

SUPERINTENDENTS

BULLETIN

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ISSUE 38

NEWS FOR SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS AND DISTRICT PERSONNEL



Dear School Board Members and District Personnel,

Affordable housing for teachers remains a top concern for the district. We have several irons in the fire in this area. The RFP's for the 150 units on Trumbo are due by Oct. 25th. At that point, a committee will review the proposals and send the viable ones to the School Board for consideration. We are also possibly partnering with the county on 14 units in the Upper Keys at a project called South Cliff Estates. In addition, another developer has contacted us about the possibility of additional units in the Upper Keys in the Key Largo area. Our real problem is the urgency of our situation in that 33 certified teachers declined offers of employment this year because they couldn't find housing. Special thanks to those of you who live and work here. We want to retain you in your positions.

I sent out a survey requesting your feedback on how things are going this year. Please share your thoughts. The survey is in a new format called Thought Exchange. In the survey, you share your thoughts, but also comment on the thoughts of others. It is interesting. I hope you find it so. Have a Happy October – there are so many exciting activities this month. There will something for everyone to enjoy for sure.

Yours in education,
Terri

ASSESSMENT & ACCOUNTABILITY

Fall testing has wrapped up for students across Monroe County. We are eagerly reviewing our data in schools to support our students. This Wednesday, October 11th, our 10th and 11th grade students will participate in the PSAT/NMSQT. This assessment allows students an opportunity to earn a concordant score for graduation in math and also allows our 11th grade students an opportunity to qualify for the National Merit Scholarship. Our 12th grade students will have the opportunity to take the fall School Day SAT to earn concordant scores for graduation in both math and ELA on October 11th. This will be the last paper administration of the SAT in schools while this will be our first fully online administration of the PSAT assessment.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Principals set the academic tone for our schools and their dedication and determination are a driving force for student success and bringing a school community together to create a positive culture for learning. October is National Principals Month and we would like to take this opportunity to celebrate and honor our incredible principals for their leadership and hard work.



FKAA is teaming up with Monroe County School District’s MOVE Program. FKAA is hiring 10 interns to work and train at the Aqueduct for careers in waste water management and pipe fitting. They are holding job fairs at each high school to meet with students who are interested.



EXCEPTIONAL STUDENT EDUCATION

The Exceptional Student Education Department is working hard to fulfil the schools professional development needs. We are offering teacher & paraprofessional collaboration training, classroom management, Universal Design for Learners and much more. In addition our newest team member Lindsay (Lou) Gillespie received a state award. She was the Florida Awardee for the Dave Niederpruem Award. The David Niederpruem Memorial Award was established to honor the impact he made on the lives of his students and the teachers he mentored. This fund provides scholarships in the form of conference registration to those individuals engaged in the education of students with disabilities in the schools whose teaching would benefit by attending the annual Florida Association for Behavior Analysis convention. Without the scholarships, teachers would not be able to attend.

FINANCE AND PERFORMANCE

Open Enrollment is here until October 15th! This is our third year of using Focus for Open Enrollment, and we are very happy with the improvements over the years. THANK YOU to our Management Information Services (MIS) team for their ongoing efforts to make Focus more user-friendly and efficient. Also, please contact our Employee Benefits team – Cheryl Garcia at extension 53340 or Elena Paez at extension 53333 if you have any questions regarding your Benefits. On another note, the Finance team completed the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) and sent it to the auditors. This report has given the Finance team the Excellent in Financial Reporting for the last nine years. We’re looking for a decade of Excellent. Lastly, we’re happy to share that the annual internal audit for our school accounts is done! And overall, our schools did very well on this year’s audit. Another year with a good audit! Congratulations to all the schools.

HUMAN RESOURCES AND INSTRUCTIONAL LEADERSHIP

Important Dates were sent to Principals and placed on their calendars for convenience. These dates specify required tasks that guide the management of human resources as we proceed through the 2023-2024 school year. Educator Out of Field reporting will be Board Approved on October 11, 2023, which also enables certification status to be indicated in Focus and processing of Survey 2 reporting. Parent notifications and educator status letters have been provided to schools for appropriate distribution. Annual Acknowledgement forms are mandatory for all employees. An indication “There are forms awaiting your signature” was provided in Focus to review and acknowledge the 2023-2024 forms available in the Employee Self-Service section of Focus. All employees should acknowledge their notices by Friday, November 3, 2023.

OPERATIONS AND PLANNING

October is Cybersecurity Awareness Month. MCSD will be participating in the national campaign celebrating the 20th anniversary of its launch in 2004. The campaign goal is to ensure everyone has the resources they need to be safe and secure online. Implementing cybersecurity best practices is important for individuals as well as organizations to protect personal, financial, and sensitive information. MCSD IT will lead the campaign activities via games, training videos, and tips and tricks. “Remember to keep MCSD safe and secure online, we all need to use cybersecurity best practices, including strong passwords, multifactor authentication (MFA), recognizing and reporting phish and keeping your software updated.” Joy Nulisch #CybersecurityAwarenessMonth #SecureOurWorld



TEACHING AND LEARNING

Throughout September and into October, MCSD students celebrated and recognized Founders Month, Hero's Day, Hispanic Heritage Month, Constitution Day and Celebrate Freedom Week. Some of the activities included 9/11 ceremonies that recognized our heroes, a visit from the American Eagle; reciting the preamble of the Declaration of Independence; door decorating contests and Hispanic Heritage celebrations.



The Curriculum Team has been visiting faculty meetings to share with the teachers and staff the resources and supports that are available to them. They have also been providing professional learning on the early release days. Some of the training sessions included literacy interventions for EL students, the use of math manipulatives and standards based evaluation methods.

Keep Learning

