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Sent time: Friday, November 04, 2011 10:25:56 AM
To: Cari@excelined.org; walt_griffin@scps.k12.fl.us; elefsky@cfl.rr.com; Lee, Laurie; Colle, Hope; Tart, Suzanne
Subject: Fw: 11/04/11 Education Round-Up

FYI... Have a great weekend!

Sincerely,

Kevin Smith,

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Sent from my BlackBerry Wireless Handheld

From: Higgins, Deborah
Sent: Friday, November 04, 2011 09:26 AM
Subject: 11/04/11 Education Round-Up

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



[Jeb Bush, sister to lead mom's literacy foundation](#)

(Associated Press © 11/04/2011)

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (AP) — Former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush and his sister Doro Bush Koch are now leading the foundation started by their mother more than 20 years ago. Former first lady Barbara Bush announced Thursday in Houston, Texas that her son and daughter were the new co-chairs of the foundation dedicated to improving literacy nationwide. The 86-year-old Barbara Bush will remain involved as...

[Placement of Richard Milburn Academy students questioned after Manatee County school closes](#)

(Bradenton Herald © 11/04/2011)

ataylor@bradenton.com BRADENTON — Monica Rodriguez-Valdez can't help but be concerned about her oldest son. The straight-A student who flourished at Richard Milburn Academy was enrolled at Southeast High School recently so that he could graduate. Bradenton's Richard Milburn Academy, an alternative charter school for students ages 17 to 22, closed Monday. On Tuesday, chairs, d...

[School Board OKs grants, endorses after-school programs](#)

(Charlotte Sun Herald © 11/04/2011)

SARASOTA COUNTY — The Sarasota County School Board has unanimously approved two grants and two after-school programs to improve the learning experience and provide employment opportunities for county students. One grant, under the Title I School Improvement Initiative, contained \$200,352 for low-achieving students at Glenallen Elementary School in North Port as well as Alta Vista, Brentwood, Tuttl...

[Miami Dade president receives \\$500,000 Carnegie award](#)

Eduardo Padrón, president of Florida's Miami Dade College (MDC)—which has the largest undergraduate enrollment of any U.S. college or university at 174,000—has received the 2011 Carnegie Corporation Centennial Academic Leadership Award. It comes with \$500,000 that Padrón can use for any academic initiative. Padrón, who has served MDC since 1995, is the first community college president to receive...

[Music teachers from around Florida gather in Daytona Beach](#)

(Daytona Beach News-Journal © 11/04/2011)

Ashlin Schnibben plays the xylophone during a music rehearsal at Cypress Creek Elementary School in Port Orange on Wednesday. (N-J | Peter Bauer) Fourth-grader Lukas Walker plays "Rock Around the Clock" on the xylophone during a music rehearsal at Cypress Creek Elementary School in Port Orange on Wednesday. (N-J | Peter Bauer) ...

[Study Finds Achievement Mixed at Charters Run by Networks](#)

(Education Week/Inside School Research Blog © 11/04/2011)

By Sarah D. Sparks on November 3, 2011 1:40 AM | 1 Comment | Recommend From guest blogger Nirvi Shah: A new national study on the effectiveness of the networks that operate charter schools finds that their students' test scores in math, science, and social studies improve after they have spent a year or two at the school, but not by much. Overall, the report out today finds that middle sc...

[No Child Left Behind 'fix' falls short of goal](#)

(Florida Keys Keysnet © 11/04/2011)

Legislation that is supposed to fix what's wrong with the federal No Child Left Behind education law would instead water it down to the point that it would not do an adequate job. Struggling students would no longer get the attention they need if Congress passes the proposed changes to the 2002 law. The bill would give the states more authority over all but 5 percent of the worst public schools i...

[Entire Duval County School Board rejects salary increase](#)

(Florida Times-Union © 11/04/2011)

All Duval County School Board members have decided to reject a \$2,800 salary increase that was headed their way due to an expiring provision in state law. Board Chairman W.C. Gentry and Paula Wright were the last of the seven board members to request that their salaries remain at \$37,300. Because of the expiring state provision, the board members' salaries would have increased to \$40,160. ...

