



School Matters

District School Board of Pasco County

Kurt S. Browning, Superintendent of Schools

January 22, 2015

School Board Approves Raises

The School Board approved one of the highest raises of any Florida school district at their January 20 board meeting, assuring an average 3 percent raise for all employees. The bargaining units ratified the 2014-2015 instructional and school-related personnel (SRP) contracts (89 percent approval for the Instructional unit and 90 percent for the SRP unit) last Thursday. Sixty-six percent of each bargaining unit cast ballots. All together, the district is providing almost \$12 million of new funding toward employee compensation and benefits for the 2014-2015 school year. The salary increases and any applicable retroactive pay should be reflected in paychecks by the end of February. For more contract details, please visit: <http://bit.ly/1Cd4UGM>.

Professional Development Videos

There will be no professional development videos this week.

New Assistant Superintendent

The School Board approved the appointment of Vanessa Hilton as assistant superintendent for Student Achievement at the January 20 board meeting. Vanessa currently is director of the Office for Teaching and Learning.

Platinum Fit-Friendly Worksite

The American Heart Association has named Pasco County Schools a Platinum-level Fit-Friendly Worksite for helping employees eat better and move more. That means we:

- offer employees physical activity options in the workplace;
- increase healthy eating options at the worksite.
- promote a wellness culture in the workplace;
- implement at least nine criteria outlined by the American Heart Association in the areas of physical activity, nutrition and culture, and;
- demonstrate measurable outcomes related to workplace wellness.

The award is the result of our partnership with Crowne Consulting Group and our CareHere health centers, and the wellness program we've implemented together.



Kudos

I want to take this opportunity to commend and thank **Rick Bartz, and his team in the Mail Services Department**, for the outstanding work that they did in the pick up and delivery of the contract ratification packets on Thursday. This ratification could not have been as successful as it turned out to be without the commitment and dedication of Mail Services to work with USEP to get the packets delivered in the compressed time-frame...I would also like to thank **Betsy Kuhn** and Employee Relations for coordinating with district administrators to help this historic vote go off with as few hiccups as possible. Thank you Betsy! –Kenny Blankenship, USEP President

I would like to take a few minutes to recognize **Jill McInna and all of FNS and Warehouse personnel**. This is the district department that adopted my Holiday Family this year. It is so amazing the love that can be poured out onto a family in need. They contacted the family for specific needs, especially since their trailer burned just before the holidays. Upon making arrangements to pick up the gifts they had for the family, it was suggested that I bring a truck. I ended up having a colleague, **Cathy Bennett**, bring her SUV along with mine to the DO. Both our vehicles were packed with wrapped gifts, including a pink bike and a large doll house. What a generous blessing to this family. –Julie Hedine, Food and Nutrition Services Director



Pasco County Schools has purchased 13 propane-fueled school buses, and the first seven hit the road on Wednesday. Drivers have been trained to operate the buses, and a propane fuel station has been installed at the Dade City bus garage.

January is **National Mentor Month**. Thanks to all of you who mentor our students! I encourage schools to recognize their mentors throughout the month.



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