



MARTIN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Where Learning Has No Boundaries



FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

January 22, 2009

The first three months as Superintendent have been exciting and extremely fulfilling. I have enjoyed meeting with teachers, administrators, staff, and community members as I continue my visits to each school and department throughout the district. I would like to thank all of those who have gone out of their way to make my transition as smooth as possible. Here is an update on some of the key issues facing our district and the accomplishments over the past 90 days:

Budget Update

On January 14th, during a Special Legislative Session, Florida lawmakers voted to approve the latest round of budget cuts to education. Every school district's state funding was decreased by 2%. For Martin County Schools, this cut totaled \$2,559,125. To accommodate this cut, the District identified areas in department budgets where reductions could be made.

These cuts to education are unprecedented in Florida. Since the start of the 2007-2008 fiscal year (July 1, 2007), funding reductions by the state have totaled nearly \$10.8 million in Martin County. During the School Board Meeting on Tuesday, January 20th, the School Board unanimously supported a **Resolution** urging Congress to provide supplemental federal funding for public education and authorizing our district to apply for the funding should it become available. I have attached a copy of the Resolution to this letter and will continue to keep you updated on the budget.

Instructional 2008-2009 Contract

The Martin County School Board voted unanimously on January 20th to approve the proposed 2008-2009 contract with the Martin County Education Association (MCEA). Teachers ratified the contract on January 12th. It provides a one-time \$300 bonus for Instructional staff. Administrative staff who earn less than \$70,000 will also receive this bonus. Employees will receive the bonus as part of their January 29th paycheck.

Negotiations with AFSCME

The Martin County School District and the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) will be meeting this Friday, January 23rd, for negotiations. I am hopeful that the district will be able to settle this contract expeditiously as well.

Management Study

The District will welcome the Management Review Team from the Florida Association of District School Superintendents on January 26th. The team will be reviewing the District's operations to identify efficiencies and areas where we can make improvements. Please join me in welcoming them, and I look forward to sharing the results of the study as soon as they are available.

Community Pool at Martin County High School

I am also pleased to report that, in partnership with the County, a new heater for the community pool at Martin County High School has been installed. The completion of this project is especially timely in light of the winter weather we are experiencing. Thanks to competitive bidding, we were able to purchase a high quality and energy efficient model at a lower cost than previous estimates. I would like to thank all of the district and county staff who worked diligently to complete this important project.

In closing, thank you again for all that you do each day to support our students and schools.

Sincerely,

Nancy Kline
Superintendent
Martin County School District