

From: Smith, Kevin
Sent time: Wednesday, October 05, 2011 5:21:21 PM
To: Cari@excelined.org; elefsky@cfl.rr.com; walt_griffin@scps.k12.fl.us; Colle, Hope; Lee, Laurie; Tart, Suzanne
Subject: Fw: 10/05/11 Education Round-Up

FYI.... Have a great evening!

Sincerely,

Kevin Smith,

Educational Policy Analyst,
Just Read, Florida! Office
325 W. Gaines Street,
Suite 501
Tallahassee, Florida 32399

(850) 245-0503
www.justreadflorida.com

Sent from my BlackBerry Wireless Handheld

From: Higgins, Deborah
Sent: Wednesday, October 05, 2011 10:21 AM
Subject: 10/05/11 Education Round-Up

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



[School board relies on commissioners' redistricting work](#)

(Bradenton Herald © 10/05/2011)

ataylor@bradenton.com BRADENTON – Manatee County school board members didn't see the need to reinvent the wheel when drawing redistricting lines, deciding at a workshop Tuesday to rely on those drawn by county commissioners. "I certainly would have no problem recommending we match up with the county," Superintendent Tim McGonegal said. "They have done a good job..."

[A predictable school computer system snafu](#)

(Bradenton Herald © 10/05/2011)

One of the mantras popular nowadays concerns operating government like a business, guided by the tight cost control principle of private enterprise over public spendthrifts. An austere philosophy, however, can be at odds with other business practices. Holding the line on costs at the expense of employee instruction would be one. We cannot imagine that a business purchasing new computer software...

[Students come to bus driver's defense](#)

(Citrus County Chronicle © 10/05/2011)

CRYSTAL RIVER — A school bus driver suspended for refusing a drug test, saying she had to take her grandson to the dentist, met with Citrus County School District officials Tuesday in a union proceeding aimed at saving her job. Gayle Bardsley had a grievance hearing with Superintendent of School Sandra "Sam" Himmel, top school district officials and union representatives fro...

[Accidents raise awareness of school safety OUR VIEW](#)

(Daytona Beach Journal © 10/05/2011)

In the wake of seven accidents involving students walking to or from school, officials in Volusia County are gearing up for an overdue public safety campaign to raise awareness of the hazards facing drivers and kids. On Sept. 28, two Volusia County students were struck by cars – one student was on the way to school and the other was coming from school. Both students are expected to recover, a...

[Give students the tools to adapt to a fast-changing world](#)

(Daytona Beach News-Journal © 10/05/2011)

As U.S. educators and policymakers seek ways to boost student achievement, perhaps it's time to consider a new model, harnessing the power and popularity of technology. In most classrooms today, cell phones, iPads and other electronic devices are considered distractions. Their use is discouraged – or forbidden. That's too bad, because technology may be the best way to reach and teach our kids...

[Study Gives Revised View of Chicago School Improvements](#)

(Education Week © 10/05/2011)

While city's high schools improved more, gaps between races grew By Jaclyn Zubrzycki A new study looking back at nearly 20 years of data on Chicago's public schools suggests that changes in standards and in test-taking and data-reporting policies over time have led to misconceptions about the city's progress in improving school and student performance. Researchers from the Consortium...

[White House Says Bill Would Save 400,000 Education Jobs](#)

(Education Week/Politics K-12 © 10/05/2011)

The American Jobs Act proposed by president Obama last month would save nearly 400,000 educator jobs if states spent all the money in one year, according to a report released today by the White House. The legislation is part of a nearly \$450 billion package that would include \$30 billion to prevent teacher layoffs, and \$25 billion for school modernization and repair. It's hard not to see...

[Tuition Hike May Mean Better Quality](#)

(Florida A&M Famuan © 10/05/2011)

With Florida A & M's tuition gradually catching up to the national average, some students are left baffled about the 15 percent increase. According to the College Board, a non-profit organization that promotes excellence and equity in education, the national average of in-state tuition and fees at public four-year institutions was \$7,605 in 2010-2011. Average out-of-state tuition is \$11, 990. ...

