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Sent time: Thursday, November 03, 2011 10:56:37 AM
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Subject: FW: 11/03/11 Education Round-Up

FYI – have a great day!

Sincerely,

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From: Higgins, Deborah
Sent: Thursday, November 03, 2011 10:41 AM
Subject: 11/03/11 Education Round-Up

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



[Elections law wrong way to teach students about government](#)
(Bradenton Herald © 11/03/2011)

a New Smyrna Beach High School civics teacher unwittingly broke a new Florida elections law while helping her students register to vote when school began. A government teacher in the western Florida Panhandle committed the same violation. The onerous law tightens the time frame in which third parties who sign up new voters must submit forms to elections officials – from 10 days in the past to...

[Today in Tallahassee: Merit pay update, gaming presser and](#)
(Central FL Politics © 11/03/2011)

TALLAHASSEE — It's the last day of committee meetings in the Florida House and Senate and it looks like it's another busy (and maybe newsy) day ahead. Take a look at

some of the highlights. * Sen. Ellyn Bogdanoff, R-Fort Lauderdale, and Rep. Erik Fresen, R-Miami, are talking gaming at 9:30 a.m. in 301 Capitol. Their destination casino bill has generated a lot of buzz and is employing a lot o...

[STEM programs should be a priority](#) (Central Florida Future © 11/03/2011)

In a year where there isn't much bipartisanship, one area where both Democrats and Republicans find common ground is education reform. According to the 2006 Programme for International Student Assessment comparison, American students ranked 21st out of 30 in science literacy among students from developed countries, and 25th out of 30 in math literacy. According to James M. Gentile, president and...

[Civil rights group investigates school bus bullies](#) (Central Florida News 13 © 11/03/2011)

ORLANDO – The Florida Civil Rights Association says it's fielding calls about bullying on the school bus from concerned parents and their concerns aren't being taken seriously. President J. Willie David went as far to say complaints and concerns of minorities aren't a priority for the Orange or Seminole County school districts. Orange Count...

[City-Based Strategies For Excellent Charter Schools](#) (Education Next © 11/03/2011)

By Bryan Hassel and Emily Ayscue Hassel 11/02/2011 0 Comments | Print | NO PDF | Share A number of forward looking cities have set aside contentious debates about charter schools, and have instead chosen to embrace high-quality charter schools in their reform strategies. This is a welcome development for students stuck in underperforming schools. But these city-based movements are not wit...

[Failing school districts need a shake-up](#) (FL Times-Union © 11/03/2011)

In some organizations, when bureaucracy has built a hard crust and dysfunction has become part of the culture, there is no middle ground. Finesse is not an option. Only boot camp style action - break it down and build it back up - will work. First you need to get rid of the rotten part. Then, and only then, can you start building a good organization. With a big city school system, wher...

[Education management group had mixed results with Duval schools](#) (FL Times-Union © 11/03/2011)

By Topher Sanders jacksonville.com Copyright 2011 The Florida Times-Union. All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten or redistributed. November 2, 2011 - 06:38pm Education management group had mixed results with Duval schools The company selected by the Duval County School Board to run and turn around the district's intervene schools is coming off its wors...

[Duval schools hires community outreach veteran to \\$90,000-a-year job](#) (Florida Times-Union © 11/03/2011)

Superintendent Ed Pratt-Dannals has tapped a veteran community advocate to serve as the new director of Community and Family Engagement for Duval County Public Schools. Cheryl Riddick will fill the position that has been vacant for more than a year. At an annual salary of \$90,000, Riddick will direct the supervisors, coordinators and technical managers within the Community and Family Engagement ...

[Bullying is a violation of human rights](#)

(Florida Times-Union © 11/03/2011)

Bullying in schools, communities, neighborhoods and even churches has continued to show how bullying is affecting lives. The growing awareness across the country even in political circles creates a mind-set that bullying is a violation of human rights to those being threatened, harassed and violated with words and actions, threats and intimidations. Bullying has received noticeable attention t...

[Brevard school unions, district declare impasse](#)

(Florida Today © 11/03/2011)

Brevard Public Schools declared an impasse in negotiations this week with its teachers and support staff unions, saying it does not have the money to grant raises as both unions want. "It would be financially irresponsible," said Judy Preston, associate superintendent for financial services. "The number one thing is to protect employees' jobs. We don't want to do layoffs." After four years of wa...

