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A Monthly Update from the Hernando School District

October 2021

Preparing for Growth

Looking ahead and the plan to rezone.

Hernando County is growing and student enrollment in the school district reflects that growth. Overall, enrollment in our K-12 schools has increased by almost a thousand students since this time last year. With even more housing developments planned, or already underway, the school district is taking steps to accommodate that growth.

Last rezoned in 2015, the district's new boundaries primarily impacted the central part of the county. With new developments planned throughout the county, the district will begin the long process by collecting and reviewing the most current demographic data available. The Board will bring in Davis Demographics to lead in this demographic study, which is a time-consuming first phase best led by experts.

Tentative Timeline: 3-year rezoning plan

- **2021-22 Commission a demographic study and evaluate recommendations**
- **2022-23 District committee work and community input**
- **2023-24 Implementation of new boundary zones**

Finally, Positive Signs Ahead

Board responds to the drop in Covid cases.

Following the discussion on the declining Covid rates in Hernando, the Board unanimously approved the Superintendent's recommendation to remove the requirement of face coverings at all schools and sites. In the last month, Covid cases of students and staff have dropped significantly. Cases recorded to the school district's Covid dashboard dropped from 62 students and 20 staff the week of Sept. 25-Oct 1 to 11 students and 1 staff member reported for the week of Oct. 25-Oct. 30th. The move removes the face-covering requirement and allows for voluntary face coverings for families who so choose.

Technical College Has One Less Hurdle

Governor presents funds to move the complex forward.

Gov. DeSantis brought a \$6 million grant award to help Hernando County prepare the site where an education and technical training complex will be built in 2022. The complex is a joint project between Pasco-Hernando State College, Hernando County and the Hernando School District.

Millage Spending Update

Dollars are set to flow to school district in January.

One year ago, the district presented a plan to voters directing millage funds to the areas that needed additional funding support. Those millage dollars will arrive to the district soon and the first allocations include the following:

- **School Safety** - (March) Add school guardians at all 5 high schools. The intent is to add guardians at all schools with large enrollment to support School Resource Officers. [Media Release](#)
- **Retain Quality Staff** - (December) All staff will receive a salary increase before the end of 2021.
- **Health & Safety** - (March) Add the new position of Athletic Trainers at all high schools to increase available health resources to our student athletes.

Find out more about the district's plan for [referendum dollars here](#).