[Duval School Board Action](#)

(Florida Times-Union © 10/05/2011)

The Duval County School Board had its monthly meeting Tuesday. Among the actions taken were: Item: KIPP's charter school applications What it means: Despite its first school earning the lowest area FCAT score last year, the charter school organization wants to open two elementary schools in the 2012-13 school year. Action: Delayed approval; will invite KIPP to discussion at Oct. 18 meeting....

[University of North Florida's Presidential Medallion recipients named](#)

(Florida Times-Union © 10/05/2011)

Three community leaders have been chosen to receive the University of North Florida's Presidential Medallion, given to those who have helped guide the school during its 39 years. This year's honorees are Luther Coggin, Steven Halverson and Joannie Newton. Coggin received his Presidential Medallion at noon Tuesday during the university's annual Founders Day luncheon. Halverson and Newton will be ...

[\\$10 million renovation in works for Tice Elementary](#)

(Ft. Myers News-Press © 10/05/2011)

Tice Elementary School will probably be saved by a \$10 million construction plan that will bring the school up to date and prevent its closure. The Lee County School Board discussed a plan for the new Tice today, with three of the four board members present pledging to support it. First built in 1927, the elementary school no longer physically meets current standards. It faced the possibility of ...

[Paul Woods: SW Florida schools not up to standard](#)

(Ft. Myers News-Press © 10/05/2011)

As a leading industrial biotechnology company, Algenol needs to recruit and retain top-tier technical talent. High academic and technical achievements are musts for our staff, as are dedication and drive. We want effective problem solvers who can work and communicate in a team environment. We face challenges to find local talent, or to relocate the kind of people that we need to advance our busin...

[Joseph Burke: Lee curriculum goals are comprehensive](#)

(Ft. Myers News-Press © 10/05/2011)

There is no more important goal for a school district than to prepare students for the next chapter in their lives. That is the mission of our district, and we want to ensure our students can compete not only locally, but also nationally and globally. Our schools and staff work to prepare students for success in the 21st century, knowledge-based economy. Part of that focuses on Science, Technolog...

[Graduates often unprepared for college](#)

(Ft. Myers News-Press © 10/05/2011)

Just three months separate high school graduation from the start of college, but the interval might as well be light years. Colleges are seeing more freshmen arrive on campus without a solid academic foundation, and institutions are having to create remedial programs to teach skills students should have learned in high school. ?We get people from the K-12 system who lack the basic abilities,? sa...

[State expects higher ed funding drop](#)

(Orlando Business Journal © 10/05/2011)

The Florida Office of Economic & Demographic Research on Oct. 3 dropped next year's funding estimate for higher education construction projects by \$267.6 million. The office is projecting that, for the second year in a row, there will not be enough revenue to go out for bonds, leaving just \$113.2 million in cash available for building projects at public schools, community colleges and state univ...

[Seminole teachers say new evaluation system flawed](#)

(Orlando Sentinel © 10/05/2011)

SANFORD — As Seminole County public school teachers negotiate their contract this school year, they are uneasy over a new state-mandated evaluation system that could, for example, cost a first-grade teacher her job because third graders did poorly in reading. Starting next spring, up to half of a Florida teacher's annual evaluation will be based on student learning gains measured by tes...

[Struggling Orange County schools spell out their improvement plans](#)

(Orlando Sentinel © 10/05/2011)

The latest FCAT results were not encouraging for Orange County Public Schools. While some schools improved, others fell to D's and F's, and the district as a whole dropped to a B. On Tuesday, the School Board gathered to hear the how 10 struggling elementary and middle schools, including three charter schools, plan to improve. The lagging schools were elementary schools Kaley, Catal...

[Lake seeks public opinion on requiring school uniforms](#)

(Orlando Sentinel © 10/05/2011)

Mandatory uniforms in Lake County schools will be the topic at a series of public meetings in the coming weeks. The school district will be asking for comments on its current dress code and whether or not to require uniforms for the upcoming school year. School administrators will be presenting some ways to revamp the district dress code including options for different uniform policies. One opti...

