

Bargaining Update

A bargaining session previously scheduled for September 7 to discuss the salary and benefits package for teachers and educational support professionals was cancelled at the request of the Alachua County Education Association president Gunnar Paulson. At the time this publication went to press, a new session on salaries and benefits had not yet been scheduled. Paulson has indicated that he will contact the district when the ACEA team is ready to schedule another session.

“As we’ve said previously, we are prepared to meet as often as possible to wrap up negotiations,” said Joan Longstreth, assistant superintendent for human resources and head of the district’s negotiating team. “We recognize that our employees would like to have their raises in their paychecks as soon as possible.”

Updates on bargaining will continue to be provided through the *Employee Express* as appropriate. A calendar of bargaining sessions is also available on the district’s website at www.sbac.edu. Click on ‘Employee Information,’ then on ‘Collective Bargaining.’

Childs, Pinkoson reelected to School Board seats

Incumbents Ginger Childs and Tina Pinkoson have both been reelected to the School Board following Alachua County’s primary election on September 5. Because school board elections are non-partisan, the primary determined the winner of both races.

Childs defeated challenger Deb Cupples to retain her District 5 seat, while Pinkoson defeated Clint Robinson in the District 1 race.

Current School Board chairman Wes Eubank was unopposed for his District 3 seat.

With the wins, both Childs and Pinkoson will be serving their second four-year terms. This will also be Eubank’s second term.

“I’m so honored that voters have given me the privilege of serving them for another four years,” said Childs.

Childs, Pinkoson and Eubank will be sworn into office on Nov. 21, which is the date their new terms officially begin. A new board chairman and vice-chairman will also be selected at that time. Childs currently serves as vice-chair.



(continued on back)

Information sessions on insurance, benefits scheduled

In the last issue of *Employee Express*, we reminded you that the open enrollment period for health insurance and other benefits runs from October 2-31.* Employees will be receiving packets with more information in late September, and information sessions will be held in October at locations throughout the district. A schedule will be included in the packet, but is also provided below.

Location	Room	Date	Time
Newberry High School	Media Center	Thursday, Oct. 5	2:30-4:30 p.m.
Buchholz High School	9 th Grade Cafeteria	Tuesday, Oct. 10	2:30-4:30 p.m.
Hawthorne High School	Media Center	Thursday, Oct. 12	2:00-4:00 p.m.
Transportation	Training Portable	Friday, Oct. 13	8:30-10:30 a.m.
Gainesville High School	Admin. Conference Room	Tuesday, Oct. 17	2:30-4:30 p.m.
Eastside High School	Principal Conference Room	Wednesday, Oct. 18	2:30-4:30 p.m.
Kirby Smith Center	Boardroom	Thursday, Oct. 19	2:30-4:30 p.m.
Kirby Smith Center	Boardroom	Tuesday, Oct. 24	2:30-4:30 p.m.
Kirby Smith Center	Boardroom	Thursday, Oct. 26	2:30-4:30 p.m.
Santa Fe High School	Media Center	Monday, Oct. 30	2:30-4:30 p.m.
Kirby Smith Center	Boardroom	Tuesday, Oct. 31	2:30-4:30 p.m.

**Employees are reminded that this is a ‘change only’ enrollment. Those who are not making changes to their current benefits package do not need to fill out any forms. Be sure to review the materials you’ll be receiving at your school/worksite for more information.*

Incumbents reelected *(continued from front)*

The returning School Board members say employee pay will continue to be a high priority, along with other issues.

“Providing quality teachers and caring educational support professionals is the most important thing we can do for our students,” said Pinkoson. “We want our district to be a wonderful place for students and employees.”

We should continue to enhance employees’ salaries,” said Eubank. “I’m also interested in

developing new ways to help struggling students succeed.”

Childs says that with three members returning, the School Board will be able to move forward without missing a beat.

“Ensuring that all elementary school students are fluent readers, improving career/technical opportunities and increasing our graduation rate will all be top agenda items along with salary enhancements for all employees,” she said.



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