

**From:** Smith, Kevin  
**Sent time:** Thursday, September 29, 2011 5:21:48 PM  
**To:** Cari@excelined.org; walt\_griffin@scps.k12.fl.us; elefsky@cfl.rr.com; Lee, Laurie; Colle, Hope; Campbell-Smith, Amy; Tart, Suzanne  
**Subject:** Fw: 09/29/11 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:** Thursday, September 29, 2011 09:50 AM  
**Subject:** 09/29/11 Education Round-Up

## DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



[No student grades online until January](#)  
(Bradenton Herald © 09/29/2011)

ataylor@bradenton.com BRADENTON – Student progress reports are late and parents shouldn't expect to see any grades online until January. A new computer software system and teachers' struggles to learn it are to blame, school officials said. Teachers began using the new \$814,500 system called FOCUS, a web-based, student information system, at the beginning of this school year...

---

[Milburn Academy grabs attention of NAACP](#)  
(Bradenton Herald © 09/29/2011)

ataylor@bradenton.com BRADENTON – Richard Milburn Academy, an alternative charter school catering to 17- to 22-year-olds, continues to garner attention since Manatee County School Superintendent Tim McGonegal recommended the school be closed. On Wednesday, the local branch of the country's oldest civil rights organization jumped into the fray, sending a public information request to...

---

[College grads struggle with loan repayment](#)  
(Central Florida Future © 09/29/2011)

The U.S. Department of Education released an official report this month showing a significant increase in loan defaults of recent college graduates. The amount of students who default within the first two years of repayment has increased from 4.5 percent in 2003 to 8.8 percent in 2009. Isaly Morgan, a recent UCF graduate with a master's in social work, is not surprised by this increase. Morgan...

---

[Flagler and Volusia schools finding more space in classrooms](#)  
(Daytona Beach News-Journal © 09/29/2011)

Instructor Brittany Maroney warms up before teaching a cello class at Indian Trails Middle School on Monday. The school has repurposed a surplus of unused classrooms after the student body shrank by 700 students. (NJ | David Massey) Some extra classrooms are used for storage, but still cost the schools for cleaning and climate control. (NJ | David Massey) ...

---

### [Federal Ed. Policy a Whipping Boy for GOP Hopefuls](#)

(Education Week © 09/29/2011)

The Republicans running for president may be working to stand out from the pack on some issues, but it already appears that most of the nine current candidates are largely united when it comes to K-12 policy: They want to dramatically shrink the federal role. Some candidates, including Reps. Michele Bachmann of Minnesota and Ron Paul of Texas, are outspoken in saying they want to see the U.S. D...

---

### [Roadmap to Winning an NCLB Waiver](#)

(Education Week/Politics K-12 © 09/29/2011)

Although Education Secretary Arne Duncan holds the ultimate power in choosing which states get a No Child Left Behind waiver and which don't, a group of outside judges will wield a tremendous amount of influence in deciding states' fates. And now, the very important peer review guidebook is out from the department, which issues instructions to the judges as they evaluate each state's waiver...

---

### [Duncan Offers Short-Term NCLB Relief for Waiver Seekers](#)

(Education Week/Politics K-12 © 09/29/2011)

States that can't meet the initial deadlines for getting their plans together for No Child Left Behind Act waivers can get temporary flexibility to buy them more time. That's according to department officials who presented an overview of the Obama administration's plan to grant states flexibility under NCLB. In a webinar for states on Tuesday, officials said that states can request to hold t...

---

### [Duval School Board needs to follow through](#)

(FL Times-Union © 09/29/2011)

Duval School Board needs to follow through Posted: September 29, 2011 - 12:00am | Updated: September 29, 2011 - 6:40am To-do list The Duval County School Board needs to follow through on the important report from Education Resource Strategies: - Target elementary schools for consolidation and seek partnership with the city, state and nonprofits for changing the mission of the closed school...

---

### [Students Your Accountable for Learning](#)

(Florida Times-Union © 09/29/2011)

Students Your Accountable for Learning Students, do you understand your position in your educational journey? You have received a gift that puts you in a position to be excellent; you have a position that influences your world in a positive way with access to a quality education. Despite all the criticism America still has a world class educational system that does prepare you to compete...

