

MEMORANDUM

January 27, 2006

TO: Greater Florida Consortium of School Boards  
FROM: Jeanne Dozier, President  
SUBJECT: **ALERT....ACTION REQUIRED**

Members of the Greater Florida Consortium of School Boards met in Broward on January 19<sup>th</sup> to discuss their common goals for the 2006 Legislative Session and the possibility of conducting a cohesive information campaign to make both legislators and the community aware of the issues, particularly as they relate to adequate funding.

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With the exception of Collier and St. Lucie counties, all of the Consortium districts were represented.

Those present agreed there is a need for an education and information campaign to make legislators and parents aware that Florida currently ranks 47<sup>th</sup> among the 50 states in per student spending based on 2002 figures which are the latest available. The plan would be to urge legislators to put more per student money into the state budget every year until Florida ranks at least 25<sup>th</sup> in per student funding based on national data.

An education and information plan, including legislative strategy, is to be developed by February 1, 2006 in time for this year's session.

The next step is to ask every Consortium school board to agree to participate in this effort. By this memorandum, I am requesting that your School Board officially adopt a resolution so that the Consortium may proceed with this effort. Under the Consortium bylaws, the Consortium needs unanimous agreement before it can move ahead as an organization.

The plan also will include information on some of our other 2006 legislative priorities including: hurricane relief, no further equalization of the Local Discretionary Millage, fully funding the Class Size Reduction Amendment and modifying the new fingerprinting law.

To assist in this effort, I am attaching several documents:

- a copy of an Attorney General's Opinion to the Palm Beach County School Board, indicating that school boards may participate in an information campaign, under certain circumstances;
- a copy of the Palm Beach School Board's policy regarding this same matter; and
- a suggested resolution for your School Board to consider which, obviously, can be rewritten to meet your Board's individual preference.

It is important that we hear from you on this matter. Please let me know your next steps.

JD:pw  
Attachments