



## MARTIN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Where Learning Has No Boundaries



### FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

April 21, 2009

On Monday, April 20th, a School Board Workshop was held regarding the District's Operating Budget. This is the first phase in the Budget process and is aimed at identifying priorities of the Board. The District's presentation included ideas the District has received from employees, community members, Martin County Education Association, AFSCME, and the Martin County Association of School Administrators (MCASA). I also met with several other groups to talk about the status of the budget and listen to their concerns and/or ideas for cost reductions. Our goal has been to make this process as collaborative as possible.

I would like to clarify information regarding one of the many budget reduction strategies identified in the District's presentation. During the Workshop, I spoke about my goal of expanding educational opportunities for our students at the Environmental Studies Center (ESC). Among the possibilities is the development of a Marine Biology Academy utilizing the ESC resources. There has also been discussion regarding possible partnerships with IRSC or FAU to provide additional learning opportunities or internships for students. The primary budget strategy brought forward to the Board involving the ESC was to consider changing the position of Coordinator of the Environmental Studies Center to a Lead Teacher position, with the District's Science Coordinator taking a more active administrative role at the ESC. This change would increase the number of instructional offerings at the ESC.

Throughout the budget process, the District's priority is to meet the financial obligations of the District, while having the least impact to students and educational services, and protecting as many jobs as possible. I look forward to gaining more input from the community through upcoming Town Hall Meetings. Tentative dates for evening meetings at Hobe Sound Elementary, Martin County High School, and Indiantown Middle School will be discussed by the School Board during tonight's School Board Meeting. You can also submit cost saving ideas to the District via email at [BrightIdeas@martin.k12.fl.us](mailto:BrightIdeas@martin.k12.fl.us).

#### Organization and Management Review

Tonight, prior to the Regular School Board Meeting, a Workshop will be held to discuss the results of the *Organization and Management Review* conducted by the Florida Association of District School Superintendents (FADSS). Following the Workshop, it will be my recommendation that the School Board adopt the new Organizational Structure, outlined in Appendix B of the report. A copy of this report is available on the District's website.

The new Organizational Structure is cost-neutral to the district, with the exception of one new *critical need* position, Director of General Services. This position could be funded using capital dollars, so there will be no impact to the Operating Budget. This position is necessary to provide oversight in key areas of District operations, including the District's Maintenance Department. The Facilities and Maintenance Department has had two major lapses in oversight in the past 9 years resulting in financial impacts to the District. At all times, it is imperative that District resources are managed properly. Pending School Board approval, this new Organizational Structure will be more aligned with the District's mission and goals by focusing resources and leadership within specific areas of District operations.

While the FADSS report also contains numerous other recommendations, it will be up to the District and School Board to determine which recommendations to implement taking into consideration factors such as educational, operational, and fiscal impacts.

Sincerely,  
Nancy Kline  
Superintendent  
Martin County School District