[School board to vote on grants, lawsuit settlement, in-service training](#)

(Palm Beach Post © 10/05/2011)

The Palm Beach County School Board today will vote on accepting two grants to recruit teachers and improve security at several middle schools, settle a lawsuit with a Riviera Beach church and a long list of in-service training seminars for district employees. The proposed settlement would pay the True Faith Church of God and its pastor, Bishop Jack Williams, \$455,000. Williams sued the school di...

[Parents get a briefing from school board chairman](#)

(South Florida Sun-Sentinel © 10/05/2011)

School board chairman Frank Barbieri gave West Boca High School's PTSA parents a briefing on new teacher contracts, the superintendent search and other pressing issues at their first meeting of the school year Sept. 27. West Boca High Principal Mark Stenner introduced PTSA president Nancy Shore, who said she put the word out to all area schools about Barbieri's visit. About 30 parents attended th...

[\\$35K self-esteem program sparks dissent on Hillsborough School board](#)

(St. Petersburg Times © 10/05/2011)

TAMPA — When deciding how to divvy up thousands of voters in time for the next Hillsborough County School Board election, members had no problem. But they did have a problem staying in their seats when it came time to vote on a small program at a few schools. A simple conversation about a program run by a contractor Tuesday led to friction between member Susan Valdes, a sometimes dissentin...

[Tampa police: Teen rapes fellow student inside Chamberlain High School](#)

(St. Petersburg Times © 10/05/2011)

TAMPA — It was early in the school day, and the 16-year-old student had just gone to grab something from her locker. But on her way back to class, another student followed her. As they passed a boy's restroom, police say, he pushed her inside and raped her. Then he returned to class. The girl, shaken and crying, found Chamberlain High School's police resource officer. Authorities di...

[Hillsborough School Board members air irks with each other when school program questioned](#)

(St. Petersburg Times © 10/05/2011)

TAMPA — When deciding how to divvy up thousands of voters in time for the next Hillsborough County School Board election, members had no problem. But they did have a

problem staying in their seats when it came time to vote on a small program at a few schools. A simple conversation about a program run by a contractor Tuesday led to friction between member Susan Valdes, a sometimes dissentin...

[Pinellas School Board likes temporary superintendent, delays search for successor](#)

(St. Petersburg Times © 10/05/2011)

A month into his job as interim superintendent over Pinellas County schools, John Stewart has made such a great impression on his bosses that they've decided to delay finding a permanent replacement. School Board members on Tuesday said they'd like to move forward with a search, but they won't hire anyone until they've left the district in Stewart's hands for at least a year. "I think we hit the...

[Report shows minority students suspended at higher rates](#)

(St. Petersburg: WTSP (Ch. 10) © 10/05/2011)

WASHINGTON - U.S. public schools suspend black, Hispanic and disabled students at much higher rates than others, according to a new report by a Colorado-based civil rights group. The report by the National Education Policy Center says that frequent suspensions and expulsions should "raise questions about a school's disciplinary policies, discrimination, the quality of its school leadership and the...

[Bullying lands 11-year-old in hospital](#)

(Tampa Bay News 9 © 10/05/2011)

SEMINOLE COUNTY – A Central Florida mother said kids and parents are forced to take extreme measures to fight bullies. In an emotional interview you will only see on News 13, hear why she said more could have been done to help her son who is currently in the hospital. Elona, a Seminole County mother, said her 11-year-old son was hospitalized ...

[Stun guns in schools? Flagler school board votes tonight](#)

(Central Florida News 13 © 10/04/2011)

PALM COAST – They've been out of Flagler County schools since 2007, but now, the School Board may allow school resource deputies to carry stun guns on campus once again. Officers have not carried stun guns on school property since an incident four years ago at Flagler Palm Coast High School, where a deputy used one on a special needs student. ...

[Academie Students Finish 500 Hours of Reading](#)

(Dunedin Patch.com © 10/04/2011)

Academie Da Vinci Charter School students celebrate 500 hours in a reading incentive program that will help buy food for villages in need around the world. The Dunedin Rotary Club is awarding the school \$500, on Oct. 4, that they will in turn use to buy an animal(s) for hungry people in villages and countries to be chosen later by the student council. Academie Da Vinci students fini...