---

### [Valid survey necessary for accurate evaluations](#)

(Gulf Breeze News © 09/29/2011)

BY JOE CULPEPPER Gulf Breeze News joe@gulfbreezenews.com Principal Jason Weeks A Parent Satisfaction Survey (PSS) is available through Oct. 14, and new Gulf Breeze High School Principal Jason Weeks strongly urges every parent of a Gulf Breeze student to take seven minutes to participate. Data from the survey will tell Weeks and other principals and administrators which areas...

---

### [Teachers' pay raise comes to fruition](#)

(Gulf Breeze News © 09/29/2011)

; Raise comes as a result of ratified contract between union, district BY PAM BRANNON Gulf Breeze News news@gulfbreezenews.com Some teachers will be getting a pay raise in their October paychecks. The raise comes as a result of Santa Rosa County teachers ratifying a contract agreement between their union and the school dist...

---

### [Smartphones, iPads and other devices inching into Treasure Coast schools](#)

(Jupiter Courier © 09/29/2011)

Bringing a cell phone or other handheld computerized device to school used to warrant an automatic suspension, especially if the device beeped or rang during class. But these days, teachers are using these previously prohibited devices during school hours as part of their lesson plans. The change in how pervasive the technology has become has school districts scrambling to adjust their policies and...

---

### [Billionaire makes big donation to Fort McCoy School](#)

(Ocala Star Banner © 09/29/2011)

FORT McCOY — A company owned by Canadian billionaire Frank Stronach made one of the largest — if not the largest — single donations ever to a Marion County school, in this case Fort McCoy School. Officials announced at Tuesday night's School Board meeting that Adena Springs, one of Stronach's companies, donated \$29,500 to the rural...

---

### [Fla. teen in trouble for bringing toy gun on bus](#)

(Ocala Star Banner © 09/29/2011)

PENSACOLA, Fla. - Authorities say a middle school student faces discipline after bringing a toy gun onto an Escambia County school bus. School district officials say a parent called the law enforcement after seeing the student "horsing around" with the toy gun at the bus stop Wednesday morning. The Pensacola News Journal ( <http://bit.ly/rmVUyo>) rep...

---

### [Letter to Seminole parents says schools fail federal standards](#)

(Orlando Sentinel © 09/29/2011)

Required letter shows that district is in 'corrective action' to meet No Child Left Behind standards By Dave Weber, Orlando Sentinel 3:38 PM EDT, September 28, 2011 Advertisement Advertisement SANFORD — Students in Seminole County public schools are bringing home bad news in their backpacks this afternoon: The school district has failed to meet federal education standards. In what...

---

### [PBC School Board pushes for better understanding of how schools meet PE requirements](#)

(Palm Beach Post © 09/29/2011)

Elementary school students are required to have 150 minutes of physical education each week. But Palm Beach County School Board members and some district personnel admit that what's required by law is not always what's happening in schools. "All school districts in Florida struggle somewhat with this mandate," said Janis Andrews, assistant superintendent of curriculum a...

---

### [School district defends audits, questions need for outside auditor](#)

(Palm Beach Post © 09/29/2011)

A Palm Beach County grand jury report shows the county school district is finding wrongdoing by employees itself and does not need an outside inspector general, board Chairman Frank Barbieri and members of the district's audit committee said today. "The audit department is doing a good job," Barbieri said at an audit committee meeting today. The grand jury report, released Tuesday, urge...

---

### [School bus driver's bathroom complaint brings apology from new superintendent](#)

(St. Petersburg Times © 09/29/2011)

LARGO — Joe Morgan was tired of talking about it. The 49-year-old Pinellas County school bus driver had come to the School Board meeting multiple times in a year to ask for something simple: bathroom privileges. On Tuesday, he was back, and this time he wanted an apology. "When I lived in the country," he said, "I built a lean-to for my German shepherds so that when it rained and it got c...

---

### [Community Leaders Ask for Law on Black History Education to be Fulfilled](#)

(Tallahassee-WCTV (CBS) © 09/29/2011)

Tallahassee, Florida 9/28/11 — A Florida Statute mandates schools teach African American history, some state and local leaders say schools are ignoring the law. The law was established in 1994, and that was 18 years ago. Now people in the community are questioning why...

---

### [HCC will get Regent funds back](#)

(Tampa Bay Online © 09/29/2011)

TAMPA — A Brandon nonprofit will return to Hillsborough Community College \$366,803 the school contributed toward building a controversial community center. At its monthly meeting, Tuesday, HCC's district board of trustees approved a capital improvement and reimbursement agreement with the Brandon Community Advantage Center (BCAC). The agreement states the BCAC will immediately t...

