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Leaders is published eight times a year for the Florida School Boards Association by JMT Associates. Communications and news should be addressed to JMT or FSBA.

LEADERSHIP CALLING

BUDGET AND GROWTH MANAGEMENT TOP ISSUES

As this year's Legislature winds down—amid talk of an extended session—the difference between the House and Senate versions of the budget and what each wants to dole out to education is almost equal to the tax cuts being pushed by the House.

The Senate wants to provide more than \$808 million in new revenue for education, while the House budget provides \$501 million. The tax cuts the House wants totals about \$350 million which is reflected in its budget totals. The Senate has not included tax cuts and it's up to a conference of Senate and House leaders on how this will eventually play out.

There's a little more agreement on growth management. At least bills in the House and Senate are moving fairly rapidly. The legislation would require local governments to deny requests for comprehensive plan amendments or rezonings when school facilities are not expected to be available. FSBA has been working with the governor, legislative leaders, and representatives of Florida's cities and counties to develop these bills—SB 310 by Sens. Lee Constantine, R-Altamonte Springs, and Lisa Carlton, R-Osprey, and HB 1617 by Rep. Paula Dockery, R-Lakeland.

ST. LUCIE BOARD MEMBER TO ADVISE CRIST

Dr. John Carvelli, St. Lucie County School Board, has been named to serve on Education Commissioner Charlie Crist's Advisory Council.

The new council is composed of students, parents, teachers and community leaders "who share my passion for education," said the commissioner in making the appointment.

"Your views are important to me and I would value your advice and counsel as we seek ways to better serve the students of Florida," wrote Commissioner Crist in a letter to Dr. Carvelli.

"I believe that together we can make a difference in Florida's public educational system," he added.

TWO FLORIDA DISTRICTS HONORED NATIONALLY

The Broward and Seminole county school districts have received the 2001 Magna Award from the *American School Board Journal* and Sodexo Marriott Services.

Broward County, wanting to provide its students with exposure to the cultural arts, used \$2 million from an antitrust settlement to create the Student Enrichment Trust Fund. The interest generated by the fund pays for cultural arts programming that is available to students free of charge. The school board also partnered with county government to build the Broward Center for the Performing Arts, which includes two theaters to which the district has daily access.

Seminole won its award for Arts Alive in Seminole! that was created in 1997 to showcase talent among the district's students and staff as well as raise funds to support the arts. The \$100-per-person gala features vocal and instrumental performances, as well as visual arts, such as painting, drawings, photography, and sculpture.

"School board leaders are the forefront of an impressive group of programs designed to help students succeed today in the classroom and tomorrow in the workplace and the

world," said Anne Bryant, executive director of the National School Boards Association. Its magazine initiated the Magna Awards in 1995 to recognize local school boards which take innovative steps to improve educational programs. The *Journal's* partner in the awards is Sodexo Marriott Services, the largest provider of food and facilities management in North America.

FSBA Calendar

FSBA Annual Spring Conference

June 13-15, 2001, Hyatt Regency Westshore, Tampa

NSBA Southern Region Conference

July 18-21, 2001, Biloxi, Miss.

FSBA Board of Directors' Retreat

Aug. 24-26, 2001, Gainesville

FSBA Annual Joint Conference

Nov. 27-30, 2001, Hyatt Regency Westshore, Tampa