[Florida Morning: School construction money dries up; candidates raising coin](#)

(Florida Times-Union © 10/04/2011)

By: Matt Dixon (matt.dixon@jacksonville.com, @Mdixon55) Florida Morning appears every weekday. Subscribe via e-mail. PECO PLUMMETS: Citing insufficient tax revenue and previous debt, economists on Monday said the state will have no money available to sell new bonds for school construction next year. A panel of state economists, meeting to tweak estimates made earlier this yea...

[Universities face cuts to repair funds](#)

(Ft. Myers News-Press © 10/04/2011)

TALLAHASSEE - State university officials said they will have to go to a bare-bones wish list of mainly repair and maintenance over shiny new classrooms after a panel of state economists slashed estimates for available school construction money for 2012. Educators will have to slash \$267 million next year, which would leave them with about \$113 million in new cash for building for the fiscal year...

[A waiver not a cop out](#)

(Miami Herald © 10/04/2011)

The No Child Left Behind Act set a high goal when Congress passed it in 2002: All children in public schools will leave their grade proficient in the basics — reading and math. So why would President Obama want to give states a way out of having to follow the law? Unfortunately, this well-intentioned law, which garnered bipartisan support, also made few exceptions for children with learning ...

[New school flexibility welcome in No Child Left Behind reprieve](#)

(South Florida Sun-Sentinel © 10/04/2011)

Currently there are no comments. Be the first to comment!...

Have a great day! Please see the article below.

Deborah



Tallahassee Democrat

Mag Lab ripe for state investment

By Dave Hodges Democrat business editor

October 5, 2011

State government has an opportunity to help fuel one of the area's most productive economic engines, and the associate director of the National High Magnetic Field Laboratory urged civic and business leaders Tuesday to convey that message to Gov. Rick Scott and the Florida Legislature.

The NHMFL has submitted a grant application for \$200 million to the National Science Foundation, but Brian Fairhurst said the research facility cannot be complacent when it comes to its future funding.

"Since 1990 when we first received our award from the National Science Foundation of \$54 million, we have demonstrated our importance to the community," he told members of the Greater Tallahassee Chamber of Commerce at their annual meeting.

The facility has received \$164 million in state funding since that time. "That has generated over \$900 million in other sources of funding, so as business people, you do the math. That's over a 500 percent return on investment," he said.

Fairhurst's remarks came as the chamber's leadership recounted the various business and industry achievements of the past year. Scott also attended the breakfast and spoke minutes before about his administration's economic development efforts.

"I am glad that we are on track so far on jobs. We add about 9,000 jobs a month," Scott told the audience at the Civic Center. "There are a lot of things happening. We still have about 900,000 people out of work in this state, but there is absolutely no reason this shouldn't be the state that (is) the job creator."

Interviewed later, state Rep. Alan Williams, D-Tallahassee, who serves on the House higher education appropriations committee, said he supports state financial backing for the Mag Lab.

Unlike areas of Florida that rely heavily on tourism, the citrus industry or the military, "Here in this community, intellect is our industry," Williams said.

"The Mag Lab sets Florida apart from almost every other state in the union in that we have so many talented scientists and researchers right here in our backyard," he added. "I think it's a no-brainer to support and fund the Mag Lab. It's not a Democrat or Republican issue; it's a Florida issue."

The lab receives about 80 percent of its funding from the NSF. It may be almost a year before administrators and scientists at the facility learn whether their request is approved for a five-year, \$200-million renewal grant, which is crucial to the Mag Lab's continued existence.

Fairhurst noted that former Gov. Jeb Bush and the Legislature provided onetime funding for the Mag Lab in 2004 after they came to realize the importance of that investment.

"We are at a point that we have requested the governor, and we are also requesting elected representatives and business leaders, to talk up our state funding. We would like the governor to help our continued success at the Magnet Lab by including additional annual funding," Fairhurst said.

With an upbeat message from Scott, recent announcements of firms moving to the region, and a determined leadership team, members of the chamber had a bit more to encourage them Tuesday. The mood at the meeting was less gloomy, unlike past years when the shadow of a weak economy and tough business conditions tempered everyone's optimism.

"I believe we have turned the corner," said financial adviser John Curry of North Florida Financial Corp. regarding his own view of the local outlook for business.

