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Sent time: Monday, February 13, 2012 8:47:28 PM
To: cari@excelined.org
Subject: FW: 2-11-12 through 2-13-12 Education Round Up

FYI - have a great week!

Sincerely,

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From: Etters, Cheryl
Sent: Mon 2/13/2012 10:16 AM
Subject: 2-11-12 through 2-13-12 Education Round Up

Department of Education News Clips

February 11-13, 2012



[Working on the skills gap to meet needs](#)

(Bradenton Herald © 02/13/2012)

During President Obama's recent State of the Union Address, he highlighted a key workforce concern. Even though many business leaders want to hire American workers, they are unable to find workers with the right skills. "Growing industries in science and technology have twice as many openings as we have workers who can do the job. Think about that – openings at a time when millions ...

[NCLB waiver diminishes local, state control of public education](#)

(Bradenton Herald © 02/13/2012)

Thursday's reports of President Barack Obama's "waiving" some portions of No Child Left Behind laws did not explain the requirements that states had to accept as part of the deal. The president and Education Secretary Arne Duncan used the "waiver" announcement to overshadow the federal government's manipulation of states into surrendering more cont...

[Fewer dollars flowing into Florida school repairs fund](#)

(Bradenton Herald © 02/13/2012)

Herald/Times Tallahassee Bureau TALLAHASSEE – What do landline telephones have to do with school repairs? Quite a bit, but few state lawmakers want to talk about it. Tucked away on your telephone bill — and electricity and cable TV bills — is a tax that supports school construction and maintenance. But there's a problem: As Floridians cut down their electricity and cable c...

[Obama to promote job training at community college](#)

(Bradenton Herald © 02/13/2012)

AP Education Writer President Barack Obama wants community colleges and businesses to work together to train 2 million workers in high-growth industries, and on Monday will request \$8 billion to create a fund to encourage the effort. Obama's plan, to be spelled out at Northern Virginia Community College in Annandale, Va., is called the "Community College to Career Fund," the White House sai...

[\\$1 trillion in student loan debt fuels political fire](#)

(Collier Citizen © 02/13/2012)

WASHINGTON — Outstanding student loan debt — which exceeds \$1 trillion, more than what Americans owe on credit cards — is likely to be a major political issue this election year as students and their parents question the rising cost and value of a college education. In Occupy Wall Street encampments around the country, some are demanding that the law be changed so student debt could be discharged...

[Volusia School Board to consider adjusting student dress code](#)

(Daytona Beach News-Journal © 02/13/2012)

DELAND — The student dress code that took effect in Volusia public schools in August might be tweaked if the School Board decides to go along with suggestions about what should be changed. The board will take its first look at those suggestions — culled from School Advisory Committee and/or PTA meetings at each school — when it meets at 4 p.m. Tuesday. The meeting will in the School Administr...

[Neil Drake: What you should know about charter schools](#)

(Gainesville Sun © 02/13/2012)

After 15 years of working with charter schools in Alachua County and around Florida, I am impressed with the continuing need to inform the public as to the true nature, purpose and impact of charters on the public school system. How should the public, especially parents, evaluate charter schools and why should they bother? Charter schools should ma...

[Bill could grant power to governor to appoint student rep to state's Board of Governors](#)

(Independent Florida Alligator © 02/13/2012)

Erin Jester, Alligator Staff Writer The Independent Florida Alligator | 0 comments The Florida Senate approved a bill today that would allow the governor to appoint the student representative to the Board of Governors. SJR1508 was approved with a 3-1 vote following the approval of a similar House bill on Tuesday. Student Body President Anthony Reynolds and Florida State University Student Body Pr...

[Florida exempt from No Child Left Behind](#)

(Independent Florida Alligator © 02/13/2012)

Benjamin S. Brasch, Alligator Writer The Independent Florida Alligator | 0 comments President Barack Obama announced Thursday that Florida schools don't have to follow federal regulations of the No Child Left Behind Act. Some Alachua County educators said the measure will allow schools to focus on evaluation methods other than the FCAT when determining whether a school is successful. The presiden...

[UM President Shalala's role on two boards prompts questions of conflict](#)

(Miami Herald © 02/13/2012)

University of Miami President Donna Shalala may be in charge of her own university, but at the end of the day she still has to answer to a boss — the university's board of trustees. The exception to that rule: the days Shalala shows up to meetings as a corporate board member for two local powerhouse companies, companies with UM trustees as CEOs. All of a sudden, those trustees à...

