

School-Related Constitutional Amendments Headed to Supreme Court

Lawsuits involving three proposed constitutional amendments, which are expected to have an effect on public education in Florida, are headed to the Florida Supreme Court for oral arguments Sept. 8.

Amendment 5, dubbed the “tax swap” amendment, was thrown off the Nov. 4 ballot as a result of a lawsuit that is under appeal. Amendments 7 and 9, which would insulate private school vouchers against court challenges, were left on the ballot because of a circuit court ruling in a lawsuit. For more information, visit the Florida School Boards Association’s website, www.fsba.org.

School Board’s Final Budget Public Hearing

The school board will hold its final public hearing on Sept. 9 regarding the 2008-09 budget. The board is expected to approve a \$1.46-billion budget and a tax rate increase of more than 4 percent. The proposed new tax rate is \$8.06 for every \$1,000 of taxable value, up from last year’s rate of \$7.73.

During the last five years, the school board has cut \$51.8-million from the operating budget by eliminating positions, reassigning employees, closing schools, reducing the number of assistant principals and giving no employee raises. In addition, the district used reserves of \$10.8-million for a total in cuts of \$62.6-million. For more information, visit www.pcsb.org.

Volunteers Needed

Through volunteering, families can have an active role in their child’s education as well as the operation of the school. People of all ages are needed to help operate schools and to help students succeed. The volunteer who reads to a young person may spark an interest in or love of reading, while the business partner who leads a tour of a workplace or teaches math or computer skills expands the classroom walls and prepares students for a world of possibilities.

For more information on how you can become a tutor, mentor, office/clerical assistant, library helper, ESOL tutor or classroom partner, call (727) 588-6405.



Nov. 15 Is Deadline for Young Heroes Nominations

Here’s your chance to nominate students who have given of themselves through community service or who inspire others through their deeds and strength of character.

Winning students will be profiled on WPDS-TV14 and on the district website, and introduced at a school board meeting. Winners also will receive a \$500 Savings Bond and attend an end-of-year breakfast with the superintendent.

Nomination forms are available on the district website, www.pcsb.org.



It’s a simple fact, when parents are involved in their children’s education, kids do better in school.

Three key points to help you help your child achieve in school:

- Actively organize and monitor your child’s time.
- Help with homework.
- Talk to your child about their school day.

Tip of the Month – Education first starts at home. Begin by reading to your child and encourage him or her to continue reading and learning.

Emergency Information

With hurricane season in full force, please remember that the school district posts its emergency messages, such as school closings due to hazardous weather, on the emergency phone line, (727) 588-6424; on the district website, www.pcsb.org, and on Pinellas County Schools’ television, WPDS-TV14 located on Bright House Networks Ch. 614, Knology Ch. 14 and Verizon Ch. 46.

September/October Special Observance Days

Rosh Hashanah, Sept. 30
Second Day of Rosh Hashanah, Oct. 1
Edi-al-Fitr, Oct. 2
Yom Kippur, Oct. 9
Succos or Sukkot, Oct. 14 & 15
Shemini Atzeret, Oct. 21 & 22