

<PREVIEW VIDEOS from DISTRICT 6>

Host

Housekeeping remarks:

- Good evening and welcome to Maitland Middle School.
- We hope you enjoyed the highlight video features we've just shown you about activities here in school board district 6.
- Please help me thank Principal Lundman who has kindly made this facility available to us for tonight's community meeting with School Board member Nancy Robinson.
- When you arrived tonight, we hope you signed in and provided your E-mail address. School Board members will use them to send you updates about activities in their district throughout the year.
- Restrooms are _____.
- Eight more community meetings are scheduled this month and in early March.
- Our next community meeting is February 10 at Glenridge School.
- Presentations and information available at this and other meetings are being posted to the OCPS.NET Web site. We hope you'll refer to the School Board page to see this information.
- Before we get underway, let's see who's here: By a show of hands, how many of you are parents of students in Orange County? How many are grandparents? Students? Employees? None of the above?
- Thank you. Okay. Last year we held community meetings across the district to talk almost exclusively about the budget and prospective budget cuts. Tonight we want to cover a few more topics so let me introduce to you now, your school board district representative Nancy Robinson.

School Board Member

SLIDE 2

Personal remarks by school board member.

Tonight in our meeting we'd like to cover a number of topics that we believe will be of interest to parents, employees and members of the community.

1. We'd like to give you a snapshot of the latest Academic Achievements in Orange County and Florida
2. There always seems to be talk of reform. There are several new wrinkles in public education to share with you.
3. We all know the public voted to create an eighth board member. We'll refresh your memory on what it means and when it will happen.
4. Census takers will begin work next month. We want to inform you how vital it is to all of us in Florida and public education.
5. Despite the weakened economy, our building program is going full throttle but not without some concern about five years down the road.
6. We also want to give you the outlook on the economy, 2010/11 state budgets and the OCPS budget.
7. We will have time to answer questions too before we finish up at 8 p.m.

To get started, I want to play three news clips that set the table nicely for some of our conversation tonight.

<VIDEO NEWS CLIPS>

SLIDE 3

- As you saw in the first news clip Orange County got another A grade as a district.
 - Earning an A district grade is especially hard for a large district with such a wide range of socio-economic neighborhoods and schools. To repeat and do it again is something of which we can all be proud.
 - We are one of only four A districts among the seven largest in Florida.
- 141 of our 180 schools were graded “high performing” as A or B schools. That’s 15 more than a year ago.
- In May, 12 of our 16 eligible district high schools were named by *Newsweek* as among the top 6% in America - an indicator of schools offering rigorous Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate courses. West Orange High is a new member of the elite list this year.
- Our graduation rate is the highest rate in county history, Up 2.3 percentage points over last year; and our Dropout rate of 1.1 percent is the lowest in county history.
- Howard Middle School joined Jackson Middle School – where Vice President Biden visited – as a national model for the AVID program that, when put to full use, turns borderline students into college admission candidates.

SLIDE 4

- And if anybody should question what colleges and universities our graduates matriculate to, here is a list of the elite schools in the most recent U.S. News and World Report rankings that our students attend.
- Our leadership has been steady and constantly improving under the direction of Superintendent Ron Blocker, a true community leader:
 - He’s a recent winner of the Economic Development Commission’s Chairman Award.
 - He was ranked the 2nd most powerful person in Central Florida by Orlando Magazine.
 - And he was ranked in the top 20 of the most powerful people in Central Florida by an Orlando Sentinel panel of community leaders.

SLIDE 5

- As you saw in the news story about the Quality Counts report, there is much to be happy about in Florida education.
- Education Week released its annual rankings in mid-January.
- The report card looked at six subject areas and gave Florida an overall B-minus grade, ranked 8th in the country.
- Standards and Assessment - which speaks to the FCAT tests - is highly regarded with an A grade, ranked 5th highest.
- The Teaching Profession gets a B, ranked 4th.

