

Open Position

There's an open position in Lee County Schools for a director of public relations and marketing. SUNSPRA colleague and doctoral candidate Amity Chandler is heading to Palm Beach County. Meantime, [here's a link](#) to the Lee County posting:

NSPRA Chicago '16 – July 17-20

Who is heading to Chicago this summer for NSPRA '16? Please let me know! SUNSPRA always enjoys strong representation at this national conference... not to mention great food and social time.

LEGISLATIVE / HEADLINE RECAPS

Florida Department of Education to seek public input on accountability revisions

Florida Department of Education leaders will be setting up an online forum this summer to collect ideas about how to revise the state's educational accountability system. [Read Full Story](#)

New report says Florida near the bottom in pre-k spending

Pre-kindergarten in Florida has taken a step backward, according to a new national report released on Thursday. The State of Preschool Yearbook from the National Institute for Early Education Research found overall continued improvement nationwide as states recovered from the Great Recession, but noted some states, like Florida, regressed in ways. [Read Full Story](#)

School Board approves \$5m in salary raises, educational programs

The Leon County School Board unanimously approved raises, opening a barber program and giving honors credit to high-schoolers in student government classes. Bargaining agreements show that the district will shell out more than \$5.1 million to most employees - including top officials with high-dollar salaries. [Read Full Story](#) **Florida Department of**

Education agrees to change 2017 science test dates

After hearing complaints from educators and parents, the Florida Department of Education has rescheduled next year's state science test from March to May. The move will allow fifth- and eighth-grade students more time to prepare for the exams, which this year's students took in late April. K-12 chancellor Hershel Lyons advised superintendents of the change in a memo early Tuesday. [Read Full Story](#)

Broward debates awarding A+ grades to high school students

For Broward County high school students, A's are as good as it gets. At least for now. Some school board members want to begin awarding A+'s for work that goes above and beyond. They say it makes sense in a school system that gives out B+'s, C+'s and D+'s. [Read Full Story](#)

New law affects plans for new school construction

The Sarasota and Manatee County school districts may have to choose between space and long-term cost saving measures when it builds new schools after Gov. Rick Scott signed a sweeping education bill last month that changed how districts can spend local money. After some lawmakers complained school districts spent too much building campuses, the Florida Legislature approved a bill to limit how much in local tax revenue districts could use to build new schools and improve others. Districts were already restricted in how much they could spend per student on new schools. But those caps did not apply to money raised through local taxes until Scott signed the new bill into law in April.

Group pushes for CPR training at all Central Florida high schools

Channel 9 anchor Nancy Alvarez found out Florida lags behind the rest of the country when it comes to CPR training, and a local group plans to fix that. Supporters of the plan want to make it a requirement that high school students learn CPR before they graduate. [Read Full Story](#)

School District, Sheriff's Office work together on security measures, including lockdowns

Planning for the worst and hoping for the best is a theme the St. Johns County School District takes to

heart. That philosophy was put to the test last month after two West Augustine shootings placed five nearby schools in a soft lockdown. [Read Full Story](#)

Superintendent search committee taking shape

A 19-member search committee charged with helping name the district's next superintendent is beginning to take shape. At a School Board workshop last week, members each appointed two people to the committee and voted on policy-mandated minority representation on the panel to help choose a successor to Superintendent Susan Moxley, who is leaving when her contract expires June 30, 2017.

[Read Full Story](#)

Lawsuit over Florida school voucher program goes back to court Tuesday

A panel of appeals court judges will hear oral arguments on Tuesday in the next phase of a high-profile and controversial lawsuit challenging a voucher-like scholarship program that helps poor children attend private school in Florida. First to be resolved is whether the state's largest teachers union, the Florida Education Association, and other plaintiffs even have the right to make their case that it's unconstitutional.

Florida grand jury indicts charter school management company

A charter school management company which has operated schools statewide was indicted this week by a Florida Panhandle grand jury, accused of fraudulently billing a charter school for supplies, equipment and services. The charges of grand theft, money laundering and aggravated white collar crime were announced Thursday by State Attorney Bill Eddins against the management company, Newpoint Education Partners, as well as three other vendors.

Switzerland Point band director named finalist for Florida Teacher of the Year

...From a pool of 72 teachers statewide, Zentz has been chosen as one of five finalists to compete for the 2017 Macy's/Florida Department of Education Teacher of the Year Award. She was named St. Johns County's Teacher of the Year in January. [Read Full Story](#)

Teachers: New policy lets students get away with skipping school

That's what clever students are getting away with, some Broward County high school teachers say. They're exploiting a new district policy that was meant to solve one problem and is creating another. [Read Full Story](#)

Proposed changes to nation's school lunch program could impact thousands of Florida children It's a little-noticed move on Capitol Hill, but one that could negatively impact thousands of Florida children in districts around the state. [Read Full Story](#)

AND FINALLY...

You Bet Your Life lives on thanks to YouTube. In [my favorite episode of all time](#), Marsha Brody from North, South Carolina absolutely makes me laugh out loud... multiple times... throughout the entire episode. Take six minutes from the crazy, hectic world of school PR and enjoy this clip! (*NOTE: Bill Cosby is the host.*)

Until next time, keep shining the light on school PR in Florida!

Kevin

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