



SCHOOL BOARD OF POLK COUNTY

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January 16, 2009

Board Members

CHAIRMAN
FRANK J. O'REILLY
DISTRICT 1

LORI CUNNINGHAM
DISTRICT 2

HAZEL SELLERS
DISTRICT 3

DICK MULLENAX
DISTRICT 4

KAY FIELDS
DISTRICT 5

MARGARET A. LOFTON
DISTRICT 6

TIM HARRIS
DISTRICT 7

C. WESLEY BRIDGES, II
General Counsel

Administration

GAIL F. MCKINZIE, Ph.D.
Superintendent

Dear Staff Members,

As the Special Session of the Florida Legislature draws to a close, the School Board Members and I want to let you know that for the 2008-2009 school year, there will NOT be any further reductions other than those that were planned for prior to the beginning of this school year. In other words, no program or personnel reductions will need to be made as we conclude this budget year.

However, the projections for the 2009-2010 school year are increasingly negative. It is estimated schools will face an additional 10% reduction which for Polk County is \$60-\$65 million. To avoid such a devastating situation, it is important that you communicate prior to and during the March Regular Session with our legislative delegation as well as others in leadership positions in the House and Senate the need to strongly consider additional revenue sources. Attached is contact information for these elected officials. In addition, it is imperative that the numerous mandates enacted by the legislature in the last two years be put on hold until this financial crisis lessens. It is of paramount importance that when you communicate with our elected officials, it is done apart from the regular school day and does not utilize any of our school district equipment. Furthering your opinion and concerns on your own time, with your own resources, may have a greater impact and will also assure the public that our district resources are used exclusively for their intended purpose.

District budget information is detailed on our website at <http://www.polk-fl.net/districtinfo/departments/businessservices/default.htm>. You can also offer suggestions and/or ask questions at budgetquestionsandsuggestions@polk-fl.net.

Lastly, we want to reiterate that there is NO recommendation to the School Board that the District close any traditional, magnet, or choice school. The District has not experienced any appreciable decline in enrollment that would trigger such an action. These are extremely difficult and stressful times---unprecedented, in fact.

We are well aware and most appreciative of the work that you are doing each day for the benefit of our students and their families. Any assistance you can provide is welcomed because we know that you have busy lives, but your investment of just a few minutes could make a significant difference for the students and your colleagues. Again, thank you for all that you do!

Sincerely,

Frank J. O'Reilly
Board Chairman

Gail F. McKinzie, Ph.D.
Superintendent

Polk Delegation

Senate

Senator J.D. Alexander

District Office:

151 First St., South, Suite B
Winter Haven, FL 33880
(863) 298-7677
FAX (863) 298-7980
Statewide: 1-800-444-9747

Tallahassee Office:

412 Senate Office Bldg.
404 South Monroe St.
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100
(850) 487-5044
Email: alexander.jd.web@flsenate.gov

Senator Paula Dockery

District Office:

P.O. Box 2395
Lakeland, FL 33806-2395
(863) 413-2900
FAX (863) 413-2902
Statewide: 1-866-248-6487

Tallahassee Office:

302 Senate Office Bldg.
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Email: dockery.paula.web@flsenate.gov

Senator Ronda Storms

District Office:

313 East Robertson St.
Brandon, FL 33511
(813) 651-2189
FAX (813) 651-2188

Tallahassee Office:

412 Senate Office Bldg.
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Email: storms.ronda.web@flsenate.gov

House of Representatives

Representative Mike Horner

District Office:

323 Pleasant St.
Kissimmee, FL 34741-5763
(407) 943-3077

Tallahassee Office:

323 The Capitol
402 South Monroe St.
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1300
(850) 488-8992
Email: mike.horner@myfloridahouse.gov

Representative Seth McKeel

District Office:

250 E. Highland Dr.
Lakeland, FL 33813-1725
(863) 647-4896

Tallahassee Office:

1102 The Capitol
402 South Monroe St.
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(850) 488-9890
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Representative Kelli Stargel

District Office:

P.O. Box 2839
Lakeland, FL 33806-2839
(863) 614-9156

Tallahassee Office:

405 House Office Bldg.
402 South Monroe St.
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1300
(850) 488-2270
Email: kelli.stargel@myfloridahouse.gov

Representative Baxter Troutman

District Office:

P.O. Box 7667
Winter Haven, FL 33883-7667
(863) 298-5220

Tallahassee Office:

317 House Office Bldg.
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Representative John Wood

District Office:

702 Jones Ave.
Haines City, FL 33844-4342
(863) 419-3470

Tallahassee Office:

210 House Office Bldg.
402 South Monroe St.
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1300
(850) 488-2721
Email: john.wood@myfloridahouse.gov

Others in Leadership Positions

Senate

Senator Jeff Atwater **President**

Tallahassee Office:

409 The Capitol
404 South Monroe St.
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100
(850) 487-5229
Email: atwater.jeff.web@flsenate.gov

Senator Mike Fasano **President Pro Tempore**

Tallahassee Office:

404 Senate Office Bldg.
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Email: fasano.mike.web@flsenate.gov

Senator Alex Diaz de la Portilla **Majority Leader**

Tallahassee Office:

330 Senate Office Bldg.
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Email: portilla.alex.web@flsenate.gov

Senator Alfred Lawson Jr. **Minority Leader**

Tallahassee Office:

228 Senate Office Bldg.
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(850) 487-5833
Email: lawson.alfred.web@flsenate.gov

Senator Charlie Justice **Minority Leader Pro Tempore**

Tallahassee Office:

308 Senate Office Bldg.
404 South Monroe St.
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Email: justice.charlie.web@flsenate.gov

House of Representatives

Representative Ray Sansom **Speaker**

Tallahassee Office:

420 The Capitol
402 South Monroe St.
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(850) 488-1450
Email: ray.sansom@myfloridahouse.gov

Representative Larry Cretul **Speaker Pro Tempore**

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317 The Capitol
402 South Monroe St.
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Email: larry.cretul@myfloridahouse.gov

Representative Adam Hasner **Majority Leader**

Tallahassee Office:

322 The Capitol
402 South Monroe St.
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Email: adam.hasner@myfloridahouse.gov

Representative Anitere Flores **Deputy Majority Leader**

Tallahassee Office:

212 The Capitol
402 South Monroe St.
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Email: anitere.flores@myfloridahouse.gov

Representative Ron Reagan **Majority Whip & Floor Leader**

Tallahassee Office:

323 Senate Office Bldg.
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Representative Franklin Sands
Minority Leader

Tallahassee Office:

316 The Capitol
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Representative Geraldine Thompson
Minority Leader Pro Tempore

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