[Parents oppose magnet school changes](#)

(Florida Times-Union © 11/04/2011)

Parents showed up en masse to a community meeting Thursday night to tell Duval County school district officials to leave the magnet school neighborhood preference policy intact. Most wearing bright orange stickers saying "Keep Priority 1," about 240 people packed the Darnell-Cookman Middle/High School cafeteria for the third and final public meeting on potential changes for nine of t...

[Pastor in Clay schools prayer squabble: We won't back down](#)

(Florida Times-Union © 11/04/2011)

The pastor leading flagpole prayers at four Clay County schools is digging in his heels and plans to continue the prayers, which the school district's attorney has said is unconstitutional. Clay Superintendent Ben Wortham has asked Pastor Ron Baker of Russell Baptist Church in Green Cove Springs to either move the prayer sessions from the current time of about 8:15 a.m. to before 7:10 a.m....

[Edison State's new trustees face challenge](#)

(Ft. Myers News Press © 11/04/2011)

Four members join the college's board, which will vote today on measures address the embattled college president's salary and to stop improper course substitutions. 11:02 PM, Nov. 3, 2011 | Comments EmailPrintShare Del.icio.us Digg Reddit Newsvine FarkIt AA Written by Dayna Harpster Filed Under News Education IF YOU GO What: Edison State College board of tru...

[Las Vegas style Casinos could dominate legislative session](#)

(Ft. Myers-WINK (CBS) © 11/04/2011)

TALLAHASSEE, Fla.- Heading into a critical election year, Gov. Rick Scott and legislative leaders appear ready to scale back the number of substantial issues they plan to tackle in 2012. Lawmakers already expect to be consumed by the once-in-a-decade chore of drawing new districts for themselves and for Congress. State leaders will also have to grapple with a budget shortfall that may be as muc...

[UF approves higher rates for online programs](#)

(Gainesville Sun © 11/04/2011)

The University of Florida Board of Trustees voted Thursday to seek permission to charge market rates for three online graduate programs, but not before some trustees questioned the idea of charging tuition rates up to twice the level of similar on-campus programs. In a conference call meeting, trustees unanimously approved proposals to charge mark...

[Ann Scott: Meet some amazing children this month](#)

(Gainesville Sun © 11/04/2011)

Published: Friday, November 4, 2011 at 6:00 a.m. As a mother and as First Lady of Florida, I know that all children have unique gifts and personalities, making them a blessing to their families and communities. On any given day in Florida, approximately 800 children in foster care are available for adoption. November is National Adoption Month, a time to recognize these amazing children and...

[IB debate should happen before, not after adoption by out schoolsColumn](#)

(Hernando Today © 11/04/2011)

BY DOMENICK J. MAGLIO, Traditional Realist The International Baccalaureate Program has been rejected after being implemented in 74 schools. Recent schools that have dropped the IB Program are: Coronado High School, Calif., Loara High School, Anaheim, Calif., Wilmer Amina Carter High School, Rialto, Calif., Woodland School, Cartersville, Ga., Zionsville Community High School, Zionsville, Ind., Ap...

[County test scores do not improve](#)

(Hernando Today © 11/04/2011)

BROOKSVILLE – Florida's stagnant scores on a national report card mirror a trend for Hernando County when it comes to student scores on math and reading assessments. Although Florida continues to outpace the nation in fourth-grade reading, scores in both math and reading have remained flat for the past two years, according to results of the National Assessment of Educational Pro...

[Women still rule the teaching field](#)

(Hernando Today © 11/04/2011)

BROOKSVILLE – Economic and policy changes have resulted in many modifications to the education field, but one aspect that remains constant is the low ratio of male to female teachers in the classroom. In the past five years, women have continued to dominate the field with more than three times the number of all full-time teachers in the district and statewide compared to their m...

[Students discuss improving Florida education at summit](#)

(Independent Florida Alligator © 11/04/2011)

Amanda Cohen, Alligator Around the Table Students discuss how the university can use its resources to reach out to first-generation or low-income students at the Educational Access Summit in the Reitz Union Rion Ballroom on Thursday. Miguel Chateloin, Alligator Contributing Writer The Independent Florida Alligator | 0 comments To sum up the challenges in getting a college education, Joe Johnson t...

