

SUPERINTENDENT'S BULLETIN

FEBRUARY 28, 2023
ISSUE 33



News for School Board Members and District Personnel

Dear School Board Members and District Personnel,

I hope that those who tested had an opportunity to see the results of Progress Monitoring Two with the FAST Assessments. The results are interesting. I have been told that some students are not taking the tests seriously because there is no incentive such as a grade to take the test. It is incumbent on each teacher to set the tone of the progress monitoring test and let students know how important that they are. Incentives like a free homework pass or extra credit may help students take the test more seriously. That way we can truly judge to some degree what concepts need further support to insure mastery. It's always interesting when new testing begins and new teaching materials are being used. I appreciate the work that teachers are doing to deal with both things this year. I look forward to positive results for the students and also for district.

Thank you for your attention to Black History Month. There have been great celebrations and programs throughout the district to commemorate. A special thanks goes to Dr. Sue Woltanski for her presentations to elementary students in grade 3, 4, and 5 on Rosa Parks. According to Jennifer Barrios, our Social Studies Coordinator and top advisor to me, the students have been enthralled with her presentations.

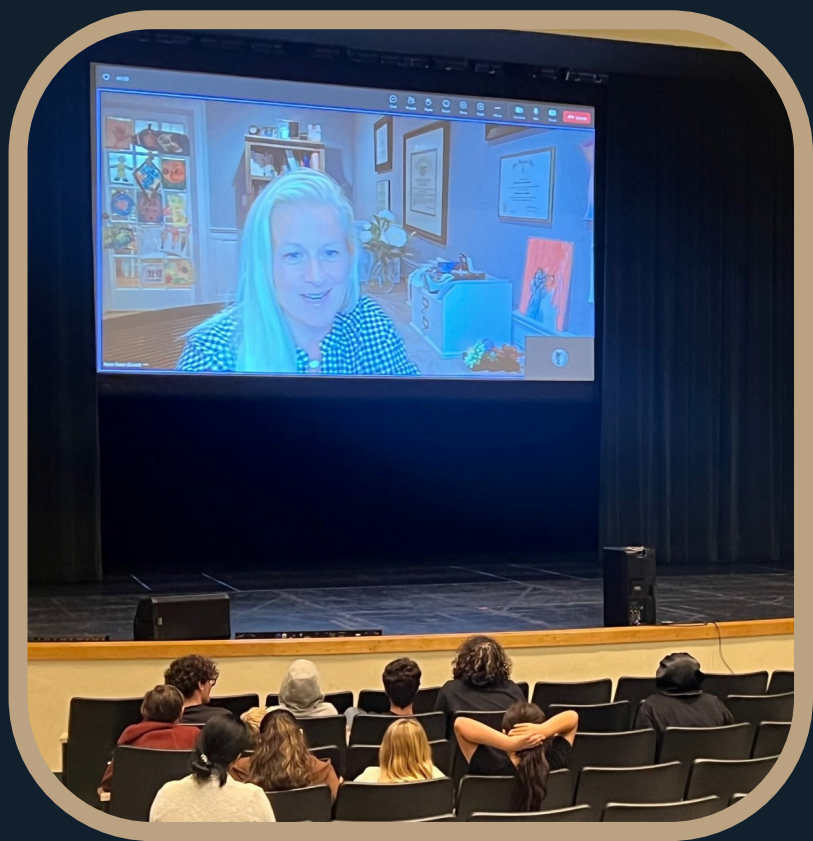
Yours in education,
Terri

ASSESSMENT & ACCOUNTIBILITY

March is a busy month leading up the spring testing sessions. Our schools are beginning testing our FSAA students in grade 3-8 and high schools will begin their testing sessions mid March. Our WIDA testing will be coming to close this month-thank you to all who have made that possible. Our high schools have been completing FSA retake testing, giving seniors in need of a concordant score or testing requirement another opportunity to meet graduation requirements. March 1st is a big day for our 11th grade students as they will participate in the school day SAT, seniors in need of a concordant score will also be testing.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Katie Greer, a dynamic national speaker on Internet Safety, spoke to parents in the upper keys Monday night. She will present virtual sessions on Wednesday for lower keys parents at the KWHS auditorium on Wed., Mar. 1 and Thursday at the MHS auditorium in the middle keys and parents throughout the community are invited. She spoke about establishing no tech zones, the appropriate ages for apps and specifics on how to oversee a child's use of technology. Parents can walk away with immediate useful tips and a stronger knowledge about children and Internet interaction.