[Palm Bay middle school student suspended after hug](#)

(Florida Today © 11/03/2011)

PALM BAY — A mother hopes to change policies at a Brevard County public school after her son was suspended for a hug, according to a report from FLORIDA TODAY news partner WKMG Local 6. When Nick Martinez, 14, received his suspension for public display of affection at Southwest Middle School in Palm Bay, his mom wanted to know why. "I wanted to know if he had touched her inappropriately? Did sh...

[Scott expects budget, redistricting battles](#)

(Florida Today © 11/03/2011)

TALLAHASSEE — Florida Gov. Rick Scott and top legislative leaders are saying that redistricting and the state's budget shortfall will dominate the upcoming session of the Florida Legislature. But heading into a critical election year it appears that legislators may shy away from other contentious issues during the session that starts in January. Scott, speaking to the AP Florida Legislative Pl...

[Luck now has better odds for magnet school enrollment](#)

(Hernando Today © 11/03/2011)

BROOKSVILLE More students will be enrolled in magnet schools by chance next year rather than proof of their academic skills as part of an effort to open enrollment to more students in the district — and to qualify for grant money. By a 3-2 vote, school board members approved a measure Tuesday night to enroll 70 percent of students in two magnet schools based on the lottery procedure. The remainin...

[Input Pours In About USF Poly](#)

(Lakeland Ledger © 11/03/2011)

LAKELAND | When the fate of the University of South Florida Polytechnic is decided next week, there certainly will not be a shortage of input from the community. The State University System of Florida Board of Governors has received resolutions and petitions from individuals and groups about the possible separation of the polytechnic from the USF ...

[Miami-Dade School Board to redraw district lines](#)

(Miami Herald © 11/03/2011)

Miami-Dade's school board districts will be redrawn, a process triggered by changes in population over the last decade. Similar to the redistricting of legislative and congressional seats in Florida, the Miami-Dade School Board must approve a redistricting plan to evenly apportion changes in population based on the U.S. 2010 Census. Several principles guide the process, starting with the rule...

[Betting on casino jobs](#)

(Miami Herald © 11/03/2011)

Casinos have become a magnet for South Florida job seekers attracted by their size, their glamour and their future growth potential. The latest evidence came Wednesday, as nearly 4,000 job applicants stood in line, a few all night, to interview for one of 800 new jobs at the expanding Seminole Casino Coconut Creek. With unemployment at 9.3 percent in Broward County, any job is an opportunity, but o...

[Does campus diversity require conformity?](#)

(Miami Herald © 11/03/2011)

By GEORGE F. WILL georgewill@washpost.com Illustrating an intellectual confusion common on campuses, Vanderbilt University says: To ensure "diversity of thought and opinion" we require certain student groups, including five religious ones, to conform to the university's policy that forbids the groups from protecting their characteristics that contribute to diversity. Last year, after a Chris...

[Guest Commentary: Challenging ourselves to do more for students](#)

(Naples Daily News © 11/03/2011)

On Nov. 9 the Education Foundation of Collier County will be continuing its Connect Now initiative by presenting an Idea Exchange on student achievement. I encourage all who are concerned with the challenges our education system is facing to attend this event. The program will be moderated by David Moore of the National Academy Foundation. Moore will be joined by Ronald Ferguson of Harvard Unive...

[Collier, Lee schools meet state class size reduction requirement](#)

(Naples Daily News © 11/03/2011)

By HEATHER CARNEY Wednesday, November 2, 2011 Collier County Public Schools met the state's class size reduction requirement this year, avoiding fines. Last year, district administrators anticipated the state would revise the amendment and opted to pay an about \$750,000 fine rather than meet the requirement. "Because of a possible revision, we consciously decided not to do it," said...

[Some Edison students worry about their degrees as trustees weigh who's in charge](#)

(Naples Daily News © 11/03/2011)

FORT MYERS — Recent controversy at Edison State College has led some students to rally for change while others remain unsure of their stance or are unaware of the school's issues. With a Board of Trustees vote looming on whether to fire a top administrator and an accreditation visit scheduled within a week, student Mike Clark designed T-shirts that read: "I'm sorry but this educational instit...