[Editorial: Florida fails on funding higher ed](#)

(Ocala Star Banner © 02/13/2012)

The politicians in Tallahassee are champing at the bit to "reform" higher education in Florida. More scientists and fewer anthropologists. A new online university. New medical, law and dental schools. Restructured tuition schedules. The micromanagement keeps on happening. All of which might be fine if the politicians in the Florida Legis...

[Parents blast Pines plan for stadium at charter school](#)

(Orlando Sentinel © 02/13/2012)

PEMBROKE PINES — They say all they want is a level playing field. So some parents and supporters of Flanagan and West Broward high schools are fuming over the city's plans to build a \$3.3 million football stadium at its charter high school using money from a bond for citywide public improvements. ...

[Interim E. Wayne Gent emerges suddenly as superintendent candidate](#)

(Palm Beach Post © 02/13/2012)

In a matter of weeks, interim Superintendent E. Wayne Gent has gone from an afterthought to a strong candidate for the position of Palm Beach County schools chief. Gent, with 35 years of experience in education from the Treasure Coast to Miami, has the credentials to gain the permanent position Wednesday, when the school board is expected to vote. Board members and supporters of giving Gent the ...

[In our schools: Making learning fun key to good performance](#)

(Pensacola News Journal © 02/13/2012)

On a rainy Wednesday morning, third-graders sit on the floor of their classroom, learning about division. Joy McLaurine, the only third-grade teacher at Pensacola Beach Elementary School, is discussing division strategies with her 24 students in preparation for the test they will take at the end of the week. Then one student discovers a new strategy: Given three numbers, you can come up with two...

[Proposed bills would allow parents to propose changes to under performing schools](#)

(Stuart News © 02/13/2012)

TALLAHASSEE — Treasure Coast parents could pitch sweeping changes to their children's under performing schools, like turning them into charter schools, and local school boards would have to consider those plans under a proposal gaining traction in Tallahassee. The proposal — HB 1191 and its companion SB 1718 — would let parents petition to have their own turnaround plan considered when a school ...

[The right fit can make all the difference](#)

(Tampa Tribune © 02/13/2012)

TAMPA — It was not an easy decision, but Naseline Charles says moving her family into an apartment within Plant High's district four years ago was one of the best choices she's ever made as a parent. Transferring a child from one school to another is a choice many parents consider, and not just Charles, whose son, Orson, is one of the best football players the Tampa Bay area has ...

[Teachers demonstrate miracles and magic](#)

(Tampa Tribune © 02/13/2012)

TAMPA – There are 15,468 of them in Hillsborough County. But the five finalists for teacher of the year are considered the cream of the crop. The best of the best. And they are more than teachers. They are counselors, tutors, club sponsors, mentors, friends, an integral part of their students' lives. Two of them work as classroom teachers; the other three are reading, science o...

[State Colleges In Fla. Fear Theyre Becoming Unaffordable](#)

(University Business © 02/13/2012)

Florida's cheapest colleges aren't feeling so affordable to many students any more. Annual tuition and fees at state colleges, also called community colleges, have increased over the past five years from about \$2,000 to about \$3,000 for full-time students. At the same time, there have been cuts in financial aid programs such as Florida's Bright Futures scholarships and the federal government's P...

[Polk's schools ahead of federal mandates](#)

(Winter Haven News Chief © 02/13/2012)

Lakeland -The food fight between the White House and congressional leaders appears to be over, for now. Beginning July 1, schoolchildren across the nation will tuck in to meals lower in fats and sodium and higher in fruits, vegetables and whole grains. These are the key elements found in the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010, signed into law by President Barack Obama on Dec. 13 of tha...

[Southeast principal tackles cancer, educational standards head on](#)

(Bradenton Herald © 02/12/2012)

chawes@bradenton.com MANATEE – Chemotherapy has taken all of Cathy Smith's hair – twice. It has diminished her immune system to almost nothing so that even a common cold can be life-threatening. The four-hour doses she receives every three weeks sap her energy and force her to fulfill her principal duties at Southeast High School by phone and email. Yet Smith, in the midst of figh...

[UCF students spend the day at the Capitol](#)

(Central Florida Future © 02/12/2012)

With tuition increasing and scholarship money decreasing, the need for students who are willing to stand up and voice their opinions has never been greater. The UCF Student Government Association recognized this need and invited 78 students to join them for a lobbying event on Wednesday. "Day at the Capitol" is an annual event, hosted by SGA, to allow students a chance to lobby against issues dire...

