



Polk County Public Schools

@-memo

Sales Tax Oversight Committee

The public is invited to a Tuesday, September 7 sales tax oversight committee meeting to be held at the school district administrative office, 1915 South Floral Avenue, Bartow. The meeting begins at 5:30 p.m. in the facilities department conference room. The sales tax oversight committee, composed of community members, was formed by the school district after voters approved a 2003 referendum authorizing an additional ½-cent sales tax for school construction. Contact Larry Helton, the school district's director of planning and concurrency, at (863) 519-7562 or larry.helton@polk-fl.net for further information on the meeting or the sales tax oversight committee.

Links and Information

» [Polk County Public Schools Homepage](#)
» [Department of Community Relations](#)

This monthly Web publication is designed to keep opinion leaders informed of public school information and news. It is also meant to be a monthly communications vehicle to alert you of outstanding things being done in your communities by schools, students and school district staff. Please forward and share this Web publication with other stakeholders in public schools. To add, change or remove names from this distribution list, please send your request to: newsletter@polk-fl.net

August 23, 2010 - Bartow, FL

e-Town Hall Addresses Budget, Class Size Concerns

The school board is holding an e-Town Hall for parents, community members and staff to get questions answered pertaining to school district budget and class size amendment concerns. The board is soliciting questions to be answered during the e-Town Hall. The event will be held at 5:30 p.m., Tuesday, August 31. The e-Town Hall will be broadcast live on Polk County School Board Television (Bright House channel 614, Comcast channel 7 and Verizon FiOs channel 45) and PGTV, the county commission channel (Bright House channel 622, Comcast channel 5 and Verizon FiOs channel 20). The E-Town Hall will also be streamed live via the Internet at www.polk-fl.net and www.polk-county.net. Parents, community members and staff can submit questions beginning at 10 a.m., Tuesday, August 31 by instant message at www.polk-fl.net or via email at polkschoolse-townhall@polk-fl.net. [Click here](#) to see the e-Town Hall schedule for August 31.

District Records Its Third Consecutive FCAT "B"

The school district received its third consecutive overall grade of "B" with the release of the 2009-2010 FCAT grades. Polk also received a B in 2007-2008 and 2008-2009. The state released the 2009-2010 grades for the district, elementary and middle schools on August 6. High school grades will be released by the state in November. More than half of Polk schools, 56 percent, received either an A or B in the August reports. More than half of elementary schools (52 percent) and middle schools (59 percent) received an A or B. Schools making two or more letter grade improvements were Lakeland's Medulla Elementary (C to A), Eaton Park's Oscar J. Pope Elementary (F to B) and Lakeland's Winston Elementary (C to A). [Click here](#) to find out all the grades.

Opening Day 2010-2011 News & Notes

Opening Day for the 2010-2011 school year is Monday, August 23.

- For the second consecutive year, the school district is forecasting zero percent enrollment growth. 2010-2011 forecasted enrollment is 92,677. Enrollment in 2009-2010 was 92,595. Typically, opening day enrollment is approximately 88 to 90 percent of total enrollment. Enrollment figures are reported to the state later in the fall based on enrollment at that time.
- No new schools are opening in 2010-2011 although Davenport School of the Arts will move to its new locale in January 2011. The largest construction project done by this year's Opening Day are two new classroom buildings at Poinciana's Laurel Elementary. This will eliminate portables at Laurel Elementary.
- The new Parent Portal debuts in 2010-2011 after being piloted in schools last year. The Parent Portal gives parents one-stop shopping computer access of their children's attendance, academic records and grades, meals account and other information that changes on a frequent basis. [Click here](#) to sign-up to use the Parent Portal.

Polk Among Best In Energy Efficiency

The most recent statistics from the Florida Department of Education (FDOE) show that the Polk Public Schools are among the best school districts for energy efficiency. The report was issued by the FDOE Deputy Commissioner of Finance And Operations. Of all 67 school districts, Polk was listed in the report as best in the state for lowest cost based on its number of students. Polk was listed in the same report as second lowest in the state for cost per square foot. [Click here](#) to learn more and access the FDOE document that compares all 67 school districts on energy efficiency.

Teachers Win Governor's Award For Economics

Three Polk teachers won 2010 Governor's Awards For Excellence In Teaching Economics. Polk teachers winning the awards were Melissa Konkol-Bennett of Bartow's Gause Academy, Brittany Sampson of Lakeland High and Dr. Antionette Wilcox of Bartow's Union Academy. Melissa, Brittany and Antionette were among 34 in the state honored for their innovation in teaching economics, free enterprise and financial literacy. To be considered for the awards, teachers from across the state submitted materials and lesson plans showcasing their economics instruction. [Click here](#) to learn more about their economics instruction.

Polk Wins First-Ever National History Day Awards

Polk won its first-ever category awards in the annual National History Day event. The 2010 event was held over the summer at the University of Maryland in College Park. Polk students previously participated in National History Day with their History Fair projects, but had never won category awards. Polk was represented at National History Day by Bartow International Baccalaureate, Bartow's Summerlin Academy and Lakeland's Lawton Chiles Middle Academy. [Click here](#) to learn more about the students' history fair projects and the award winners.

Produced by the Department of Community Relations, Polk County Public Schools

Follow the Good News



Watch Polk County School Board Television on Bright House Networks (Channel 614), Comcast (Channel 7) and Verizon FIOS (Channel 45) for educational programming, school district news and events. A program schedule and other information about the school district's channel is available by [clicking here](#).