- K-12 achievement – from 2008 performance – manages a C grade, but that is good enough to rank 7th.
- Chance for Success is not as good. It addresses early education, college readiness and workforce readiness. Florida scores a C, ranked 35th, and below the national average.
- Likewise, in School Finance Florida gets a C-minus and ranks 31st with an F in Spending. Curiously, only three states in the south grade better than an F.

SLIDE 6

High School Accountability

Beginning in 2010, the grading of high schools will be expanded to include criteria beyond FCAT scores. The components of the new grading system are as follows:

- 50 % of the grade will be based on FCAT results.
- The other 50% of the grade will be based on:
 - Graduation rate
 - Graduation rate of At-risk students
 - Participation in advanced classes (Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, Dual Enrollment, Industry Certification)
 - Performance in advanced classes
 - Readiness for college in reading and math (SAT, ACT, College Placement exams)

FCAT scores will still be available in the summer of 2010, however, a final school grade will not be issued for high schools **until at least late fall**.

Curriculum Standards

- Today we teach students to the “Sunshine State Standards.” They are about to become the “Next Generation State Standards.”
- Both specify the core content knowledge and skills students are expected to acquire.
- The first standards, adopted in 1996, focused on teaching students **processes and procedures**.
- The state began revising to “next generation standards” three years ago (in 2007) to meet the needs of a global society.
- Next generation standards are focused on **conceptual understanding**.

Here’s the distinction:

- Old standards focused on teaching students **step by step procedures for solving problems**.
- New standards require students to **justify, conceptualize, apply** to real world situations and have multiple ways to solve a problem.

Also, the National Governors’ Association is drafting proposed common core standards in language arts and math for the entire country.

- Their goal is to establish more uniform expectations for the nation’s students; expectations that are internationally benchmarked; expectations aligned to college and career readiness.
- Florida is way ahead in this area. The “next generation standards” being worked on in Florida measure up very well against the higher expectations.

- With common national standards we'll be able to tell whether a student in Florida is as doing as well as a student in Minnesota.

So, what's it matter to you? The biggest difference will be in how teachers teach your children **conceptual understanding** not just **procedures** for solving problems ... and you'll be able to know how well your student is doing nationally thanks to common core-curriculum standards.

SLIDE 7

The elected chair was a hot topic for a few years but the voters finally spoke and the first ever chairman election will be on the ballot in August this summer.

The winner of the county-wide race will take over the day of our school board reorganization, in November.

Whether you followed the issue closely or not, there are a few points of fact you should know:

1. The chairman will be the eighth member of the school board.
2. The chairman will be elected county-wide while the rest of us continue to represent smaller single member districts.
3. The chairman will serve a 4-year term, just like we do now.
4. When we vote and there is a tie, the new law says the chairman's vote prevails to break the tie.
5. The chairman will receive the same pay as current board members, the just under \$40,000.
6. There is no plan now to provide extra staff to the chairman beyond the one person who serves the chairman and vice chairman today.
7. The chairman does not come into office with any executive powers or administrative powers that usurp the legal responsibility of the superintendent, which is a statutory position that runs a school district.

SLIDE 8

The census is a count of everyone residing in the United States.

The 2010 Census questionnaire has 10 easy questions for the head-of-household; and, for each additional person living in the household, there are seven questions.

- Your census information is very secure.
- Every Census Bureau worker takes an oath for life to protect the confidentiality of census responses. Violation would result in a jail term of up to five years and/or a fine up to \$250,000.

Individual census records are not shared with anyone, including government agencies or private organizations.

In late February 2010, census questionnaires are mailed or delivered to households. Questionnaires are due by Census Day, April 1, 2010. Households that do not return completed questionnaire by mail will be visited by census takers between April 2010 and July 2010.

The census questionnaire is available in six primary languages: English, Spanish, Chinese, Korean, Vietnamese, and Russian.

Census data is used to determine the need for social services, including community development block grants and other grant programs essential to many communities. Census information helps determine locations for schools, roads, hospitals, child-care and senior centers, and more.

So please be sure to send in your census survey.

SLIDE 9

Let's take a look at the Building Program.

First of all, here in District 6, we have 8 projects underway.