---

### [HCC learns from Regent experience](#)

(Tampa Bay Online © 09/29/2011)

Hillsborough Community College reached a deal with the Brandon Community Advantage Center where it will receive its investment back over a period of time....

---

### [Literacy PSA contest announced](#)

(WTXL ABC Channel 27 Tallahassee © 09/29/2011)

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — The Florida Department of Education, in partnership with first lady Ann Scott and the Florida Department of State announced the 2012 Celebrate Literacy Week, Florida! Public Service Announcement (PSA) contest. This year's theme focused on the theme "Take the Lead and Read." Celebrate Literacy Week, Florida! is a weeklong celebration of reading and lite...

---

### [Volusia Schools Accept Application For New Charter School](#)

(Daytona Beach Sun © 09/28/2011)

DeLand, FL- By a unanimous vote, the Volusia County School Board approved the application for a charter middle school at Daytona Beach's Richard Milburn Academy. Director of Alternative Education Gary Marks said that the school's application met or exceeded the criteria for a charter school to be created. There were originally two charter applications on the Board's agenda, the other coming...

---

[Pasco lawmakers, school officials praise each other, ignore teachers](#)

(St. Petersburg Times © 09/28/2011)

The mutual gratitude comes in heavy ladles. It is standard procedure at these annual legislative delegation meetings. People are thanked for coming. Thanked for listening. Thanked for speaking. Thanked for being polite. Thanked for providing information. Thanked for directing state dollars to a favored project/program and thanked for not cutting sacred cows. There is so much thanks, the only mis...

---

[Gadsden School's Superintendent School Bus Ride-Along](#)

(Tallahassee-WCTV (CBS) © 09/28/2011)

Gadsden County, FL — You'd usually find Superintendent James in the district office keeping busy. But Tuesday he left the office and boarded a big yellow school bus. We rode along with Superintendent James as the bus driver known as "Ms. Mimi" picked ...

---

Have a nice day!

Please see articles below. *Deborah*



**Tallahassee Democrat**

**School district could add 2 charter schools**

**One is an alternative high school, the other is K-8**

**By Ashley Ames Democrat staff writer**

**September 28, 2011**

Leon County could be looking at the addition of two charter schools opening as early as next summer.

Following the recommendation of Leon County Superintendent Jackie Pons, the School Board voted unanimously Tuesday night to approve two new charter school applications, although School Board member Forrest Van Camp had some misgivings. DeeDee Rasmussen was absent from the meeting.

"I have to tell you, I have reservations about opening up new charter schools," Van Camp said. He expressed his trepidations in moving forward with the approval process, with concerns that included the success of the schools, transportation and the elimination of an "us-versus-them" mentality in charter-district relationships. Both schools would be operated by outside management companies.

"I really need to feel good that we are going to have a good partnership," he said. The New Alternative Education High School of Leon County, Inc., application presented a school that would be centered on helping at-risk students focus on graduation and technical careers.

The Renaissance Charter School at Leon, a school that will extend from kindergarten to eighth grade, has an application that proposes high student achievement and a concentration on academic rigor and student engagement.

Charter schools are public schools that have their own board and contract, or charter, to operate in a school district. Once established, charter schools are evaluated

annually and must apply for renewal of their charter at the end of their contract, which is generally five years in Leon County. There are four charter schools in Leon County.

The New Alternative Education High School, which would be managed by the South Florida-based Mavericks in Education, intends to use the school previously occupied by the failed charter school Life Skills, which closed over the summer. The application anticipates up to 350 students the first year and plans to grow up to 400 students by 2017.

Renaissance, to be managed by Charter Schools USA, intends to build a new school and anticipates up to 1,400 elementary and middle school students by the school's fifth year.

Van Camp expressed concerns about what sort of impact a school of 1,400 students could have on local schools.

"Three years from now, are we going to face the closing of one of our existing schools?" he asked.

"Really, being responsible for the 33,000 kids that are enrolled in our public schools, I need to know if opening a new charter school with 1,400 kids is going to impact, and what impact it is going to have on our current public schools," he added.

While Life Skills cast a cloud of doubt over the remedial high school's future success, school board member Dee Crumpler said a new school meant a new game.

