

SUPERINTENDENT'S BULLETIN

NOVEMBER 17, 2022
ISSUE 29

News for School Board Members and District Personnel



Superintendent's Opening Comment

Dear School Board Members and District Personnel,

November has been an exciting month full of celebrations and recognition. I would like to thank our Principals for their efforts in supporting our Veterans throughout the county with amazing programs to celebrate Veterans' Day. Helping students to understand the hard work and sacrifices that Veterans have made make history come alive and sets up traditions of appreciation for our freedom and what it takes to keep it. The events have been remarkable and are a credit to the our whole community. We also have selected new honorees for the year with a new Principal and Assistant Principal of the Year. Brett Unke has received the honor of Principal of the Year. Brett's welcoming demeanor and his emphasis on high expectations for students and teachers make him a strong principal. He also should have a permanent "hard hat" for having provided leadership with the organization required to build three new schools: HOB, Switlik, and Sugarloaf. Debra Ward was selected as Assistant Principal of the Year. Her return to Key Largo School after a hiatus has been triumphant. She truly embodies the high performing culture of the school and uses data to propel learning forward. Congratulations to both these outstanding educators.

Yours in education,
Terri

Assessment and Accountability

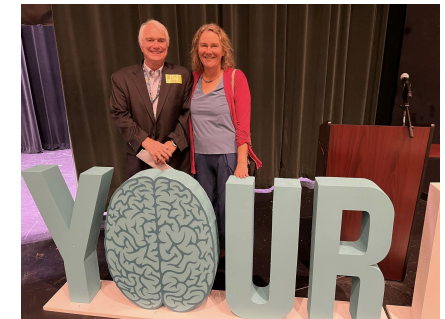
Melissa Alsobrooks has accepted the role of Assessment and Accountability Directors as Mike Michaud moves to mainland Florida. We wish Mike all the best! Melissa is currently transitioning to her new role and welcomes questions as she gets acclimated to the job. You can reach her by email at Melissa.Alsobrooks@keysschools.com or at her current phone extension as she finishes as Key West High School. She is looking forward to working with everyone in her new position.

Community Relations

MCSO participated in the Key West Veterans Day parade on November 11. Superintendent Axford, Board members and members of Poinciana Elementary's student council showed their patriotism and gratitude to those who served and are active duty military. It was a great parade and we are proud to participate each year. The Facts Your Future is a Department of Education sponsored session about substance abuse and alcohol prevention. This presentation was given to



Coral Shores High School students last week. Guest speakers included local Sheriff Captain Spenser Bryan, Senior Juvenile Probation Officer Ryan Lemay, Testimonial Speaker Cooper Shane, and Department of Health Director Dr. Bob Eadie.



Exceptional Student Education

The ESE department has been very busy, we are providing each school with direct instruction on the topic of Individual Education Plan training. We are also sharing discipline support via encyclopedia of discipline and coaching from the nationally recognized educator Dr. Vollmer- he has supported our ESE students and families for more than a decade.

Finance and Performance

Finance has completed the annual financial audit and thanks to everyone that provided information to the auditors and will allow us to be the first district once again to have our audit completed. Congratulations to Austin Tran, Nancy Oleinik, Julie Davis, and Arelys Farley for their hard work to get this done! Thanks to the hard work of Elena Paez and Cheryl Garcia who managed the open enrollment for the entire district, which was a huge success and also ensuring all information was successfully transmitted to our carriers so everyone will be enrolled in their plans effective January 1. Kaleena Rodriguez and the payroll team are getting ready to pay additional raises to all employees for the December 15th payroll. They have been diligently testing some new features in Focus that should help make this a smooth process. Finally, we hope everyone has a safe and happy Thanksgiving with their families! You all deserve it!!

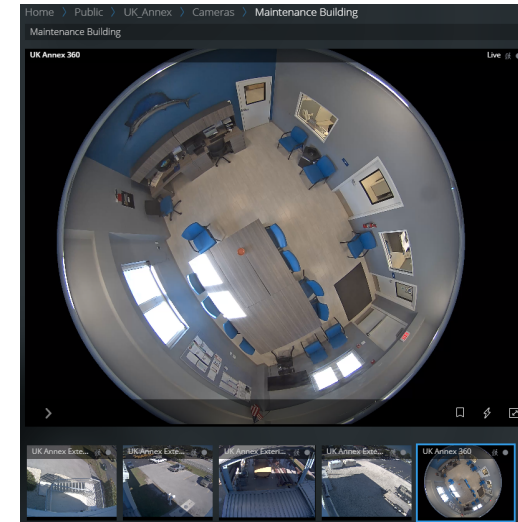
Human Resources and Instructional Leadership

Human Resources has created a form in Focus to facilitate processing and routing for instructional employees to request Sabbatical leave. We hope to have this Form implemented and in place in January for use starting in the 2023-24 school year. We wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving!



Operations and Planning

Technology has changed a lot of what we do in the Maintenance Department. In addition to their traditional roles, our Mechanics have morphed into the world of Technician or even System Administrator. One specific example of this is in the area of security cameras. In 2000 we had seven or eight cameras that were all at one site and tied to a Radio Shack recorder/monitor. Today we have expanded to over 700 cameras networked with more than ten servers as part of an enterprise system that can be viewed on site by the school, remotely by district staff, and even by local law enforcement. Director of Maintenance Jeff Barrow says, “We maintain the traditional trade-tasks from 2000 but continue to add these newer technologies to make our facilities as secure as possible.”



Teaching and Learning

On behalf of the Lower Keys ESOL department we are spotlighting, Mr. Berwick Augustin from Evoke180, who met with faculty at GAE, KWHS, POI and HOB to review the importance of the delicate balance of fostering supportive relationships with families and meeting students where they are academically. We aligned our best instructional practices to individual student needs so that our SIP goals ignite change that leads to overall student growth and success. Each school established tangible action steps based on Dr. Zaretta Hammond’s published neuroscience to promote authentic engagement and rigor among diverse students and we are confident that our ongoing work will yield high results.





Project Lead the Way (PLTW) honored Horace O'Bryant School by highlighting Ms. Hilary Melon's STEM class during the PLTW National Showcase last Tuesday. The live stream aired across the nation with a follow-up Q&A from administrators and educators that were inspired by the wonderful hands-on learning that took place during the lesson. The kindergarten class took part in the showcase by engaging in learning through the PLTW module focusing on sinking and floating. Congratulations to Ms. Melon's dedication to providing high-impact STEM lessons to her students!