[Suit filed to make L.A. teacher evaluations include student data](#)

(LA Times © 11/04/2011)

Advocates went forward Tuesday with a lawsuit alleging that the Los Angeles Unified School District has failed to comply with state laws requiring that teachers and principals should be evaluated, in part, on student academic progress. The suit, filed by the Barnes & Thornburg law firm in conjunction with the Sacramento-based advocacy group EdVoice, asserts that L.A. Unified must comply immedia...

[Critics of Edison President Walker hope new trustees mean his time at college is short](#)

(Naples Daily News © 11/04/2011)

With four new faces on the Edison State College board of trustees, some faculty and students are hopeful President Kenneth Walker's time at the school could end Friday. Two current trustees, Chris Vernon and Julia Perry, said Thursday they'd support a motion to discuss Walker's continued employment if it were to come up during the board meeting and the new board members felt comfortable with it...

[Fla. bill would give juvenile offenders 2nd chance](#)

(Ocala Star Banner © 11/04/2011)

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. - State Sen. Mike Bennett says a Sarasota judge gave him a second chance when he was a teen, and now he wants to give other juvenile offenders a similar opportunity. The Bradenton Republican, his voice cracking with emotion, on Thursday recalled the ultimatum he got: Join the military or else. Bennett enlisted in the Navy the next...

[Editorial: Unintended consequences](#)

(Ocala Star Banner © 11/04/2011)

A new state election law championed by Ocala state Rep. Dennis Baxley presumably aimed at clamping down on voter fraud has nailed its first violators — two high school teachers trying to encourage students to register to vote. The law, passed during the 2011 legislative session, was controversial because it constricted a number of voter practi...

[UCF private-fundraising drive part of a national trend](#)

(Orlando Sentinel © 11/04/2011)

At University of Central Florida, President John Hitt wants to raise hundreds of millions of dollars from alumni and others in hopes of hiring faculty, expanding the library and paying for other needed projects, in part to help offset steep cutbacks by the Florida Legislature. At University of Florida, which also has weathered state funding cuts, the goal is much more ambitious. UF, in the mids...

[UCF's dental school proposal needs work](#)

(Orlando Sentinel © 11/04/2011)

After failing in September to win the state's blessing for a new dental school, the University of Central Florida is ready to try again this month with a tweaked proposal. UCF envisions its school opening in 2014 and graduating 100 dentists a year from a campus at Orlando's Medical City. We're very interested in adding to the array of facilities there to strengthen this region's economy. But...

[Calculating revenue from new casinos is complicated](#)

(Orlando Sentinel © 11/04/2011)

The two legislators who filed bills that would add three "destination" casinos in South Florida say their proposal is about many issues. But there's one it isn't about: Money. "If I were to list the top 10 reasons I proposed this bill, revenues would not be among them," said Rep. Erik Fresen, R-Miami, who last week filed a long-awaited proposal to bring two destination casinos to Miami-Dade Count...

[Ocoee charter schools under investigation for land deals](#)

(Orlando-WFTV (ABC) © 11/04/2011)

OCOEE, Fla. — Two of Orange County's top charter schools are now under investigation. Leaders at Hope and Legacy charter schools in Ocoee are accused of questionable land deals that could get them shut down. According to a letter issued from district headquarters, there are concerns over whether some teachers are certified. But the bigger question is whether the school's director ...

[Do high school coaches use choice programs to recruit?](#)

(Palm Beach Post © 11/04/2011)

It's clear that some Palm Beach County students and parents are using magnet programs and career academies to win slots on sports teams outside of their assigned schools. Quarterback Eddie Sullivan (left) transferred from Park Vista High to Boca Raton High for a better chance at a college scholarship. Christi Nardozzi (right) played basketball for three schools in three seasons. The Palm Beach Po...

[Academics trump sports](#)

(Palm Beach Post © 11/04/2011)

Anybody who thought about it suspected that athletes and their parents could exploit Palm Beach County's school-choice system, which is supposed to be about academics and career training, to play at schools outside their attendance zones. This week's Palm Beach Post investigative series proved that it's happening. In one case, The Post found 16 of 27 players who saw action on William T. Dwyer Hig...

[GCSC approves bachelor's in nursing program](#)

(Panama City News Herald © 11/04/2011)

PANAMA CITY — The Gulf Coast State College Board of Trustees on Thursday approved a Bachelor of Science program in nursing that, pending Department of Education approval, will serve local students striving for higher degrees. The degree program is part of the community college's strategic plan to add bachelor's degree programs that can meet the specific workforce needs of the su...

