



Kurt S. Browning,
Superintendent of Schools



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School Matters

Opening Message

Earlier this week, I shared my concerns with Representative Marlene O'Toole, Chair of the House Education Committee, as well as her fellow committee members, about House Proposed Committee Bill (PCB) EDC 15-02 (Extracurricular Activities). In my opinion, the bill significantly impacts high school athletics and will have a significant impact on the Pasco district. It will allow for student athletes to attend one school and play for another. This may sound like it is a fairness issue but this change will allow students to "shop" schools to play sports from season to season. The provision that is most troubling to me is that school districts will not be able to adopt more stringent rules regarding student transfers for the express purpose of playing a sport. Pasco County Schools has adopted a tighter rule than what is currently provided for by FHSAA. This Board policy has proven to be very helpful to us as we avoided potential recruiting violations. Not allowing districts to adopt tighter policies will result in students jumping from high school to high school to play a sport while disrupting the students' academic pursuits. Additionally, I do not agree with the attempt to eliminate the FHSAA and the restructuring of its governance model. Florida has been served well by the FHSAA and I cannot imagine what our athletics would be throughout our state without them.

Professional Development



In this edition of the Professional Development section, a video tutorial is presented that explains an easy way to upload artifacts to iObservation. Please click on this link to view: <http://youtu.be/DLKD4lywKWI>.

Legislative Update

The following is a list of bills were heard in the House on Thursday during 2nd Reading:

- [HB 7057](#) – School Administration by K-12
- [HB 7019](#) – Workforce Services by Economic Development
- [HB 7043](#) – Standard Student Attire by K-12
- [HB 7037](#) – School Choice by Choice & Innovation
- [HB 357](#) – Principal Autonomy Pilot Program by M. Diaz
- [HB 665](#) – Maximum Class Size by Moraitis
- [HB 55](#) – Children and Youth Cabinet by Harrell

MTC Joins Honor Society, Seeks NATEF Certification

Fred K. Marchman Technical College received its official charter membership in the National Technical Honor Society and completed the final site review for National Automotive Technicians Education Foundation certification earlier this month. School Board Member Allen Altman said of instructor Jim Lupinek, "He has worked hard to build that program and drives from Zephyrhills to Marchman each day because he feels so strongly about the what they are doing there."

Investigation Station Relay Race

Gulf High School is hosting the Donut Dash Relay Race at their track on April 18 at 9 a.m. to benefit Investigation Station the traveling children's museum. To sign up, please visit: www.investigationstation.net, under "Relay Race Fundraiser." For more information, please contact Ms. Lisa Campos at 727-459-7331 or via email at director@investigationstation.net.

FL Humanities Council Workshop

The Florida Humanities Council is hosting a workshop, "Water: The Oil of the 21st Century." This workshop will begin on the afternoon of Monday, July 20 and end by noon on Friday, July 24. Workshop participants will trace our relationship with water through the study of art, culture, and literature, from exploring myths such as the Fountain of Youth to the paintings of the legendary Highwaymen. The workshop will also examine contemporary understandings of water including the potential impact of rising sea levels on Florida coastlines and conservation efforts. To apply or for more information, please visit: <http://bit.ly/1EToNKO>.



Kudos

Doris Younglove: I recently retired from the Pasco County School System. I have had concerns that needed attention that required calling Benefits and payroll. I would like to thank **Melissa** from payroll for being patient with me as I called many times to clarify my status. She was so pleasant and accommodating. Then recently I called Benefits and talked to **Brooke** who has also been very helpful to me answering questions that I had. Kudos to these two wonderful people.

Jeana Bosworth: I wanted to take a minute to tell you of an experience I had with **Care Here**. I was sent to an Ear, Nose, and Throat specialist for my condition. That said, the specialist ordered more testing. He set me up with appointments at Trinity medical Hospital. When they called I found out I needed to pay a \$500.00 deductible for each test. I called Care Here and found out that if the specialist sent my orders to Care Here that they will schedule to have them done and at no cost to me. That is a savings of \$1,000.00 to me. I have always used Care Here since it opened, but did not know this. I can't believe the savings and benefits the district give's employees that we don't even know about. While I am very proud to be a part of this district, I just personally wanted to tell you how much I appreciate all the District does for our employees. I work for one of the best organizations in the State and am proud of it.

New Health & Wellness Center Opens

On Tuesday, the district held a ribbon cutting at the newest Crowne/CareHere Health & Wellness Center at Thomas E. Weightman Middle School in Wesley Chapel. The School Board and the Pasco County Sheriff's Office signed an Interlocal agreement in November 2014, for co-use of the district's health and wellness centers. The district also has added additional space to the Land O'Lakes center to provide the physical space needed for the increase in district staff utilization as well as the sheriff's office staff.



Free MOSI Membership

Pasco County Schools' employees can redeem the free membership online by going to this website: <http://bit.ly/1xgHYqB>



Moose Lodge 1903 donated \$3,870 to the Land O' Lakes High Special Olympics Unified Soccer Team to help pay travel expenses to the World Games this summer. Coach **Vicky King**, pictured holding the check, also was named **2015 Class 3A Girls Soccer Coach of the Year** earlier this month. Congratulations!

NPR Recreation & Aquatic Center

New Port Richey Parks and Recreation is offering memberships to the NPR Recreation and Aquatic Center to all Pasco County School Employees at the reduced rate reserved for city residents. An adult membership for the year would cost \$200 (plus tax) instead of \$250. Family memberships for the year would be \$330 (plus tax).

Summer Work Schedule

The district has announced the summer work schedule for 12-month employees. If you haven't seen it, ask your principal or direct supervisor for a copy.

Send Your News to Communications

The Communications staff is always looking for ways to get schools and departments positive press. Submit upcoming activities by completing the form on the [Good News](#) page.
