

# CORE

Community Organized to Rescue Education

## NOW YOU KNOW

THIRD EDITION, AUGUST 17, 2008

### THE INJUNCTION

LAST WEEK, the court considered our motion for an emergency injunction to stop the flip, and we were denied.. While it was difficult to hear our request denied, it was not entirely unexpected. The history of Florida courts in such cases is to not interfere with the operations of agencies, such as the school systems, and rely on the usual channels of redress, such as petition of the electorate, to resolve the conflict.

When that does not work, you need to know there is a **STEP TWO**. The law allows us, and we are addressing step two, in taking our case before an administrative court. Our Administrative Hearing is scheduled for August 27.

Administrative Law is a body of law and a process that deals specifically with the actions of Agencies, such as school systems, bureaucracies, and departments of our government. It is a special body of law that that exists because agencies exist that are not part of the usual three branches of government with the usual checks and balances.

Administrative Law strives to minimize the risks of bureaucratic arbitrariness and overreaching and provide a specific type of check and balance. This special body of law recognizes an agency's right to make decisions and conduct the business it is charged with, but it also recognizes the need to balance the power of an agency by providing a forum for appeal and remedy for those whose lives are impacted by the agency—**THAT'S YOU!**

**BOTTOM LINE**—While the children, parents, and all other stakeholders in the schedule flip have to endure the new schedule, **IT'S NOT OVER.**

### **VOTE VOTE VOTE VOTE VOTE**

Know where your school board candidate stands on the "FLIP" and on MEANINGFUL community involvement—then **VOTE!**

## BECOME A MEMBER OF CORE

Print this page. Fill out the application below and become a member of our grassroots effort organized to rescue education. Please help continue the good work we started! Become a member, make a donation. FYI: You can also register and donate on line! Visit [www.orangecountycore.org](http://www.orangecountycore.org).

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

DISTRICT 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 (circle one)

Please send membership information to:

**ORANGE COUNTY CORE**  
**522 Hunt Club Blvd. #377**  
**Apopka, FL 32703**

To donate to CORE, send a check with your membership information. Please check the box below to indicate how you would like your donation to be used.

Donate to CORE's operations fund—tax deductible. Receipt provided for tax purposes

Donate to CORE's legal defense fund—not tax deductible



**THE CORE GOAL**  
**10,000 MEMBERS!**  
**JOIN US!**

**SEE THE NEW WEB SITE!!**  
**[www.orangecountycore.org](http://www.orangecountycore.org)**

## A DOLLAR IS A DOLLAR

Litigation seems to be way of life in OCPS. Olympia re-zoning, Evans relocation, Elected Chair initiative.... The list goes on and on. Last year, over \$500,000 was allocated to outside legal assistance, and that does not include the cost of any in-house legal staff. Since we all say we want to keep teachers in the classroom, wouldn't it be dollar-wise to engage the community in meaningful dialog instead of resolving everything in court?

Seminole County and Hillsboro County, and a host of others considered a flip and did not chose the path OCPS took. Why? They scheduled community meetings, interacted with their parents, students and constituents; they studied the issue; they decided it was not in the best interests of their students and their community. They found other ways to cut expenses, including voluntary pay cuts at the administrative level.

Monday, 8/18, on WDBO Mr. Blocker again stated in a radio interview the board did not hear any public outcry when teachers were laid off, just outcry about the flip. He questioned our priorities. At the May 13 hearing, the gasp from the parents in the audience was audible when they were accused of not caring about the teachers. Since then, Mr. Blocker has heard a thousand times over that this opinion is wrong, and still this opinion is repeated over and over that parents don't care about the teacher cuts. If he says it often enough, does that make it true? The very same parents he says "don't care" are the ones in the schools as volunteers, PTA and SAC members. He should remember that these Orange County parents also voted to defeat the property tax reduction he is blaming for the cuts.

Typically, issues end up in court when communication is either non-existent or when there is no listening going on. CORE advocates two-way communication founded on mutual respect and common goals. That usually makes litigation unnecessary.

**THE SUBJECT IS TRANSPARENCY.** The mission of CORE is a public mission. It's about children and education. It's about parents, students, professionals, employers, community service organizations, and concerned citizens who all have a stake in the education of children.

Therefore, this publication, and anything else that is published by CORE will be sent directly to the board members and the staff at the ELC. CORE would like nothing better than to have the issues this organization represents discussed freely in halls of the ELC. That would be a WIN-WIN for our whole community,

## NEWS FROM THE FRONT LINES

So, you ask, how are things going with the flip? These summarized reports are coming in from the field:

- Absolute Gridlock by the school to drop my children off.
- We have 50 minutes to get from the pool to school. Thirty minutes is spent in traffic getting back home. That leaves 20 minutes to clean up, eat, drive to school in more traffic and not be late to class.
- I can't have a job on the weekends either, band is practicing on Saturday.
- My middle school child is scheduled for bus pick up at 5:30 a.m. - he won't be waiting for the bus at that hour.
- They changed my elementary school time and my after school care provider that picks up at the school knew nothing about it. They have to come a half hour earlier and did not have staff to cover it.
- The school bus driver called to ask if my children needed to be picked up. My children are all over 20 and not in the schools.
- Virtual classes and home school are my solutions to the flip.

**WHAT'S GOING ON WITH YOU? WRITE US !**

**<http://www.orangecountycore.org/>**

**Click on info @orangecountycore.org.**

**And, please continue to e-mail board members!**



### A LITTLE FOOD - FOR THOUGHT

Lunch for some middle school children is scheduled starting at 9:30 a.m. On Wednesday, it's 8:45! If a child is signed up for after school care, will he or she get something to eat between "lunch," and pick up at 5:30 p.m.?

Gov. Crist approved tapping the state's reserves and cash carryover from last year to cushion the predicted revenue shortfall. OCPS has a carry over amount and a reserve twice the amount required by law. Total: \$60million! Yes, it was possible to avoid the flip. With that kind of money, the flip doesn't seem to be so much a budget issue as a priority issue.

## MEMBERSHIP DRIVE UNDERWAY !

**OUR GOAL IS 10,000 MEMBERS !**

**JOIN TODAY !**

*Want to change the way things are done? Want to bring the inner workings of the school system into the light of day? Want to be informed AND **HAVE A VOICE** before decisions are made that impact your life and your children's lives—instead of after "it's a done deal", like the flip?*

**JOIN CORE AND BE COUNTED !**