



## MARTIN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Where Learning Has No Boundaries



### FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

April 14, 2009

Welcome back from Spring Break! I have updates on several issues that I would like to share with you.

#### Budget Update

Recently, I joined school district superintendents from across the state in Tallahassee for meetings with lawmakers regarding education funding. As you may be aware, there have been huge disparities in budget estimates provided by the state for the 2009-2010 school year, making it challenging to draft the district's budget. However, the District's top priorities have remained clear throughout this process. Those priorities are to save as many positions as fiscally possible and to not impact student programs. The District will present its 2009-2010 Budget Plan to the School Board during two upcoming budget workshops. The first will be the Operating Budget Workshop on April 20th, from 10 A.M.—noon. The Capital Budget Workshop will be held the following day, April 21st, at 3:00 P.M.– 5:00 P.M. The budget workshops will be rebroadcast on MCTV20 and available on the Martin County Government website. Attached to this update is a graph highlighting the total state funding cuts our District has faced since July 1, 2007.

The District also continues to accept input from employees, bargaining units, and the community regarding budget priorities, and has established an email account for creative, cost-saving ideas. I encourage you to participate in this process and submit positive suggestions on how the District can reduce costs to [BrightIdeas@martin.k12.fl.us](mailto:BrightIdeas@martin.k12.fl.us). All submissions must include the sender's name and contact information.

#### Organizational Management Study

The Florida Association of District School Superintendents has completed its *Organizational Management Review of the Martin County School District* and submitted its report to the District. There will be a School Board Workshop on April 21st, at 5:00 P.M., to discuss the study results. Following the workshop, it will be my recommendation that the School Board adopt the organizational structure outlined in the report. The District will then create a plan for implementation that takes into account such factors as educational, operational, and fiscal impacts.

I would also like to emphasize that while the report contains additional valuable information, insights, and recommendations, a determination must still be made regarding which recommendations to implement. For those recommendations that are adopted, some may be implemented in the short term, but others could require more time. I look forward to discussing these important issues with the School Board at its upcoming workshop. A link to the Organizational Management Study is attached to this update.

#### Class Size Reduction

I continue to receive questions about the status of Class Size Reduction (CSR) for 2009-2010. Districts have been notified by the state that the CSR calculation will remain at the school-wide average next school year, instead of moving to the individual classroom level. This is certainly welcome news as it would cost approximately \$7 million to fully implement CSR in Martin County. To address this issue on a more permanent basis, there are legislative efforts underway to modify the CSR Amendment (HB919 and SB1828) so that the calculation would remain at the school-wide average, but include specific caps on individual classroom enrollment. Ultimately any changes to the CSR Amendment would require voter approval.

#### Thank you to Felix A. Williams Elementary and Martin County High School

I would also like to commend all of those who helped during the brush fire near Felix A. Williams Elementary (FAWE). Administrators, teachers, and staff at both FAWE and Martin County High School (MCHS) did an outstanding job keeping students safe and calm during the evacuation from FAWE and while they waited to be reunited with their parents at MCHS. Because of your efforts, and the incredible job done by firefighters and law enforcement officers, everyone was kept out of harms way. Once again, thank you for your tremendous efforts!

#### Music In Our Schools

On March 31st, I had the pleasure of once again attending Music in Our Schools at Martin County High School. What an amazing display of talent among our students and instructors! It is truly one of my favorite events of the year. Thank you to all of those who work diligently each year to make this production such an incredible success.

Sincerely,  
Nancy Kline  
Superintendent  
Martin County School District