Among the signs from past months:

Bing Energy LLC moved its corporate headquarters from California to Tallahassee and will provide at least 244 jobs locally in the manufacturing of components for hydrogen fuel cells based on technology developed at FSU.

National Solar Power picked Gadsden County over three other Florida sites for an investment of \$1.4 billion to develop solar energy farms. The project will require 400 construction workers and 120 permanent staff positions.

The upcoming launch of the Choose Tallahassee marketing initiative that will promote the Tallahassee area as a great retirement destination. The promotional effort will be directed at the 10,000 baby boomers who retire each day in the U.S.

Besides a climate that attracts people, Scott said Florida has a positive outlook when it comes to growth and a favorable tax environment. Such elements are important because Florida is competing against 49 other states and overseas locations in the effort to attract business here. Scott said the goal must be to "create an environment where our businesses have a better chance of success than anywhere else."

The annual meeting included a change in leadership as outgoing chairman Todd Sperry welcomed incoming chairman Bill Moor.

"You know, our economy looks different than it did five years ago, and the chamber has taken on the challenge of identifying its role in the future of our community," Sperry said in his comments. Besides an emphasis on the most critical support services for business, the chamber is developing a strategic plan that will guide the organization in the coming years.

"As you can see, there are many good things happening not only within the community, but also within your chamber of commerce," Moor said in closing. "I hope you will realize the value you receive from your chamber depends on your return on involvement, your ROI. It is up to you to take advantage of what the chamber offers, and what you put back into the community."

Tallahassee Democrat

Leon students give \$22K to TMH

Donation will go toward much-needed private chemotherapy infusion room

By Desiree Stennett Democrat writer

Jacob Grimes, a Leon High School freshman who had to travel to Orlando to receive treatment for brain and spinal cord tumors, will soon be able to get the treatment he needs right at home, thanks to the efforts of his classmates.

"If this means we won't have to travel to Jacksonville or Orlando to get his infusions. That will be fantastic for our family," said Tammy Poucher, Jacob's mother.

Jacob has been living with the tumors since he was 3 years old.

After a week of fundraising, Leon High students made a hefty \$22,028.39 donation to the Tallahassee Memorial HealthCare Foundation that will benefit the outpatient cancer center.

Paula Foutunas, president and CEO of the TMH Foundation, said the money will go toward a private chemotherapy infusion room that will be named after the high school and will provide outpatient care that wasn't available before.

"We are enormously indebted to the Leon students," she said. "Their philanthropic spirit is exemplary in the community."

The donation exceeded the students' \$15,000 goal and brought the total amount of money given to TMH over the last four years to \$100,000.

The school was about \$5,000 short of its goal Friday morning, the last day of fundraising, said Leon High student government president Hunter Munson, 17. Students and community members were encouraged to give what they could to get as close as possible to the goal.

"Everyone was freaking out; we didn't know how we were going to be able to make it to our goal," he said. "Somehow, all of our students started buying T-shirts and wristbands and everyone came through and we ended up with \$22,000."

Leon High picked up the project with the American Cancer Society in 2006 and created a partnership with TMH about four years ago, after realizing how many people within

the school and community were directly impacted by cancer and could benefit from the money they raise.

"We were all a little worried that we hadn't reached our goal, but I knew they weren't going to let a member of their family down," said Leon High Principal Rocky Hanna.

Sophie Graham, 17, the hospitality head for Leon's SGA, is excited about all she and her classmates were able to accomplish.

"It's surprising how little motivation (the students) need from us," she said. "They know how much of an impact this has and what we're accomplishing with it. I think the fact that all of the money that we raise stays in Tallahassee means a lot."

There is already a wing on the seventh floor at TMH named after the Leon High students because of the large donations they have made over the last few years.

Hanna says he couldn't be more proud of his students.

"What we do in academics, athletics and the arts is important, but to learn to give back and learn to help others is amazing," Hanna said.

"What's really touching is to see the kids who don't have much at home giving their lunch money just so they will be able to give something," he added.

Poucher says she is happy that her son was able to encourage his classmates' giving spirit.

"I think if something positive can come out of my son's horrible disease, that's great," she said. "It's great to find the blessing that can come from the nightmare he's living."

