



Solidarity Report

Truth and Transparency

On Friday, VUE and the VCS HR department met with 73 displaced teachers to complete the process of securing positions for the 2024-25 school year. Unfortunately, at this time, these 70+ individuals will be placed out-of-field due to the lack of positions within their area of certification.

Although the placement process is complete, there is still work that needs to be done to assist these teachers with finding positions within their areas of certification should they become available.

We believe it is the obligation of VCS to follow the contract language below and move each of these displaced teachers as soon as possible.

Article 21.A.2

No employee shall be involuntarily assigned to teach in a grade level and/or subject area not within the scope of his teaching certificate, except where a position within his certification is unavailable.

Employees assigned to positions outside the scope of their certificates shall be assigned as soon as possible to positions for which they hold certification.

While we have read the email and explanation shared by the Superintendent and district communication department for the massive cuts to instructional positions, we believe that the ESSR excuse is flawed.

During negotiations, the VUE bargaining team was told that certain supplements and increases could not be provided as the ESSR money was not to be used for reoccurring expenses.

Additionally, we know that the members of the school board had a lengthy conversation about the ESSR funds and instructional positions on July 25, 2023, during the CFO's budget presentation.

Comments were made by Ruben Colon about, "real people in these positions who do not know they are being paid with these funds, they just signed up to work." Board Chair Jamie Haynes stated her frustration that the CFO did not bring a budget that had started to reduce the ESSR funding for instructional positions, and explicitly directed the Superintendent to take a "hard look at who could be moved out of the ESSR funding."

Mr. Todd Seis, CFO, stated, "we will successfully transition away from using the ESSR funding; whatever it takes."



Truth and Transparency cont.

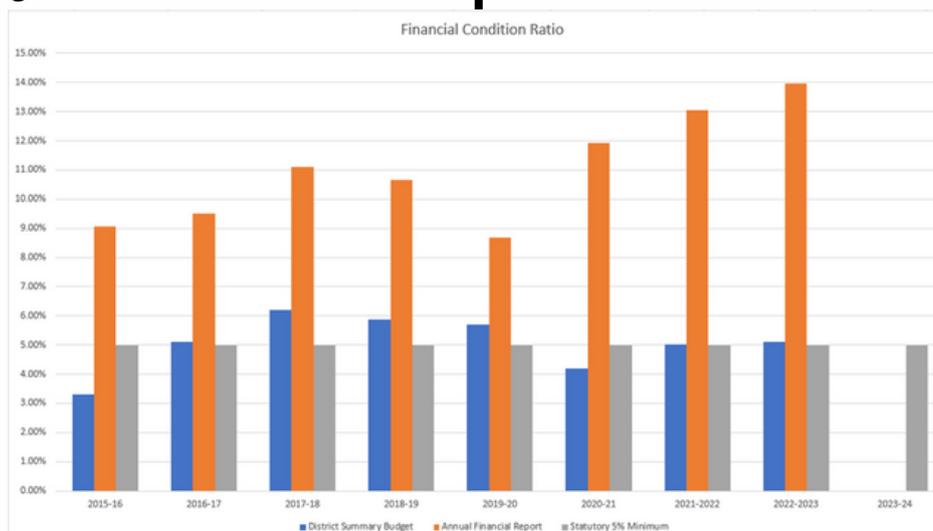
Also, Mr. Seis stated that he was building the reserves (Fund Balance) in 2022-2023 in order to roll funding back into the General Fund. The General Fund is the portion of money that pays for employee salaries.

The link to listen to the conversation is, www.youtube.com/watch?v=X_AdNb9excE (Please forward to approx. 1:50.46).

We know that during our last round of negotiations, the district Fund Balance (FB) or savings account, had a balance of approximately \$74 million. The board has a history of over budgeting yet underspending. The district FB has been trending up since 2019-20. With the amount of money in the FB, the district had ample revenue to move all instructional personnel who were funded through ESSR back into the General Fund this year. This is why we fully believe that this “crisis” has been artificially created to essentially reduce allocations to make it look like VCS has no vacancies for the 2024-25 school year.

Also, let’s not forget what happened when the district went to the Volusia County Council and asked for money to fund VCSO deputies at the middle school level. Councilman Troy Kent reminded the VCS representatives that they had plenty of money in the savings account to pay for this expenditure themselves and they did not and should not have been asking for a handout from the county. Subsequently the Volusia County Council denied the request from VCS.

An analysis of the history of the VCS FB shows the following:



Please remember that we are in the planning stages for contract negotiations for instructional and support personnel. Our first committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday (please see below).

We are developing our strategy and using the survey data to drive our planning. We fully intend to shine the light on the mismanagement of funds and the false narrative that has been pontificated by the district.

We know that the reductions of classroom positions will result in larger class sizes and will create environments that are not conducive for learning. Also, the teacher assistants that are proposed to provide assistance in these overcrowded classrooms will be limited in their ability to do more than crowd control.

Finally, we continue to see the creation of management positions, and no evidence of reductions or “cuts” at the district level. Wait and see doesn’t work for us. When the district is moving quickly to compromise the learning conditions for students and teachers, we need to see immediate action at the district level as well. The district excuse of “cuts will be made at the end of a contractual year”, is fraudulent as well, as the effects of any and all of these reductions will not take place until the next school year.

What are they waiting for? Do they think we are going to forget? We will be watching, and we will continue to speak out. If you are interested in supporting this work, please call the office, 386-238-1605. Solidarity.





Bargaining Committee Meeting!

The first bargaining committee meeting is scheduled for this Wednesday, April 24th from 5-6:00 pm at the VUE office. Your voice is a critical part of the process to make improvements to your working conditions! It is not too late to register to join in this work. Please scan the QR code to the right. WE NEED YOU!



ANNOUNCEMENT

**WEAR RED ON
TUESDAY!**

**SHOW VCS AND THE
BOARD THAT WE WILL
HOLD THEM
ACCOUNTABLE FOR THEIR
POOR DECISIONS!**



You can also show your support by attending Tuesday's school board meeting. Please plan to arrive by 5:30 pm. If you are interested in speaking to the board, please contact elizabeth.albert@floridaea.org.

**In Solidarity,
Elizabeth Albert**

Membership
QR Code
Ask a friend to join
today!