[Palm Beach County School Board selects interim superintendent](#)

(Orlando Sentinel © 11/03/2011)

The new interim Palm Beach County schools superintendent doesn't need any introductions. It's Wayne Gent, who has been serving as the school district's chief officer of administration since the summer. The School Board on Wednesday voted 4-3 to select Gent, 57, who previously worked as an area superintendent and principal since joining

the district in 2000. Starting Monday he'll succeed Bill Ma...

[School bus hits house in Deerfield Beach; van hits gas station in Weston](#)

(Orlando Sentinel © 11/03/2011)

DEERFIELD BEACH Jacqueline Castro was watching the morning television news Wednesday when something happened that put her home in the news. A school bus crashed into her house. The crash happened about 8 a.m. at her home on Northeast Seventh Avenue, just off Hillsboro Boulevard. "I heard a crash, bang,..."

[Casino bill will require lots of horse-trading](#)

(Orlando Sentinel © 11/03/2011)

TALLAHASSEE As state lawmakers begin to vet a controversial destination casino bill, it's clear that there's going to be a lot of horse-trading required to get the measure to Gov. Rick Scott's desk. Democrats, who say their voters are needed to pass the bill, are demanding help for the state's beleaguered...

[Former Dwyer principal Wayne Gent chosen as interim Palm Beach County schools superintendent](#)

(Palm Beach Post © 11/03/2011)

Updated: 10:00 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 2, 2011 Posted: 6:45 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 2, 2011 E. Wayne Gent will become the caretaker of the Palm Beach County School District on Monday morning. The school board voted 4-3 Wednesday to appoint Gent as its interim superintendent. He will lead the district - the nation's 13th largest with about 175,000 s...

[Religious groups fight casino plan](#)

(Palm Beach Post © 11/03/2011)

A coalition of religious and anti-gambling groups is pressuring lawmakers to kill a proposal that would allow up to three Las Vegas-style casinos in South Florida. The Florida Catholic Conference, the Florida Baptist Convention and Florida Family Action held a news conference Tuesday to declare war on the casino proposal, sponsored by Sen. Ellyn Bogdanoff, R-Fort Lauderdale, whose district ...

[Palm Beach County school board OK's creating its own inspector general](#)

(Palm Beach Post © 11/03/2011)

The Palm Beach County School Board gave initial approval this evening to turning the district's audit department into an Office of Inspector General with the ability to investigate allegations of corruption and fraud. It must approve the policy a second time before the move becomes official. The department is now led by Lung Chiu, the district's auditor. Board members decided to openly adv...

[Police seek answers after teen attempts suicide](#)

(Pensacola-WEAR (ABC) © 11/03/2011)

SARASOTA, Fla. (AP) – Police and school officials in Sarasota are seeking answers after a 17-year-old tried to hang herself at Booker High School. The Sarasota Herald-Tribune (<http://bit.ly/tBdRXw>) reports the girl had no pulse when paramedics arrived at the high school on Tuesday. They were able to restore a weak pulse before she was taken to a Sarasota hospital. She was later flown to Al...

[Suicide attempt prompts questions](#)

(Sarasota Herald-Tribune © 11/03/2011)

SARASOTA - Sarasota police detectives and Sarasota County school officials are trying to find out why a 17-year-old girl tried to commit suicide on the Booker High School campus Tuesday. Girl was found in bathroom; police say she tried to hang herself. Students found the girl in the girls' bathroom, where police say she tried to hang herself...

[Fresh, cool on wish list](#)

(St. Petersburg Times © 11/03/2011)

LAND O'LAKES Jill Hallauer has taught art in the same classroom since Pine View Elementary opened in 2003. She changes the decorations every year. She displays student works. But still it remains at its core the same — white, white, white. "It should get a makeover," fifth-grader Spencer Kress said Wednesday, as he worked on optical illusion artwork. "It's been like this for, like, two..."

[Lotteries to select majority of students for two Hernando magnet schools](#)

(St. Petersburg Times © 11/03/2011)

BROOKSVILLE — Families of students applying for a spot at two of the district's magnet schools now must ask: Do we feel lucky? A divided Hernando School Board voted unexpectedly Tuesday night to change the admissions procedures for Chocachatti Elementary and Challenger K-8 schools. Starting this application year, 70 percent of students who apply to the two schools will be selected by lottery a...

