

# CONNECT NOW

Engaging our community and schools

July 2010

## Did You Know?

**Florida ranks 8th in the nation with regard to education** in *Quality Counts*, which is *Education Week's* annual report. [Click here](#) to view the January 2010 report. And, last year, for the 2008-09 school year, Collier County Public Schools received their first "A" rating from the state of Florida. The grades for this past school year are not yet in.

Please help to share accurate information about our schools! [Click here](#) for "Fast Facts."

## Motivate Informed Understanding

Our community believes that, in order to get the kinds of schools we want, it is critical to "motivate informed understanding." And, one of the most effective ways is to "keep the conversation going" and "create opportunities for listening."

**There is no better time to exercise these strategies, and remember what we have learned about having productive conversations, than during election season.**

Our responsibility as citizens is to contribute to constructive dialogue in the spirit of our democratic processes. As participants in Connect Now, we know that it is possible.

Please take every opportunity to learn about candidates, and pay particular attention to our School Board elections. There are many forum opportunities and we encourage you to attend and contribute to a productive environment and to utilize the [Connect Now Statement](#) in your decision-making.

There is a candidates' forum for School Board hosted by the League of Women Voters on the evening of July 22nd. [Click here](#) for more details. The Primary Election, in which three School Board seats are included, is August 24th. The voter registration deadline is July 26th. Visit [www.CollierVotes.com](http://www.CollierVotes.com) to get registration and other voter information.

Thanks in advance for your efforts to contribute to a healthy political climate in which our schools can thrive.

## Collier County Schools Strategic Planning Update

The last phase of the nine-month District Strategic Planning process wrapped up early June, and involved teams working to develop objectives and strategies to support the eight operational goals. The individuals on these groups and strategic planning team, both CCPS staff and community members, that participated were very committed to the work and their service is appreciated.

And, many of you took the time to respond to the online survey to provide feedback to the goals and objectives. The survey brought over 1,100 respondents, which is a significant response. A majority of respondents (71%) answered very positively (Extremely Well/Very Well) that the vision, mission, goals and objectives reflected what they personally want. The full results of the survey will be available within the next few weeks at [District website](#).

And, at the June School Board Meeting the draft of the full plan was presented to the Board. After productive discussion, the Board voted to accept the goals, objectives and narrative for the plan, with some revisions that will happen with the Governance goal. The indicators and action plans are continuing to be developed by staff and the revision of the document will be finalized at the August meeting. [Click here](#) for that full document.

We are very excited by the Strategic Plan and the productive process that produced it. You will see so much of "what needs to happen" from the Connect Now Community Statement reflected in this plan. We look forward to its implementation and ask all in the community to consider how they might help support the District in moving it forward.

[www.ConnectNowCollier.org](http://www.ConnectNowCollier.org)

An independent initiative of The Education Foundation of Collier County

Contact Lisa Church at 643-4755 or [info@connectnowcollier.org](mailto:info@connectnowcollier.org)