[Teacher under investigation resigns](#)

(Punta Gorda Herald © 11/04/2011)

The Charlotte High School math teacher recently accused of selling grades has resigned, according to Barbara Melanson, assistant superintendent of human resources. A student accused Jeff Spires of selling grades in mid-October. An investigation began that week and Spires was put on administrative leave with pay, although this was changed to leave without pay a few days into the school district's...

[Our view: Stocking teacher supplies all year will depend on us](#)

(St. Augustine Record © 11/04/2011)

November 3, 2011 - 11:30pm Our view: Stocking teacher supplies all year will depend on us Public education funding will get a big boost in St. Johns County we hope when the St. Johns Education Foundation opens its "Supply Depot" in January. Building on its successful Tools 4 Schools summertime classroom supplies collection, the foundation is taking this giant step to make supplies availa...

[Education cuts felt in test results](#)

(St. Petersburg Times © 11/04/2011)

Education isn't free. And the failure to spend enough on public education can be expensive, indeed. Stagnating test scores for Florida students on a nationally important test illustrate what happens when education funding drops. And the same politicians who have lauded Florida's educational progress over the past decade need to step up and be heard now that the results are not so rosy. Result...

[Every student in Hernando County School District must pay \\$15 activity fee — except they haven't](#)

(St. Petersburg Times © 11/04/2011)

Lisa Telford is fine with paying the new \$15 activity fee required for every student in the Hernando County school system this year. "I have no problem with it, if it's for the kids," said Telford, who has one child at Eastside Elementary and one at Hernando High. But Telford said she hasn't paid the \$30 yet because she didn't know about the fee. "I haven't seen anything come home..."

[Critics says Lake Wales Sen. J.D. Alexander is a bully hurting USF. students and taxpayers](#)

(St. Petersburg: WTSP (Ch. 10) © 11/04/2011)

POLK COUNTY, Florida - Despite consensus from students, professors, and many elected leaders that the fledgling USF-Polytechnic campus should remain in the USF system, one local legislator is leading the charge to break it off into an independent university, and his critics blame his ego. State Sen. J.D. Alexander, R-Lake Wales, has been leaning on local leaders to support his bid for USF-Po...

[Lawmakers say legislation adding big resort casinos would reduce overall gambling in Florida](#)

(St. Petersburg: WTSP (Ch. 10) © 11/04/2011)

Tallahassee, Florida - The state lawmakers behind legislation that would allow the construction of multi-billion dollar resort casinos in South Florida insist they are actually pushing the bill to reduce gambling in Florida. It may sound like double-talk, that you could build some of the largest resort casinos in the world and reduce overall gambling in Florida, but that's the argument from Rep....

[E. Wayne Gent named interim Palm Beach County schools superintendent](#)

(Stuart News © 11/04/2011)

E. Wayne Gent will become the caretaker of the Palm Beach County School District on Monday morning. The school board Wednesday evening voted 4-3 to appoint Gent as the interim superintendent, replacing Bill Malone, until a permanent superintendent takes over next year. Voting for Gent were Monroe Benaim, Jenny Prior Brown, Chuck Shaw and Frank Barbieri, the board's chairman. Debra Robinson, Marcia An...

[Some Broward schools unwelcoming, parents say](#)

(Sun-Sentinel © 11/04/2011)

Public schools in Broward County are losing too many parents at the door. Parents, one of the biggest keys to student success, say the unfriendly atmosphere at some schools makes them feel unwelcome and unwanted. "There's no 'Hello,' no 'How are you,'" said Genny Lingard, a mother of two in Hallandale Beach. Many parents echoed those sentiments at a series of recent public forums hos...

[Legislators Say Casino Bill Will Control Gaming Without Altering Floridas Image](#)

(Sunshine State News © 11/04/2011)

Posted: November 4, 2011 3:55 AM The legislators proposing destination casinos say their effort to create a statewide gaming commission, modeled on what exists in New Jersey or Nevada, would rein in the already prolific expansion of gaming options in Florida. And they say the proposal won't change Florida's image any more than the Sunshine State is defined by events like Bike We...