[Deltona Elementary students gets tips on how to handle bullies](#)

(St. Petersburg Times © 11/03/2011)

SPRING HILL — Sheriff's Deputy Jeff Swartz, Fox Chapel Middle School's resource officer, recently went down the road to Deltona Elementary School, where he made an anti-bullying presentation. He was at Deltona at that school's request — and with a message for the young students. "This is where it's actually starting," he said. "We're trying to get out to the elementary schools. Sometime..."

[House Speaker Cannons Address to APs Session Preview](#)

(Sunshine State News © 11/03/2011)

Posted: November 3, 2011 3:55 AM Dean Cannon As you know, last year we passed a fiscally responsible budget that did not raise taxes and protected Florida's bond rating. And, it wasn't easy. We made hard choices, and I hope perhaps one day the federal government will do the same. We passed and Gov. Scott signed into law the most comprehensive overhaul of the Medicaid system in ...

[Compulsive Gambling Council Says Its Getting a Bad Deal From Florida](#)

(Sunshine State News © 11/03/2011)

Posted: November 3, 2011 3:55 AM Throwing some cold water on casino fever, the Florida Council on Compulsive Gambling says the state isn't addressing the addiction problems it has now. "It is not responsible policymaking to even consider expansion without taking steps to mitigate the current issues," FCCG executive director Pat Fowler told Sunshine State News. The Council tak...

[Jefferson County Principal Will Stay On Job After Threatening to Resign](#)

(Tallahassee-WCTV (CBS) © 11/03/2011)

Jefferson County, FL — Guy Cooper has been principal at Jefferson County Middle High School since July of 2011 and he says if the school board doesn't take what he calls

the appropriate steps, he'll resign. "I've had several issues with Mr. (Bill) Brumfiel...

[Polytechnic extravagance](#)

(Tampa Bay Online © 11/03/2011)

Lawmakers who preach austerity should follow the saga of the University of South Florida Polytechnic campus in Lakeland, which wants to become an independent university though it has but 1,300 students and no academic achievements. It is a classic example of tossing tax dollars around without strategy or oversight. The state Board of Governors is scheduled to consider the proposal next week. Wh...

[Democrats want input for casino bill votes](#)

(The Florida Current © 11/03/2011)

Sensing a split among Republican lawmakers over adding casinos in South Florida, House Democratic Leader Ron Saunders of Key West said Wednesday his party expects to have a say in the bill before it gets to the floor. Rep. Dennis Baxley, R-Ocala, joined leaders of religious groups Tuesday to oppose bills filed by Rep. Erik Fresen, R-Miami, and Sen. Ellyn Bogdanoff, R-Fort Lauderdale, which woul...

[State may eye retirement savings](#)

(Walton Sun © 11/03/2011)

TALLAHASSEE — It is unlikely to come to fruition, but Gov. Rick Scott has floated a legislative proposal that would take money from local governments already struggling with dwindling revenue. Beginning in July, public employees' paychecks decreased by 3 percent when new legislation went into effect requiring them to contribute to the Florida Retirement System (FRS). The initiative wa...

[Debt was up again for college class of 2010](#)

(WDBO AM-580 (Orlando) © 11/03/2011)

Members of the college class of 2010 who took out student loans owed on average \$25,250 upon graduation, a 5 percent increase from the year before, according to a new analysis released Thursday. The figures, compiled using college survey data by The Project on Student Debt, indicate average indebtedness increasing at about the same annual rate as in the last five years, but still give a fresh sna...

[Scott's impact on FL one year later](#)

(WTXL ABC Channel 27 Tallahassee © 11/03/2011)

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. - One year ago Republican Rick Scott narrowly defeated Democrat Alex Sink to become Florida's 45th governor. The businessman, who used millions of his own money to win, had no political experience. But his campaign promise to bring jobs to Florida earned him the top spot in the state. That campaign promise remains a constant. "(Scott) has stuck by the principles t...

Have a great day! Please see the article below.

Deborah





Tallahassee Democrat

Bill Cotterell: Florida may change as gambling gains toehold

Financial promises are surely not a sure thing

By Bill Cotterell Capitol Curmudgeon

November 3, 2011

Parenting is full of teachable moments and my most memorable occurred when we tried to show my son the ugly facts about gambling.

