

# Seminole County School Bus Drivers Association

## Budget Cuts Never Heal



The second SCPS Budget Workshop was held on May 13, 2008. By now it should be no surprise to anyone just what a challenge establishing this year's budget will hold. The proposed budget presented to the School Board at this workshop includes: a budget reduction of \$3.6 million due to declining enrollment; an additional \$2.8 million reserve for a further declining enrollment projection of 566 FTEs; an estimated increase for health insurance of \$2 million; a \$1.95 million necessary increase for diesel fuel cost. In all, the actual budget deficit is estimated to be \$24.4 million. This is based upon the estimated revenue reductions, as well as projected cost increases for necessary budget items. UniServ Executive Director Paul Sanchez and SEA President Gay Parker have participated in several meetings, discussions and reviews of the budget at both the local and state level. UniServ will continue to advocate for all employees as decisions are made final. Next steps in the budget process will include the impact negotiations will have on critical items in the continuation budget such as salary and health insurance. As always, we will keep members updated throughout the summer.

## ESP Day a Success

Over 80 employees signed up for a day of training, networking and fun that was held May 17. NIPSCO, SECA and Bus Drivers all met at the UniServ office, held group meetings and then moved into at least 2 workshops each. The entire gathering heard Legal Issues as addressed by FEA attorney Carol Buxton. She addressed a number of issues and advised employees of their rights and cautioned them about behaviors. There was a choice of sessions offered next: Dealing with Difficult People or Unemployment Questions/Marketing Yourself. The day ended with a cook-out and door prizes won by many. Thanks to all who came out for what could be termed a most successful day!

## 2008-09 Calendar Highlights for ESPs

Even as you prepare to close out the 2007-08 school year, the 2008-09 year beckons. Here are some highlights from that calendar: Students are back on Monday, the 18<sup>th</sup>! 186 day employees report on August 18; 196 day employees report on August 12; 202 day employees report on August 4 and 221 day employees report on July 28. Your first holiday is on September 1 (Labor Day). Schools are closed December 22 through January 2 for Winter Break and April 6-10 finds the schools closed for Spring Break. The last day for student attendance is Friday, June 5, 2009. For a more detailed view, please see the SCPS website.

### UniServ Summer Hours



Just a reminder the UniServ Office is open all summer to advocate for you. The UniServ office will be open all summer from 8:00 to 5:00. If you are out of town over the summer, the staff can also be reached by e-mail at [sea@scps.k12.fl.us](mailto:sea@scps.k12.fl.us) or a [seminole@floridaea.org](mailto:seminole@floridaea.org).

### Will YOU Make A Difference In The Elections This Year?



Are you registered to vote? We get to choose who governs us - from school board to U.S. President - this fall. Registering and voting are important, and easier than ever. You will find forms at your school, at the ESC and at the UniServ Office. Register and vote! Make your voice count!

## SCSBDA Ready to Bargain in Hard Times



Your SCSBDA Bargaining Team will work all summer negotiating on your behalf. While we anticipate a challenging bargaining process this year, it is always reassuring to know that we have overwhelming support of the employees we represent. This is evident from the significant participation in the bargaining survey. This information is very important to the team when hard decisions have to be made. Your SCSBDA Bargaining Team is lead by Ora Lee Alexander President and Paul Sanchez, Chief Negotiator. SCSBDA will work in a coalition with the other three locals serviced by Seminole UniServ as it has served us well over the years. As bargaining progresses throughout the summer, SCSBDA will keep you posted.

## Florida Legislature Throws Public Schools Under The Bus

2008-09 will be the first time in over 40 years that the state's budget has less money in it than in the year before. It is also the first time the state's share of money for public schools has fallen below 50% of the budget. SCPS has not filled every vacant ESP position recently, so we have not lost many ESP *regular employee* positions as some of the school districts around us. However, as many of you are aware, some employees have been moved from 12-month to 11-month, and 11-month to 10-month positions.

## Summer School Driving Contract Style

**The time has come around again for summer school, and here is some contract language that we want everyone to be aware of:**



By May 15---summer employment should be posted at the main compound

You should be notified before or on the last day of student attendance that you will or will not have summer work

SENIORITY will be a criteria for summer school employment

The association secured a (25) twenty-five hour work week (even having Friday off) for drivers and a (20) twenty hour guaranteed work week for monitors

No assignment should be given to any employee who has not already been selected by May 15 to work summer school

No driver will be able to work an ESE "monitor" position if there are ESE monitors available

### **Now the bad news:**

Any employee who had accepted summer work and turned the route back in without sufficient cause, which must include personal or immediate family illness, will not be able to work summer school the following summer.

Any other questions, please free to call Andrea at Seminole UniServ to help you! Have a great summer!

## Physical Information



Driver physicals will be held on June 11, 12, & 13 between the hours of 8:30 am -4:00 pm at Lyman High School, Media Center. Sign up sheets will be posted at the main compound later for your convenience. Also, great news! If you have had a recent physical, and your recheck date falls in the months of October 2008 through May 2009, you will not have to take the physical in June. But, because of that you will, however, be responsible for making an appointment two (2) weeks prior to your recheck date. This should be helpful to some drivers and monitors! Good luck!