[Merit Pay Update](#)

(Tallahassee-WCTV (CBS) © 11/04/2011)

Tallahassee, FL – November 3, 2011 – After two years of protests from teachers, Florida's merit pay system is in place. This year half of a teacher's performance evaluation will be based on student test scores. By 2013 a teacher can be fired for back to back years of poor evaluations and starting in 2014 half a teachers pay will be based on those test scores."...

[Recent setbacks equal hope for Pasco charter school boosters](#)

(Tampa Bay Online © 11/04/2011)

School board members rejected a pair of charter school applications Tuesday, and all observers agreed: Their disappointment was thicker than a barrel of white paste. They wanted to give approval — they really, really did — to the petitioners who sought to plug holes in Pasco's public education system with an academy for grade-school Einsteins and for young adults coping with intellectual disabili...

[Tampa Bay area lacking in younger workers for high-tech jobs](#)

(Tampa Bay Online © 11/04/2011)

TAMPA – Across the country, certain places conjure images of dynamic economies and vibrant communities: Austin, Texas; Silicon Valley in California; Raleigh, N.C. Those communities share common traits: sunny weather, a high-tech economy and a labor pool filled with young, highly educated workers. The Tampa Bay region has the sunny weather, but its population – heavy on sen...

[Recent setbacks equal hope for Pasco charter school boosters](#)

(Tampa Tribune © 11/04/2011)

School board members rejected a pair of charter school applications Tuesday, and all observers agreed: Their disappointment was thicker than a barrel of white paste. They

wanted to give approval — they really, really did — to the petitioners who sought to plug holes in Pasco's public education system with an academy for grade-school Einsteins and for young adults coping with intellectual disab...

[Jury deadlocks in Pinellas schools bid-rigging case](#)

(Tampa Tribune © 11/04/2011)

CLEARWATER – Jurors deadlocked Thursday in a racketeering case where a former Pinellas County schools employee was accused of improperly rigging nearly \$900,000 in mulching contracts for school playgrounds. The jury deliberated for six and a half hours Wednesday and nearly eight hours Thursday but ultimately couldn't decide whether Alan Smith was guilty of racketeering and bid-r...

[New Grades on Charter Schools](#)

(Time Magazine © 11/04/2011)

In order to create some good ones, we're going to have to live with some lemons By Andrew J. Rotherham | @arotherham | November 3, 2011 The two most common criticisms about charter schools are that A) many of them aren't that good and B) the good ones can't be replicated to serve enough kids to really make a difference. TIME got an exclusive first look at the most comprehensive evaluation of c...

[New NAEP scores not good, but not bad either](#)

(Washington Post/Class Struggle Blog © 11/04/2011)

By Jay Mathews Kevin Carey, in his post for the Education Sector's The Quick and the Ed blog, stakes out middle ground on the new National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) results. I think he gets the mixed, underwhelming results just about right. He notes the importance of the long-term fourth grade math trend—from 50 percent failing to score even Basic in 1990 to only 18 percent at...

[Merit Paid Update](#)

(WJHG NBC News 7 Panama City © 11/04/2011)

This is the first school year Florida teachers will be evaluated based on their students' test scores. By 2013, teachers can be fired for back to back years of poor scores and in 2014, pay can be cut if students don't test well. The merit pay system was adopted to pay the best teachers more, but its unclear if there will be any money for merit raises. After t...

[Duval County School Board rejects raises](#)

(WOKV Jacksonville © 11/04/2011)

All members of the Duval County School Board have rejected a state proposed pay raise. A state formula would have given board members an extra \$2,800 a year. Currently each board member makes just over \$37,000 a year, the same as a first year teacher. Several board members say the media put the decision and the board in a bad light, and that the issue was blown out of proportion. This w...

[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...

[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 ...

[Lawmakers push bill that closes loophole in work comp rates for prescriptions](#)

(WFSU Newsroom © 11/03/2011)

Two lawmakers are putting forward legislation that would change the rules for doctors who dole out repackaged drugs. Regan McCarthy reports the measure would close what the legislators are calling a "loop hole" in workers' compensation reimbursement rates for prescriptions. Senator Alan Hays and Representative Matt Hudson are behind legislation that would limit the dollar amount doctors could be...

Have a lovely day!

Deborah

