



In The Loop

DISTRICT NEWS / Rezoning Begins

In response to rapid growth in our county, especially on the westside, HCS D has begun the process of identifying ways to reduce enrollment at Winding Waters K8 for the 2023-24 school year. The process of changing student attendance borders (or rezoning) formally begins on Jan. 24th when staff and consultants will present 2 options to the school board that will reduce enrollment at WWK8. Here are a few **key points** that staff will need to know:

- The plan may impact these schools: WWK8, WHMS, PGE, DES, SHES and WES
- Prior to the Board voting to approve the final plan, there is a schedule of board workshops, public meetings and open comment periods for the public to participate in. Those details can be found on the website here - <https://www.hernandoschools.org/community/rezoning>
- Information discussed at the Jan. 24th workshop can be found here: <https://bit.ly/3kwQpE0>
- Encourage parents to participate by watching the board workshops, attending the public meetings or by offering feedback via email SchoolRezoning@hcsb.k12.fl.us or through Let's Talk!

Love it! 2023-24 Teacher of the Year



Superintendent Stratton, Tori Hunt, Board
Chair Gus Guadagnino, HCEF Tammy Brinker

It was a full circle moment when Weeki Wachee High social studies teacher, Victoria "Tori" Hunt was named the school district's 2023-24 Teacher of the Year. Tori is a proud 2012 Springstead grad and an alum of Suncoast and Challenger. She is the first student to have been named as Student Representative to the Board, a program that continues today due in part to her steadfast belief in the power of student leadership as a key driver in growing a more involved citizen. "I want my child to grow up here with all of you as their educators and I am so very thankful for all of you who have done so much to help me," Tori said in her acceptance speech.

UPDATE / Retention Bonuses

As was previously included in this memo, it was anticipated that retention bonuses for staff would be disbursed in January. However, the grant funds that will be used to provide the retention bonuses have not been approved by the state agency. Staff will be updated when those funds are released.

SCHOOL SAFETY / Reunification Training



Last week, our Safe Schools team partnered with HCSO, Hernando Emergency Management and Department of Health to bring a vital 2 day training in the system to coordinate a reunification of students and parents following an emergency. Staff from all agencies and local non-profits attended the training and practiced strategies to successfully manage this large and critical component of crisis management. This initial training launches the district's long term plan to include further training and include more staff in the district's plan of reunification.

Learn it!