[Don't make the children pay for local school safety projects](#)

(Daytona Beach News-Journal © 02/12/2012)

You can learn a lot about how government works if you read the local stories in The News-Journal. You can even get a clearer idea of how the federal government ran up \$15 trillion in debt and why it's so hard for Congress to reduce spending. Just last week I was reading a story about what seemed to me to be a local problem – school kids getting hit by cars while they're walking or bicycling to ...

[FAMU must embrace anti-hazing fight](#)

(Florida Times-Union © 02/12/2012)

The hazing culture at Florida A&M University's famed marching band is so entrenched that the search for solutions will be difficult. A major incident occurred in 2001 when Marcus Wayne Parker, a Wolfson High School graduate from Jacksonville, was paddled so severely in a hazing ritual conducted by the FAMU band members that he suffered acute renal failure. Parker won a \$1.8 millio...

[Matt Reed: Prison, school moves to change the rules](#)

(Florida Today © 02/12/2012)

Privatization of Florida prisons is back on the fast track after some hardball politics by Senate President Mike Haridopolos. This issue tops my watchlist this week, along with a breakthrough deal on education. Haridopolos, R-Merritt Island, halted debate in Tallahassee on Feb. 1 and fired his chairman of a budget committee that oversees prisons. Chairman Mike Fasano, R-New Port Richey, had tried...

[Public schools never fail to produce great stories](#)

(Ft. Myers News-Press © 02/12/2012)

Covering the public schools is never boring. As a News-Press education writer in the early 2000s, I reported on the Lee and Collier county school districts. The beat hasn't always received the respect it deserves in journalism circles. It isn't cops or features or business. However, I believe it is the best beat a journalist could imagine. I was exposed to massive budgets, large payrolls, gove...

[Fewer students pass AP classes](#)

(Hernando Today © 02/12/2012)

BROOKSVILLE – For the first time in five years, the number of students in Hernando County able to pass end-of-course exams in Advanced Placement courses for college credit has dropped — with less than half of test takers able to pass. According to updated AP test results from the state, 488, or 48.6 percent, of 689 high school test takers earned a 3 to 5 score last school year —...

[USF Polytechnic Bill: Don't Get Greedy](#)

(Lakeland Ledger © 02/12/2012)

State Sen. J.D. Alexander, R-Lake Wales, has done much good for the University of South Florida Polytechnic. As chairman of the Senate Budget Committee, he secured funding to start construction on its new campus, when others could not. As a persuasive speaker before the State University System's Board of Governors, he laid out a straightforward, compelling case for establishing the polytechnic as ...

[PRIDE Program Developing Young Teachers](#)

(Lakeland Ledger © 02/12/2012)

LAKELAND | Growing up in Brooklyn, N.Y., Joseph Santiago didn't have teachers who looked like him. Now, the 32-year-old senior at the University of South Florida Polytechnic is getting the chance to be the Puerto Rican teacher other students can emulate. "It makes sense to work in your own community and help with kids in your own backyard," said Santiago, a Haines City resident. "I...

[South Florida's crumbling schools and how they got that way](#)

(Miami Herald © 02/12/2012)

SEARCH THE DATABASE When basketball coach Cleve Roberts took a Miami Norland team to play at Miami Jackson Senior High a few years ago, they encountered a new \$70 million facility with shiny glass and fresh paint. "One of my players got off the bus and he said that 'This looks like an 'A' school,'" Roberts recalled. At Norland, it smells like a toilet in on...

[Schools sniffing around for new tax revenue](#)

(Miami Herald © 02/12/2012)

The bill for school facility needs will likely grow next year. How much depends in part on the Florida Legislature. Gov. Rick Scott has sent lawmakers a proposed budget with a \$1 billion increase in education, replacing much of the cuts from last year. Miami-Dade Superintendent Alberto Carvalho said capital spending is one of the two items most vulnerable to cuts. (The other: elective programs for ...

[How one charter school bucks trend, serves the disabled](#)

(Miami Herald © 02/12/2012)

When her 3-year-old granddaughter moved to Orlando, the dean of education at the University of Central Florida knew exactly where she should go — a school founded for children with disabilities. Young Ellie doesn't have a disability. But Sandra Robinson says she's still best served in the toddler program at the UCP Bailes campus in East Orlando. "She would have the opport...

[Poverty, Homelessness Rising Sharply Among Florida Students](#)

(Miami Herald © 02/12/2012)

Since the economy collapsed in 2008, Florida's student population has become poorer each year — with almost all school districts in the state experiencing spikes in the number of kids who qualify for subsidized meals. Children have become homeless at alarming numbers as well. Homelessness among school-age children has soared from 30,878 in the 2006-07 school year to 56,680 in 2010-11...