- District 6 projects underway
 - Planning
 - Princeton Elementary School – Comprehensive
 - Design
 - Azalea Park Elementary School – Comprehensive
 - Construction (comprehensive)
 - Edgewater High
 - Dommerich Elem.
 - Maitland Middle
 - Lake Sybelia Elem.
 - Rosemont Elem.
 - Construction (replacement)
 - Evans High School

SLIDE 10

The building program is a popular topic every year.

The board approves a new 5-year building plan every budget cycle.

- The building plan is updated to recalculate the latest estimates of revenue and the best estimate of the cost of construction to forecast what schools will be renovated or built new, from one year to the next.

Since 2003, 30 new schools have opened to relieve the overcrowding that plagued us for years.

- More than 1,000 portable classrooms have been removed.

Voters approved a sales tax in 2002 to help fund the building program.

There is work going on all over the county. Currently 26 renovation and new school projects are under construction or closeout and 19 more are in the planning and design pipeline.

Many more projects will continue to come out of the ground through the year 2016, which is right after the sales tax runs out, on December 31, 2015.

The current funding forecast looks like the school board will only be able to complete 91 schools on the list.

- What happens then is still to be determined. The sales tax is not the only source of capital funding so, if nothing else, the Building Program will continue at a slower pace and in compliance with rules of the Desegregation case settlement.

So while we're now talking about funding, let's go ahead and hear from Mr. Rick Collins, our Chief Financial Officer, to give us the economic forecast for next year and the years beyond.

Rick Collins, CFO

SLIDE 11

Opening remarks

SLIDE 12

Intro Economic Forecast Luncheon video

[<Heart and Gravy Boat video>](#)

Collins remarks and SLIDES 13-21

SLIDE 22

[<Partial>](#)

Sales and Marketing

- Thinking outside the box, OCPS opened a sales and marketing department that, with school board approval, is selling limited **advertising** on the district's highly visited **Web** sites.
- It partnered with CFE Federal Credit Union to launch an **affinity debit card** that pays a nickel to the school district for every signature transaction by card holders.
- It is selling **sponsorships in sports venues** and tournaments across the district and putting the revenues into an athletics preservation fund.
- They have secured **licensing contracts** with manufacturers who will now pay the district and schools fees for selling T-shirts, hats and other soft goods with school logos on them. Until now, schools were not getting any fees for use of their marks.

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To the extent that there is a willing **advertiser** or **sponsor** interested in reaching our employees, the 2nd largest group in Central Florida, and our sporting public; or a donor or corporation keen on **naming rights** on a performing arts center, gymnasium, media center or academic program, we are beginning to take steps to support ourselves where the state and federal government cannot do enough.

School Board member

SLIDE 23

Most of you who paid attention to our budget crisis last year know that the bucks stop here in Orange County but they start in Tallahassee. We do what we can with what they provide us.

I have to say, last year's budget crisis was averted in large part due to the strong advocacy of parents and community members like you who raised their voices so that Tallahassee got the message – Cuts to Education Never Heal. Thank you!

And in spite of what we had to work with - \$50 million less than the year before - we have an attitude that our District grade – the A that we've earned the last two years – stands for Awesome.

And we intend to continue doing awesome work for and in our schools.

Of course, that doesn't mean we don't still need your help when it comes to making a persuasive point to our lawmakers.

SLIDE 24

So what you can do is: write, call, email or visit your representatives. There's a stack of fliers with all their contact information on it at the door. Along with other information you may find helpful.

Support your school. Support your children. And let's keep working to lead our students to success.

SLIDE 25

With that, we'll take any questions or comments you have.

If we do not get to your question tonight or you want to ask a question or provide a comment after the meeting, please use the comment cards available at the sign in table.

I'd also be interested in getting your feedback on:

- (1) whether you think the school board should levy an optional one-quarter mill tax next year to fund the school system; and
- (2) whether you'd be willing to pay as much in school taxes next year as you did this year, even though your home value may have gone down.

SLIDE 26

Thank you. I'll be here until 8 p.m. if you'd like to visit with me after we adjourn. Please drive home safely.