**INTERNET
SAFETY**



EXCEPTIONAL STUDENT EDUCATION

Coming up next week is the Monroe County Special Olympics County Bocce tournament in Big Pine Key (10:00 – 2:00). Everyone is welcome to join our Monroe Special Olympics athletes from: Gerald Adams, Sugarloaf, Poinciana, HOB, Key West High with the possibility of our middle and upper keys schools as well.

To learn more about the Monroe County Special Olympics go to
<https://www.specialolympicsflorida.org/map>



EXCEPTIONAL STUDENT EDUCATION CONTINUED

In addition to the excitement of the county Special Olympics games, the ESE team is busy at work. Linda Diaz is training paraprofessionals in collaboration with the instructional staff to create seamless supports for students. Catherine Kanagy has provided several trainings. Of particular importance is the FSAA training. This training is to support our teachers who work with the most profound students to help them perform at their best on state assessment.

FINANCE & PERFORMANCE

Last week was survey 3 week and we are anxiously awaiting the final data so we can see what our unweighted and weighted FTE will be so we can plan and forecast for the upcoming school year. Thank you to all the schools that encouraged student attendance during the survey week. We appreciate your support!

We are starting to work with the College of the Florida Keys as they are preparing to start their charter school next year. We are assisting with implementing Focus for the student data so we can start reporting their information to the DOE next year.

Thanks to Nancy Oleinik and Alina Figueroa in Finance for taking on the huge undertaking of getting most of our vendors set up for ACH transactions versus cutting and mailing checks. This will reduce potential fraud and save money, which is what we in Finance love to do! Thank you for doing this.



HUMAN RESOURCES AND INSTRUCTIONAL LEADERSHIP

Human Resources hosted a Dunkin Donuts breakfast for Gerald Adams Elementary School to congratulate staff. While they had the highest attendance in the First Quarter, they may also boast the highest attendance in the Second Quarter! Well done GAE!

A generic educator job posting for the 2023-24 school year is open in social media and in our Frontline applicant system. To proactively engage applicants, Human Resources is currently contacting the almost 100 new applicants by sending email invites to host Get-To-Know Monroe County School District meetings via Microsoft TEAMS. Personal assistance can be provided to applicants with how to 1) become qualified for consideration; 2) navigate the FDOE and MCSD application processes; 3) review resources available in our New Employee Resource Guide; 4) locate MCSD salary and benefit information; and 5) determine the schools closest to the area(s) of the FL Keys they may most be interested in teaching.

OPERATIONS & PLANNING

Having received School Board approval of Design Development, Tommy Roberts Memorial Stadium/Rex Weech Field project now moves to the fourth phase of design, Construction Documents. All of the pre-design, schematic, and design development work takes its final shape with the Construction Documents phase, the largest of the design process. During this phase, the Construction Documents will fill in all the details that will enable the contractor to actually build the project.

Director of Construction & Distribution Services, Doug Pryor says, “The goal of the Construction Document Phase is to accurately and completely document all aspects of the three previous design phases. The drawings are used to bid and ultimately, construct the project.”

TEACHING AND LEARNING

Congratulations to the winners of The Key West Harry S. Truman Foundation and The Society of Presidential Descendants Essay Competition. The topic this year was American Bipartisanship: Working Across the Aisle and the essay winners were announced on February 18th during the Presidential Descendants Forum that was held at the Harry S. Truman Little White House.

Pictured: First Place-Neslo Atilla;
Second Place - Antonio Gomez;
Third Place - Elias Montero.



TEACHING AND LEARNING CONTINUED

School Board member, Dr. Woltanski has been visiting elementary classrooms throughout the District reading about Rosa Parks, the Montgomery Bus Boycott and Bus #2847. The students have really enjoyed Dr. Woltanski’s presentation.