[Can't be trusted](#)

(Miami Herald © 02/12/2012)

What kind of a school system would keep Leslie Rainer as a teacher? She's already shown she can't be trusted with Haitian children. As far as I am concerned, she isn't fit to be any child's teacher. Just imagine if she had targeted a Muslim child in her class and the outrage there would be. There should be for this Haitian child, too. The school system must be desperate...

[Guest column: Filling the K-12 Education Gap](#)

(Naples Daily News © 02/12/2012)

The Daily News article about state rankings of public schools shows the Collier County school ratings to be unsatisfactory by any reasonable expectation. This will not surprise long-term observers of our schools since little has changed in the approach to student achievement. Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT) opponents will simply dismiss the rankings. Others will merely seek out scape...

[Lauren Ritchie: Will burden for new schools be shifted from those who move here to those who already live here?](#)

(Orlando Sentinel © 02/12/2012)

First of two parts. Here — it's yours! No, no! It's yours! Back to you! The two most important elected bodies in Lake County have been tossing a jar of political nitroglycerin back and forth. They know the one that fumbles first is toast. But it has come to this point: They're standing toe-to-toe, shoving it back and forth into one another's gut like

kids on a playground. And it's a hot...

[Summer tuition breaks help lighten students load](#)

(Orlando-WFTV (ABC) © 02/12/2012)

GARY, Ind. — That laid-back, slow motion atmosphere on college campuses during the summer months is about to shift. Purdue University's West Lafayette campus has announced a move to a year-round trimester calendar, and Indiana University campuses are slashing tuition 25 percent on all its campuses to bolster summer enrollment. The idea is to make college more affordable and speed up the ...

[It's Gov. Rick Scott vs. state officials in effort to raise tuition rates](#)

(Palm Beach Post © 02/12/2012)

After months of pushing for out-of-the-box thinking, Gov. Rick Scott is getting a familiar answer from universities asked to help students develop new skills for a changing economy. Raise tuition. But unswayed by arguments that Florida's tuition is too low, Scott has abruptly derailed that strategy - coming out forcefully against boosting costs for students and their families. Scot...

[Prayer doesn't belong in public schools](#)

(St. Petersburg Times © 02/12/2012)

When state lawmakers twist themselves into pretzels writing legislation, it often indicates they are trying to circumvent constitutional protections. That is what is happening with SB 98, which is entitled an education bill but that teaches only one thing: how to evade rules that bar prayer in school. The legislation that has passed the Senate gives local school boards the discretion to allow stu...

[Pasco's special education director hired to lead state-level bureau](#)

(St. Petersburg Times © 02/12/2012)

LAND O'LAKES — Monica Verra-Tirado gets plenty of hugs these days. For weeks, Verra-Tirado waited to learn if she had won the job leading Florida's Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services. She had signals, but nothing in writing. Official word arrived about 10 days ago. She turned in her resignation Tuesday as Pasco's special education director. The flowers and hugs followed. ...

[Charter officials wary of convicted students](#)

(Winter Haven News Chief © 02/12/2012)

LAKE WALES — A confrontation that ended with the arrest of two students brought into sharp focus an ongoing dispute between the Lake Wales Charter School System and the Polk County School District. Charter School officials charge that students with criminal records are being dumped on them by the School District, and the district will not take students with severe behavioral problems as ...

[Senate spending plan much larger than House](#)

(WJXT Channel 4 Duval County © 02/12/2012)

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. - With less than a month left to wrap up their work, Republican lawmakers are split over how much money the state should spend in the coming year — and what programs ought to be cut. On Friday, the Florida Senate finally rolled out its spending blueprint for the coming year. The nearly \$70.8 billion budget is larger than the version passed earlier this week by th...

[Little university thinks big for campus future](#)

(Bradenton Herald © 02/11/2012)

Pensacola News Journal The future of the University of West Florida is about so much more than the already-announced plan to create a football team. UWF President Judy Bense wants to use an innovative plan funded by private investors to transform her campus from a substantially commuter college into a more traditional university that offers the entire spectrum of the higher education experi...

[Draft Rules Would Ease Student-Loan Burdens for Some](#)

(Chronicle of Higher Education © 02/11/2012)

With college costs prominent in the headlines—and the presidential race—the U.S. Department of Education is taking some modest steps to ease student- debt burdens. In a package of proposed rules circulated among a team of negotiators this week, the department is seeking to make it easier for certain disabled borrowers and public servants to have their debts forgiven. The draft rules, which have ...

