



Superintendent's Report

November 28, 2023

Consent Agenda Highlights



May 2023, Alta Vista Pre-K, Teacher and Students,
Alta Vista Elementary.

Consent Agenda Highlights – #9

Approval of the Affiliation Agreement Between the University of Phoenix and the School Board of Sarasota County, Florida



Description:

The affiliation agreement will allow students pursuing education degrees at the University of Phoenix to complete classroom observations, field experiences and final clinical teaching internships, related to their classroom instruction and degree path, with the Sarasota County Schools.

Previous Outcomes:

We currently have affiliation agreements with ten institutions of higher learning and are currently hosting nine clinical/final internships from six of these institutions. Three of these teaching interns are on track to fill current vacancies by the end of November 2023.

Gap Analysis:

Sarasota County Schools currently does not have an affiliation agreement with the University of Phoenix. This institution offers a Bachelor of Science in Education/Elementary Education, Master of Arts in Education/Elementary Teacher Education, Master of Arts in Education/Secondary Education, and a Master of Arts in Education/Special Education.

A partnership with the University of Phoenix will allow us to provide clinical experiences to their students and provide us with the opportunity to “grow our own” educators through the different degree programs available at The University of Phoenix.

Expected Outcomes:

An affiliation agreement with The University of Phoenix will increase the number of partnerships we have with institutions of higher learning, therefore increasing the pool of highly qualified applicants for vacant teaching positions.

Recommendation:

That the affiliation agreement between University of Phoenix and the School Board of Sarasota County, Florida be approved as presented.

Consent Agenda Highlights – #10

Approval of the Memorandum of Understanding Between the University of South Florida, Sarasota-Manatee and the School Board of Sarasota County, Florida



Description:

The University of South Florida, Sarasota-Manatee is conducting a mentorship program entitled Building Literacy through Mentorship in which the University of South Florida, Sarasota-Manatee students mentor students from Tuttle Elementary, Gocio Elementary, and Booker Middle schools. The program is designed to strengthen the students' reading interest and attitudes toward learning. They also have an Inquiry-Based and Experiential Learning IBL/EBL Program for Grade 7 students at Booker Middle School. The programs are supported by the Henson Fund Initiative (HFI).

Previous Outcomes:

This is the first year for the Secret Society of Readers (SSR).

Primary Purpose/Outcomes:

1. Assess growth in Tuttle Elementary, Gocio Elementary and Booker Middle School students' interests and attitudes toward reading.
2. Identify how the program impacts college-age mentors' attitude toward literacy and lifelong learning.
3. Measure how the program impacts students learning in ELA and Social Studies (use of grades, test scores, observational data from teachers, learners, families and USF Mentors).
4. Identify how the program impacts civic engagement for learner participants (use of observational data from teachers, learners, families, and USF mentors; project evaluation rubrics, peer/mentor observations and exit tickets).

Expected Outcomes:

The program will have a positive impact on participating learners.

Gap Analysis:

A structured mentor program between College Students and KG-12 students as well as IBL/EBL have been supported in the educational literature. A well-designed and monitored program will augment other Sarasota literacy initiatives and enhance literacy interests of both the mentors and mentees.

Recommendation:

That the Board approves the memorandum of understanding between the School Board of Sarasota, Florida and the University of South Florida, Sarasota-Manatee as presented.



SCS News & Achievements



May 2023, *Venice High School Graduation*, Venice High School Graduate, Venice High School.



RHS and SHS Win the Florida State Swimming Championship

Congratulations to the Riverview High School Girls and the Sarasota High School Boys for earning the state swimming championships!



Student Wins \$10,000 at National Entrepreneurship Competition



Congratulations to Henry Zhou on his recent selection as the winner of the “Be More Fun” Entrepreneurial Challenge sponsored by the National Society of High School Scholars (NSHSS). After attaining finalist status over the summer, Henry recently ‘pitched’ his SmartVolly automatic fire extinguisher prototype to a panel of judges in Atlanta where he received top recognition and a \$10,000 award.



AP College Board Awards for Four Sarasota County Schools

Four Sarasota County high schools have earned a place on the College Board's AP School Honor Roll for the 2022-23 school year!

Congratulations, Pine View, Suncoast Polytech, Sarasota Military Academy, and Venice High School! The AP School Honor Roll recognizes schools that have done outstanding work to encourage more students to take AP courses and support them on the path to college success.