"There is no reason that this charter school cannot be a good neighbor, a community member and a leader," he said. "This superintendent and this school board are all about finding ways to provide second chances to kids who have fallen through the cracks."

The county will begin negotiating a charter contract with the governing board of both charter schools based on a series of guidelines set forth by the district. The final charter contract will go before the board for a vote on Jan. 24 of next year.

## **Tallahassee Democrat**

### **Stokes, new FSU provost, hits the ground running**

**6:15 AM, Sep. 29, 2011**

**By Doug Blackbkurn**

Westcott Building. Pictures are waiting to be hung on the walls.

Garnett Stokes has been at her new job almost two full months, yet she's still having trouble finding time to completely unpack.

Florida State's new provost, the second-in-command at the university, has maintained a hectic pace since she arrived in Tallahassee at the start of August.

Even before she joined FSU President Eric Barron, Stokes found herself appointed to a statewide task force examining a proposal before the Board of Governors, the body that oversees Florida's public universities.

This has been a typically busy week for Stokes. On Monday, she spent much of the day at FSU's College of Education. Tuesday she was at FSU's Panama City campus for the first time, meeting key faculty and staff.

"Nothing is more important than getting to know the people at your institution," Stokes said. "I'm still meeting department chairs and other faculty. Frankly, I'm not sure when I'll ever get around to unpacking."

Stokes, 55, is being asked to fill some mighty big shoes. Her predecessor, Larry Abele, who stepped down in December, had been provost for 16 years under three presidents.

Stokes, an industrial and organizational psychologist who moved up the ladder at University of Georgia to dean of its college of arts and sciences, is acutely aware of the comparisons being made as she makes her way around FSU's campus.

"Any time you follow a well established leader you have big shoes to follow. I heard the same thing as a dean," she said. "It just comes with the territory when you walk into a position where the leader has been very well respected and established.

"You learn from the successes and the mistakes of your predecessors and create your own path."

For more on this story, pick up Friday's Tallahassee Democrat or come back to Tallahassee.com on Friday.

## **Tallahassee Democrat**

### **'Celebrate Freedom' curriculum includes photos from Tallahassee**

**September 28, 2011**

**By Tanja Clendinen Special to the Chronicle**

Leon County students have special reason to "celebrate freedom" this week. That's because a new supplemental curriculum for Florida social studies classes contains photographs that help document the important role that Tallahassee once played in our nation's civil rights struggle.

The photos are part of a 12-page Newspapers-in-Education (NIE) curriculum called "Celebrate Freedom," which is being distributed this week to more than 130,000 students around the state. The curriculum is sponsored by The James Madison Institute (JMI), in association with NIE departments at a dozen Florida newspapers (including the Tallahassee Democrat).

"Celebrate Freedom" is designed especially for classroom use during Celebrate Freedom Week, the last full week of instruction in September. During this special week, Florida social studies teachers are expected to devote three hours of classroom instruction to the Declaration of Independence, and Florida students are expected to recite the key passage which begins, "We hold these truths to be self evident."

JMI's curriculum, which won a SPNovation Award earlier this year from the State Policy Network, unpacks this key passage from the Declaration of Independence, explaining the animating ideas behind our nation's founding in a way that Florida students can appreciate.

"We wanted Florida students to be able to see the relevance of our nation's founding principles to life today," said Bill Mattox, the curriculum's lead author. "So, we included photos from the Tallahassee lunch counter protests in the section about equality and included a hanging chad photo from the 2000 election recount in the section about voting rights."

In addition to providing this special newsprint curriculum, The James Madison Institute is also helping Florida teachers obtain video footage of the Constitution Day Celebration it sponsored earlier this month with the Florida Historic Capitol Museum. This celebration featured several historic re-enactors depicting James and Dolley Madison, Ben Franklin, Patrick Henry and others.

Video footage from this event should offer Florida teachers some excellent "discussion starters" when they study Patrick Henry's famous speech or consider James Madison's role at the Constitutional Convention, Mattox said.

According to Sandy Pelham of the Florida Department of Education, the Constitution Day video packages will be available to Florida teachers via [www.floridaknowledgenetwork.org](http://www.floridaknowledgenetwork.org).

Pelham said, "By producing a video of these events and by sharing that video statewide, we can expand the opportunity given to a few hundred area students to reach a few hundred thousand, or more."