

# SUPERINTENDENT'S BULLETIN

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ISSUE 34



News for School Board Members and District Personnel



Dear School Board Members and District Personnel,

Events and other happenings in the School District are moving at a fast pace as we enter the fourth nine weeks of school. Many culminating activities require much preparation and careful planning to be successful. I want to extend a special thank you to everyone involved in these activities which bring so much joy to students and parents.

My heart took a leap today as I walked into the new media center at Marathon High School. My dreams of a welcoming place for students to congregate, collaborate, study and learn have been realized in the spectacular redesign of this space. Stop by to see it, you will rejoice with me. Similar projects are being completed at CSHS and KWHS.

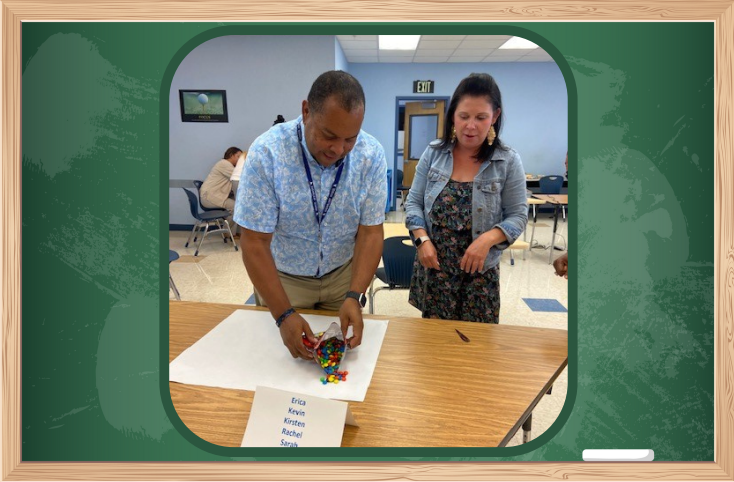
Yours in education,  
Terri

## ASSESSMENT & ACCOUNTIBILITY

During the month of April, students at five schools will participate in the Writing Field Test. We are in full swing with FSAA testing at all of our schools, thank you to the ESE department for making sure all schools received their important materials. April also brings us another opportunity for seniors in need of a concordat score to participate in ACT testing to meet graduation requirements. Congratulations to all our schools on a job well done finalizing our Spring WIDA testing.

# COMMUNITY RELATIONS

The Aspiring Administrators Academy has had several sessions and each have been informative and engaging with a focus on learning about the Monroe County School District's various departments as well as discovering more about leadership. The cohort is made up of 19 aspiring administrators in schools across the district as well as 11 current assistant principals with three years or less experience.



The Principals group gave Dr. Larry Schmiegel, principal of Key West High School, a farewell send off at the March meeting. He will be taking a Superintendent position in New York in April. Mr. Dave Perkins will serve as the Interim Conch principal for the remainder of the year. Dr. Schmiegel served as principal of Poinciana Elementary for five years before moving to KWHS in 2021. His colleagues wished him well in his new endeavor and thanked him for his dedication to the students during his time with MCSD.



## **EXCEPTIONAL STUDENT EDUCATION**

The school based ESE teams are working with teachers and students to deliver top quality therapy including; speech, occupational, and physical therapies. Both Linda Diaz and Kyle Sheer have been on HOB campus assisting in the ESE classrooms and with master scheduling. Our entire team is also gearing up to be all hands on deck for testing season by providing whatever assistance is needed to help our students shine!

## **FINANCE AND PERFORMANCE**

Things are heating up for the Finance Department as we start having official budget meetings with the schools and departments. We are looking to right size all the schools and the departments based on current unweighted FTE. We will also be looking at all positions as they are vacated to see if some consolidation of current positions can happen and help with cutting expenditures going forward. Keep in mind we are anticipating to give good raises next year, but to be able to maintain those going forward, we need to be as right sized as possible throughout the whole District.

We will be anxiously awaiting the legislative process to be completed on May 5th so we will know what our state funding will be and finalize the 23-24 budget.

Hope everyone enjoyed time off during spring break and came back refreshed and ready to hit the ground running! This will be an interesting budget cycle for sure.

## **HUMAN RESOURCES AND INSTRUCTIONAL LEADERSHIP**

Congratulations to Sugarloaf Elementary/Middle School's Reading Coach, Bonnie Selner!

She completed the first cohort of the FL course required to enable applying for the new 1086/E Literacy Coach Endorsement when Reading is on the FL professional educator certificate. Along with 1085/E Civics Seal of Excellence, these are two new endorsement subjects that teachers may apply to add to their Florida professional educator certificate. Human Resources has been busy processing over 150 volunteers to enable them to assist schools with end of the school year activities and field trips. To further our recruitment efforts, Human Resources is in the process of partnering with Duval Street Media to assist the district with casting our "Work In The Florida Keys" net to drive applicants to our Frontline Recruiting & Hiring system.

## OPERATIONS & PLANNING

“We are proud to participate in the Key West High School MOVE program. Besides teaching the interns IT skills, I hope they see that you can stay in the Keys and have a great career. Over half of the IT team were MCSD students.” said IT Director Joy Nulisch.

PICTURED:  
KWHS SENIOR ZION ESHEL, IT TECH ABIGAIL LADINO, AND IT TECH ASSISTANT MILAS LECONTE, ARE BOTH KWHS GRADUATES.

ZION WORKS TWO HOURS A DAY AS AN INTERN FOR THE IT DEPARTMENT. HE GETS PAID AND GAINS VALUABLE HANDS-ON IT EXPERIENCE.



The IT department has focused on professional development in 2023. Tech topics included, student data privacy legislation, Windows 11 overview, infrastructure troubleshooting, securing lot devices, and endpoint management.

## TEACHING AND LEARNING

Our EL department assisted with paraprofessional professional learning at Marathon School. Paraprofessionals participated in training sessions on how to best engage the students and effectively support their teachers. Using interactive games and bilingual leveled books that match the standards in their classes, they practiced how to shift student thinking to growth mindset to include the power of yet!



## TEACHING AND LEARNING CONTINUED

The Marathon Rotary Club has sponsored Stanley Switlik's Positive Behavior Support Program for the 2022-2023 school year. Through a district and local grant collaborative, Rotary has donated \$4,000 towards monthly rewards which recognize all students in the school that have worked together to earn class compliments throughout the month. These funds serve several purposes through rewarding good student behavior with fun activities and events. These celebrations help students become internally motivated and develop new skills for problem solving. The events hosted also provide access and opportunity to students that are not common in the community. For example, last month, students were treated to a live magic show. The use of positive reinforcement also assists students with making choices that better their futures.



Pictured:

Rotary President Mike Puto and Vice President Sam Williams present Switlik Leadership and students with check to keep up their best behavior and teamwork. Stanley Switlik students enjoyed a bounce house party as this month's reward.

