



MARTIN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Where Learning Has No Boundaries



FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

February 19, 2009

I would like to begin by announcing that Dr. Frank Raffone is our district's new Assistant Superintendent. Many of our employees have had the pleasure of working with Dr. Raffone when he previously served as the district's Executive Director of Instructional Services and more recently for our district as an educational consultant. Dr. Raffone has an in-depth knowledge of our schools and is a valuable asset to our district.

I also want to congratulate Indiantown Middle School for earning authorization to offer the *International Baccalaureate (IB) Middle Years Programme*. Indiantown Middle has been working toward this goal since May 2006, and I applaud the school's administrators, faculty, and staff for their efforts toward bringing this renowned, international program to their school.

Budget Update

During a Superintendents' conference call with the Florida Department of Education (FLDOE) on Wednesday, February 18th, the state provided another forecast for potential funding reductions in the 2009-2010 school year. Unfortunately, the outlook continues to decline. The most recent estimates by educational leaders is that districts state wide may now be looking at reductions of up to 16 percent; however, this is still preliminary. District staff is currently working on preparing next year's budget, and in doing so, looking for areas where reductions can be made. There will be two upcoming School Board Workshops to discuss options and identify district priorities. Those meetings will be held in the School Board Meeting Room on March 3rd from 1 P.M. to 3 P.M. (Operational Budget) and March 4th from 9 A.M. to 11 A.M. (Capital Projects).

The state also provided a brief update on the federal stimulus package. Recent data provided by the district's Legislative Liaison shows that Martin County should receive \$5,684,000. However, this funding is earmarked for Federal Title I (\$1,686,000) and I.D.E.A. (\$3,998,000) programs and has specific restrictions as to how it can be spent. These funds will not alleviate the budget cuts faced by the district.

One encouraging bit of news from the FLDOE conference call is that additional revenue may become available for school districts through stabilization funds provided by the stimulus package. The state must still apply for these funds, but, if approved, the funds may allow more spending flexibility for school districts and possibly offset some of the potential budget cuts.

AFSCME Contract

I am proud to report that during the February 17th School Board Meeting, School Board Members unanimously approved the 2008-2009 contract with the *American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME)*. I would like to thank all of those involved in this process. Members of the AFSCME bargaining unit can expect the one-time \$300 bonus, which is provided for in the 2008-2009 contract, to be included in their February 26th paycheck.

Teacher of the Year

Finally, the district's Teacher of the Year Celebration is this Friday, February 20th. I would like to congratulate all of the nominees for their hard work and dedication to our students and schools.

Sincerely,

Nancy Kline
Superintendent
Martin County School District