Tallahassee Democrat

Wiesel praises education during talk at FSU

8:32 AM, Oct. 5, 2011

By Mark Hinson Democrat senior writer

Nobel Peace Prize-winning author, Holocaust survivor and global human-rights advocate Elie Wiesel, who turned 83 last week, was politely blunt, brief and philosophical during a short lecture Tuesday night at Florida State University.

"The world today is not a good world," Wiesel said calmly toward the start of his notes-free talk for the Golden Tribe Lecture Series, which ran nearly 45 minutes. "We're waiting for some sign there's going to be a better era, but it hasn't happened. ... The world hasn't learned anything."

Wiesel, who teaches at Boston University, was decidedly more upbeat when he told the sold-out, overflow crowd of more than 1,100 in Ruby Diamond Concert Hall about his love for reading and education. Most of the audience members were FSU students.

"That passion is what sustained me to this day," Wiesel said. "I love learning. I know teaching is good."

In 1944, Wiesel was 15 when German soldiers came for him, his family and all the other Jews in his village of Sighet, Transylvania. One of the Gestapo officers in charge was the infamous Nazi henchman Adolf Eichmann.

The Wiesels were packed off to Auschwitz. That's where his mother and youngest sister were murdered. Two older Wiesel sisters survived. Wiesel (pronounced Vee-zel) and his father were later shipped to Buchenwald. He watched his father die from neglect and fever. On April 11, 1945, when Buchenwald was liberated, Wiesel managed to stagger out alive.

"How can a cultured person, someone who enjoys a quartet by Schubert, possibly kill children?" Wiesel said of his German captors. "But they did. I don't understand it. I will never understand."

A decade after Wiesel's release, while he was living in Paris and working as a journalist, he wrote the influential, best-selling book "Night," which chronicled the horrors he saw in the camps.

"'Night' is not a novel, it's a memoir," Wiesel said Tuesday night after it was misidentified as a work of fiction during an introduction. "Every word in it is true."

During a pre-lecture telephone interview with the Tallahassee Democrat on Sept. 27, Wiesel was asked if he ever dreamed that he was back in the camps.

"The older I get, the more I dream about it," he said. "I've talked to others who were there and they say the same thing. Everything is a variation on it, but with a few changes. So, yes, I dream about it."

Over his career, Wiesel has written more than 50 books of fiction and non-fiction. They include "A Beggar in Jerusalem" (Prix Medicis winner), The "Testament" (Prix Livre Inter winner), "The Fifth Son" (winner of the Grand Prize in Literature from the City of Paris), two volumes of memoirs and the recent "The Sonderberg Case."

After winning the Nobel Prize in 1986, Wiesel dedicated a lot of his time to traveling to war-torn regions. He told the FSU audience about an information-gathering visit to Bosnia during the Balkan Crisis in the 1990s. It was there, he collected tearful stories from survivors who had witnessed rapes, murders and genocide.

"Everyone knows the 10 Commandments, and no one obeys," Wiesel said. "The commandment I live by is, 'Thou shalt not stand idly by.' Do not be indifferent when you witness the suffering of fellow human beings."

During a 10-minute question-and-answer session, in which students submitted written queries for Wiesel, he was asked what he says to people who think the Holocaust never happened or is a myth.

"Nothing," Wiesel shot back. "I will not dignify them with an answer."

"I loved every minute of it," FSU choral-education major Patrick Schell, 22, said after the talk. "After hearing him talk about the importance of teachers and education, I feel good about what I'm going into. Education makes a difference. Society looks to teachers to fix things."

Schell said he "somehow got a ticket" at the last minute after his out-of-town girlfriend called him and asked him if he planned to attend the lecture. Many students were turned away at the door after the Golden Tribe Lectures ran out of the free tickets.

"I found out (about the Wiesel lecture) about a half-hour before it started," Schell admitted. "I had just gotten out of class when she called. I took notes so I could tell her what he talked about."

The Golden Tribe Lecture Series will conclude on Jan. 18 with a speech by writer and commentator Cornel West. For more information, visit www.goldentribe.fsu.edu

— Contact senior writer Mark Hinson at (850) 599-2164 or mhinson@tallahassee.com.