We were in Reno, Nev., and Chris, then 7 or 8, was entranced by the casinos. Our hotel escalator rose very slowly over a vast ground floor full of slot machines, roulette wheels and card games.

My wife and I tried to explain that no business can let you come in and take its money. But logic is no match in a little boy's imagination for the flashing lights, calliope music, bells and whistles, sirens and the constant clatter of coins hitting slot machine trays carefully designed to make a lot of noise.

Children can't enter a casino, even in Nevada, but the airports out there have slot machines at every gate. So at about 6 a.m., in a deserted concourse, we decided to let him see why they're called "one-armed bandits." With no one else around, we dropped a nickel and pulled the lever — and won \$20.

Somehow, it didn't turn my son into a compulsive gambler. Yet I feel like I'm still trying to argue "well, yes, but..." about gambling.

The notion that there really is such a thing as a free lunch will be huge in the 2012 legislative session, from "Internet Cafes" to big casino resorts. Tallahassee probably hasn't seen anything like it in 80 years — not since pari-mutuel wagering was first legalized and, legend has it, lobbyists bought votes wholesale, right at the House and Senate doors.

Prohibition had just ended, so there was a thriving bazaar for bills and amendments licensing or regulating that vice, too. They must have been a couple of fun sessions.

Race track betting was legalized in 1931, amid much promise of jobs and revenue. Slot machines were approved in 1935, only to be outlawed again two years later.

There will be no cash transactions in the rotunda this time. Such things are now done discretely, legally, through the political parties, the campaign committees and the candidates' own re-election treasuries. In fact, they don't even call it gambling any more — it's "gaming," as if you're just taking out your money and playing with it for a while.

But giant corporations planning "destination casinos" don't play. Their approach is more like W.C. Fields in that western comedy, when a rube asks him, "Is this a game of chance?" and Fields mutters, "Not the way I play it..."

Gamble Rogers, the great St. Augustine balladeer whose name is on the Capitol wall in the Florida artists hall of fame, put it another way. "The surprising thing is not that a fool and his money are soon parted," Rogers used to say, "but that a fool and his money get together in the first place."

There are good arguments for gambling. Nobody makes you play. There's a limit to how much government can protect us from our own folly. The state, itself, is in the business with wide-ranging lottery "products" that offer far worse odds.

Tribal casinos are already in Florida, along with a lot of horse, dog and jai-alai operations. They produce jobs and tax revenue, and mega-casinos would undoubtedly produce a lot more. Having the world's biggest gambling dens might shortstop a lot of the young, affluent tourists who now change planes in Fort Lauderdale and head for the islands, or who board cruise ships.

And don't forget Cuba. The Castro regime will end in a few years but will it be like the 1950s again, with wide-open gambling? Florida will have to compete with whatever Havana becomes.

There are also some parallels to the 1930s, when Florida bought into the glamor of horse tracks. Today's economy is not as bad as the Depression, but the promise of new jobs and revenue is a compelling argument.

Those financial promises are at best a gamble. There are many casino jobs in management, administration and info-tech positions. But most will be low-wage waiter and hotel maid jobs — often part-time — with few benefits or career prospects.

Whatever revenues casinos produce will be a pittance, compared to their profits. And lawmakers had better aim high the first time because, once the casinos are in, their parent corporations will have the best lobbying talent in town — and will spread campaign contributions around to make sure the state's cut of the pot stays small.

Casinos have been on the ballot repeatedly since 1978, generally losing by smaller margins. In the last 10 years or so, the concept has gained a toehold in South Florida and some of the dog tracks now see cards or slots as survival.

Every session seems to produce its lobbyist full-employment act, and some years it's bigger than in others. Once the pot of gold was branch banking, then the cable TV and phone companies went at it, or the doctors and trial lawyers made sessions memorable with fights over medical malpractice.

This time, you've got Disney and the other tourism interests, which have spent millions establishing Florida's family vacation image. You've got the tribal interests. You've got the Family Policy Council and some religious activists, who would do away with the lottery, tracks and fron-tons, if they could.

On the other side, you've got companies promising not millions, but billions in revenue, and jobs not in the thousands but tens of thousands. And you've got a lot of voters who either want casinos or who figure there's no point fighting when they're as close as Gulfport-Biloxi and the nearest Seminole reservation.