

## ***“Connecting for Success”***



### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **District Launches First County Wide Business Advisory Committee**

*County Wide Corporate Leaders Work With District To Bring Dollars Into The Classroom*

The newly-created district Business Partnership Advisory Group (BPAG) held its first meeting January 26, 2011 on the campus of John I. Leonard High School. The sixteen- member group represents a diverse cross-section of businesses from small, independently-owned companies and services businesses, to medium and large corporations. [<Click here to see businesses>](#)

BPAG’s mission is to provide advice and leadership in developing and expanding partnerships that foster academic success for students in Palm Beach County. The business partnership effort, along with its new advisory group, is an initiative of the district through the Public Affairs Department to create business-education partnerships that are built on shared values community involvement. The Advisory Group will meet three times during the school year to facilitate the relationship between the district, schools and the Palm Beach County business community.

The district has recruited and now has more than **900** documented business partners that provide a wide range of resources annually to schools to benefit student safety and achievement. The annual, estimated dollar value of these resources is between \$3 million and \$4 million. The resources typically include financial support, goods, services, equipment, volunteers, mentors, student services, instruction and expertise.

“The number and scope of business-education partnerships in the district continues to increase significantly,” said Jimmy Peterkin, District Business Partnership

Coordinator. “We’ve aggressively increased our recruitment efforts because the economy has stretched school budgets, and schools and their students need all the help from community businesses that we can help provide. We’ve increased school-based and departmental partnerships for Palm Beach County 51% during the school year 2009-2010”. [<Click here to see report>](#)

The success of the partnerships program is attributed to the district Partners In Education strategy of developing new partnerships that are directly aligned with education goals and board policies for individual schools and departments in Palm Beach County. The ideas acquired from the BPAG panel will help create, nurture and sustain the district partnership efforts at the highest level.

For more information please contact Jimmy Lee Peterkin at (561) 434-7323 or [peterkinj@palmbeach.k12.fl.us](mailto:peterkinj@palmbeach.k12.fl.us).

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