*August 2023, First Day of School,
VHS Cheerleaders, Venice High School.*

Congratulations, Mr. Cantees!



Congratulations to Mr. Steve Cantees on his well-deserved retirement after over 19 years with Sarasota County Schools and a remarkable 40-year career in education.

We express our deepest gratitude for his invaluable contributions, which have positively impacted the past, present, and future of our community.



Dr. LaShawn Frost Named Board of Directors President of Arts Schools Network (ASN)



Sarasota County Schools is pleased to share that the Arts Schools Network (ASN) has appointed Dr. LaShawn Frost – the Principal of Booker Middle School – as the President of its Board of Directors. Under Dr. Frost's dynamic leadership, Sarasota County is set to make history by hosting the 2025 National Arts Schools Network conference. The event will be hosted by Booker Middle School, marking the first time nationwide a middle school has been chosen to organize this national gathering.

Congratulations, Dr. Frost and Booker Middle School!

2024 SCS Teacher of the Year Finalists!



Ronnique Major
Emma E. Booker
Elementary School



Elementary School

Haley Brown
Pine View School



Middle School

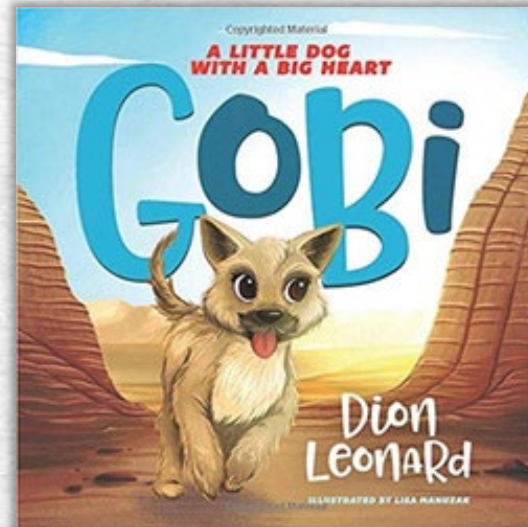
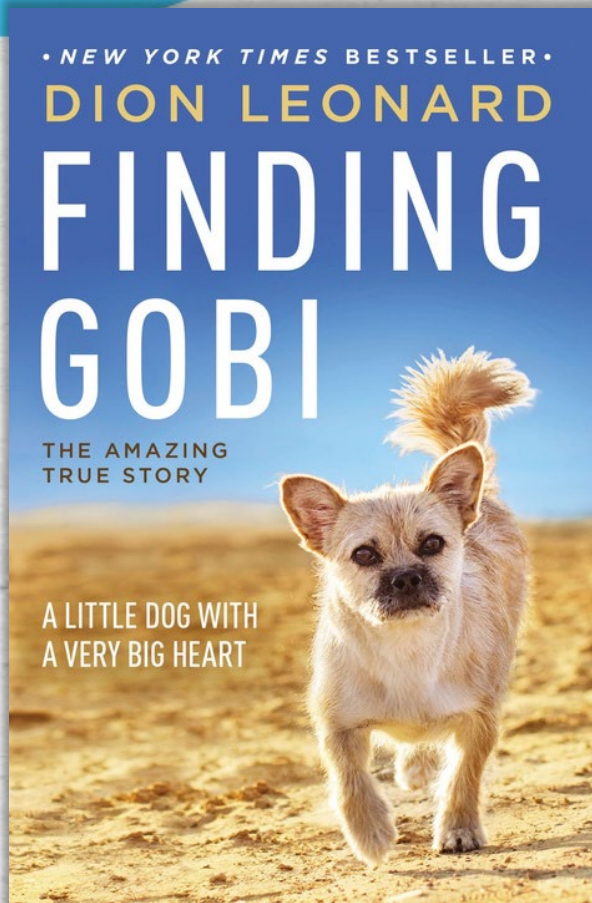
Dennis Pinna
North Port High School



High School



Author of Finding Gobi Visiting Tatum Ridge Elementary School



Dion Leonard, the author of *Finding Gobi*, will be visiting Tatum Ridge Elementary on January 10, 2024. Gobi herself will be tagging along.

Finding Gobi is a heartwarming story centered around Dion coming across Gobi while running a marathon in China, their quick friendship, and the viral internet search for her once she went missing. The inspiration from this story has led to the production of a Hollywood movie set to release in 2024/2025.



**EVERY STUDENT.
EVERY DAY!**