



SMART INVESTMENTS LEAD TO SMART STUDENTS.

NOVEMBER 2015 UPDATE



Letter From Broward County Public Schools Superintendent Robert W. Runcie

Oscar Wilde, playwright and novelist, said, "The truth is rarely pure and never simple." Getting to the heart of the matter is even more challenging as we live in the era of tweets and media sound bites. As the Superintendent of Broward County Public Schools, it is my responsibility to make sure that our community gets the facts on important topics. So, I offer this update upon the one-year anniversary of our community's overwhelming support of the \$800 million General Obligation Bond.

I am proud of the progress made by our District regarding the bond and our capital program, which we refer to as the SMART (Safety, Music & Art, Athletics, Renovation, and Technology) initiative.

Delivering on our commitments to the community and positioning our District to execute the bond projects have remained our priorities. As with any major undertaking, we have worked relentlessly to create a strong foundation for SMART, including completing the required bond validation process through the court system; updating the District's

long-range capital plan; hiring construction management and cost control firms as strategic partners for SMART; and issuing the first series of bonds to provide the necessary funding for identified projects.

“ Delivering on our commitments to the community and positioning our District to execute the bond projects have remained our priorities. ”

While we anticipated starting projects in Summer 2015, we are within three months of our projected timelines. In fact, on November 3, 2015, the School Board approved the advertisements for design and build construction services for major SMART projects at Blanche Ely, Stranahan and Northeast high schools. The preliminary budget for these projects alone is

approximately \$45 million. Many more SMART projects throughout the community will come before the Board during this school year and over the next several years.

In addition, the technology components of the SMART program are ahead of schedule. More than 26,000 computer devices have been ordered since July 2015, with more than 14,000 already deployed to students and teachers at more than 60 schools. The installation of nearly 4,000 wireless access





SMART INVESTMENTS LEAD TO SMART STUDENTS.

points at these schools is also underway. This is just some of the important work taking place as part of the SMART program. You can find out more by visiting browardschools.com/smarffutures.

We are also pleased to welcome our new Chief Facilities Officer, who comes to our District with a significant amount of experience and skills managing large school district capital and bond programs. He joins us from Houston Independent School District (HISD), where he received excellent references for his work. A tremendous amount of time and effort was devoted to ensuring this individual is the right person to move our SMART capital program forward.

Recently, Sun-Sentinel news coverage focused on an audit conducted by HISD, regarding a "Review of the Request for Additional Funding for the 2012 Bond Program." This report is not an audit of the HISD's Facilities Department, nor is it an audit of its overall bond program. This audit was limited in scope and specifically reviewed potential cost increases for future construction projects, caused by inflation and market conditions.

As part of my due diligence, I personally contacted HISD leadership and directed our staff to speak with the HISD Office of Internal Audit. Based on the information I received and the research completed as part of our

own extensive hiring process, I can assure our community that we have assembled a qualified team to oversee and manage this critical work in our District.

Since the approval of the bond, our goals remain consistent: provide our students with safe and healthy learning environments, and the resources they need to reach their highest potential. We understand there will be challenges along this journey, but we will continue to approach them with the highest level of integrity. The progress of

our SMART program demonstrates the District's commitment to our community.

Sincerely,
Robert W. Runcie

Superintendent,
Broward County Public Schools

“ Since the approval of the bond, our goals remain consistent: provide our students with safe and healthy learning environments, and the resources they need to reach their highest potential. ”

For more information about the **SMART** Initiative, visit browardschools.com/smarffutures

**SAFETY
MUSIC & ART
ATHLETICS
RENOVATION
TECHNOLOGY**



The School Board of Broward County, Florida • Robin Bartleman • Heather P. Brinkworth • Abby M. Freedman • Patricia Good • Donna P. Korn
Laurie Rich Levinson • Ann Murray • Dr. Rosalind Osgood • Nora Rupert • Robert W. Runcie, Superintendent of Schools

The School Board of Broward County, Florida, prohibits any policy or procedure which results in discrimination on the basis of age, color, disability, gender identity, gender expression, national origin, marital status, race, religion, sex or sexual orientation. Individuals who wish to file a discrimination and/or harassment complaint may call the Director, Equal Educational Opportunities/ADA Compliance Department at 754-321-2150 or Teletype Machine (TTY) 754-321-2158. Individuals with disabilities requesting accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act of 2008, (ADAAA) may call Equal Educational Opportunities/ADA Compliance Department at 754-321-2150 or Teletype Machine (TTY) 754-321-2158. browardschools.com