard a comprehensive [report](#) and update of all charter schools in Volusia County, specifically those not in their renewal year.

CREEKSIDE MIDDLE ROBOTICS TEAM

The school board recognized Creekside Middle's Robotics Team for winning first place in the First Lego League Robotics (FLL) state competition. Creekside students competed among the top 48 teams out of 549 teams from Florida and the Caribbean at the University of Central Florida. In June the team will travel to Toronto, Canada to represent the state of Florida at the FLL World. Team members are: Ms. Becky Ling - teacher/coach; Dr. Lisa Meeks - teacher/coach; Diego Vargas; Justin Midkiff; Tarleen Sodhi; Megan Silvey; Trevor Settembre; Daniel Kocisko; Juan Halleran; and Austin Justice.

RESOLUTIONS

The school board approved the following resolutions:

- [National Teacher Appreciation Week](#), May 5-9
- [National Substitute Teacher Week](#), May 5-9
- [National School Nurse Week](#), May 6-12
- [Provider Appreciation Day](#), May 9

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

The school board approved the following items:

- Purchase of [software](#) for each of the 14 middle school science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) education labs
- Submittal to the Early Learning Coalition an [agreement](#) to provide the voluntary pre-kindergarten (VPK) education program for 2014-15
- Approval for 12 Mainland High Air Force JROTC students to travel to Charleston, SC in June to attend the Citadel's Cadet Leadership course
- Two resolutions supporting grant applications for the cities of [Orange City](#) and [Holly Hill](#) for a feasibility study to install sidewalks to enhance both pedestrian and safe student travel to and from Orange City Elementary and Holly Hill School, respectively

NEXT SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS

Budget Workshop: Tuesday, May 13, 1 p.m., DeLand Administrative Complex, 200 N. Clara Avenue, DeLand

Regular Meeting: Tuesday, May 13, 4 p.m., DeLand Administrative Complex

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>.

To view prior editions of School Board Notes, please visit: <http://myvolusiaschools.org>. Click on School Board, then click on School Board Notes in the left column. To add or remove your name from the mailing list, please e-mail VCS Community Information at CommunityInformation@volusia.k12.fl.us.