[University coach dismissed for 'unprofessional behavior'](#)

(Daytona Beach News-Journal © 02/11/2012)

A University High basketball coach and substitute teacher whose dismissal sparked a student demonstration last month has been permanently blocked from all employment with Volusia County Schools, according to a report released Friday. Anthony Taranto is barred from working in the school district because of "recent unprofessional behavior," Professional Standards Director Sandy Hovis wrote in a Ja...

[Former schools chief thousands behind in criminal costs](#)

(Florida Keys Keysnet © 02/11/2012)

Randy Acevedo, the former superintendent of the Monroe County School District ousted from his post in 2009 by then-Gov. Charlie Crist and subsequently convicted of felony public corruption, apparently isn't complying with terms of his probation – to the tune of more than \$16,000. Instead of giving him jail time, Circuit Court Judge Mark Jones sentenced Acevedo on Aug. 28, 2009, to three years of...

[Ousted school workers file suit](#)

(Florida Today © 02/11/2012)

Two Brevard Public Schools maintenance managers fired in October after an internal audit alleged they were playing favorites with contractors, among other improprieties, are seeking to be reinstated. Walt Petters, the former director of maintenance, and Wes Fayed, the former central services supervisor, filed a claim that they were wrongly terminated. Their case will go to a final administrative ...

[Editorial: Still digging](#)

(Gainesville Sun © 02/11/2012)

There is very little to cheer about in the \$69.2 billion budget approved by the Florida House on Thursday. It is a balanced budget, certainly, but it is largely balanced on the backs of the poor, the sick and the young. At first blush, the \$1 billion increase for public schools seems impressive, until you consider that just last year the Legislatu...

[Revising social media usage](#)

(Hernando Today © 02/11/2012)

BROOKSVILLE – Despite budget concerns, changes on the school board and the loss of the board attorney, school officials haven't forgotten the topic of restricting how educators talk to students through cell phones and social media. Superintendent Bryan Blavatt said officials are still watching and waiting while other districts hash out rules that regulate how teachers can intera...

[Polk Ranks 3rd on Racial Equity for Blacks](#)

(Lakeland Ledger © 02/11/2012)

LAKELAND | The Lakeland/Winter Haven area was rated third out of 100 metro areas on racial equity for blacks. Urban Institute, a nonpartisan economic and social policy research organization, conducted the survey. Polk County's ranking was the best among seven Florida metro areas included in the study, which is called "Grading the top 100 metros: Racial equity for African Americans." "Fo...

[DOE Studying Charter Schools Model](#)

(Lakeland Ledger © 02/11/2012)

LAKE WALES | Most school systems assign administrators specifically to manage each federal grant program. Lake Wales Charter Schools has a team of school principals and teachers doing all of it, in addition to their daily duties. Frances McMichael, community outreach coordinator, said it started with a vision from Superintendent Jesse Jackson: picked high-energy people to serve on the te...

[Roosevelt not interest in charter system](#)

(Lakeland Ledger © 02/11/2012)

LAKE WALES – Teachers at Roosevelt Academy are not interested in becoming a part of Our Children's Academy charter system. "My staff has no desire to do it," said Debra Edwards, Roosevelt principal. "There were a few that wanted to give it a look but we choose to not take it further." The teachers recently took a straw poll on the issue, the first step before taking an actual vote to ap...

[Cape parents file suit against school district](#)

(Lehigh Acres Citizen © 02/11/2012)

A pair of Cape Coral parents are claiming in a lawsuit filed last week that a former elementary teacher physically and mentally abused their autistic child. The suit was filed Jan. 30 by attorney Adam Balkan on behalf of C.B. and N.B., the parents and guardians of C.B. The suit only identifies the family by initials, but the child is described as a "low functioning, non-verbal" minor. The family...

[More Miami-Dade high school students jump into college classes](#)

(Miami Herald © 02/11/2012)

In one corner of Miami-Dade College's sprawling Kendall campus, Tiffany Pineda slips into class. Attenzione! It's time for Italian pronouns and grammar. In jeans, a black tank top and red sneakers, she looks like a typical college student. But she's a 16-year-old high school junior. Like Tiffany, a growing number of Miami-Dade and Broward high school students are taking college...

[No casinos for now, what then?](#)

(Miami Herald © 02/11/2012)

It may be more of a suspension than surrender, but at least for now the proposal for mega casinos in Florida is off the table. I am pleased with this result. But 2012-13 could be the last chance for Florida to commit to the reforms necessary to expand quality job opportunities before casino gambling or some other siren song of a quick and easy jackpot is foisted upon our state. A quick economic his...

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