

We Thank The Hard Working Employees of The Facilities Services, Transportation and School Food Services Departments

The School Board and School District recognize the hard working behind the scenes employees of the Facilities Services Department, School Food Service Department and Transportation Department. These departments and divisions have won a number of prestigious state and national awards for the work of their dedicated employees.

The 540 trades and support personnel of the Facilities Services Department maintain and repair all of our schools and facilities in support of our educational mission. The Department is aligned into nine service areas encompassing 39 trades.

The employees of the Building Envelope Maintenance Program section, waterproof our schools and facilities, maximizing these buildings' life and functionality. Talley Nichols, Sr., who has been a School District employee for 17 years, represented this talented group of seven employees at a recent School Board recognition.

The Zone Team section with 185 employees provides dedicated work teams rotating throughout schools, to correct code violations, Safety Inspection Report citations and general repair and maintenance activities. They respond to school requests for lock, window, plastering, and carpenter support. A member of the Zone team, Don Steinick who started with the district in

2008, represented these hard working employees at the School Board recognition.

The 55 person Custodial section provides recommendations to Principals regarding the school based and managed custodial functions and provides team cleaning supervisory guidance to schools with dedicated Custodial Coordinators. There are also 1200 school based custodians throughout the District. A 16 year employee, Ron Barnett represented the Custodial Section and all our hard working and dedicated custodians districtwide at the recent School Board recognition.

The Central Services section with 64 employees responds to school requests for all electrical issues and power requirements. This section provides fire alarm, intercom, roofing, sheet metal, welding, generator and boiler support. Percy Watson, a 15 year veteran of the district, represented his fellow workers.

The Grounds section coordinates with school athletic coaches on the maintenance for all playfields and athletic fields, tracks and tennis courts. They also provide tree trimming, debris removal, landscape support, irrigation and playground repairs. With the district for 10 years, Al Alomairi, represented his 70 co-workers in the Grounds section.

The Logistics section with 20 employees, inventories and manages all materials needed for Facilities Services work orders and provides the appropriate fiscal audit information. Adam Soto who started with the district in 2007 represented his colleagues at the recent School Board recognition.

The Mechanical section responds to school requests for support services for Air Conditioning and plumbing problems. Representing the 82 employees in this work districtwide was Thanh Truong who has been with the district for 21 years.

The Commissioning/Quality Assurance Section ensures all mechanical systems are operating according to specifications. This work supports the district's standards for indoor air quality in the school centers. The ten member section also conducts school warranty site visits. A 19 year employee, Dale Barnhart represented his colleagues.

The Professional Services section with eight employees executes the Planning Department's schedule of relocation and placement of portable classrooms. Toni Fitch who started with the district in 1998 represented her coworkers at the School Board event.

All of these dedicated Facilities Services employees are on call 24/7 for emergency repair work and they are also the first responders to the District facilities after a hurricane event. They are essential to the functioning of our educational facilities and we thank them for their contributions to the safe and healthy learning environment they provide for our students, teachers and school staff.

School Food Service employees of the school district work diligently to provide a variety of appealing and nutritious meals to our students and school staffs. These valuable employees contribute to our goal of educating students in a safe, nurturing, healthy and conducive environment. Students cannot learn effectively unless they receive proper nutrition.

Each day throughout our schools, 769 employees work as Food Service Assistant One's. These dedicated employees perform all assigned duties in the kitchen such as preparing food, serving, cleaning, cashiering and operating the dish machines. Representing this group at the recent School Board recognition was Grace Parkins, from Odyssey Middle School. Ms. Parkins has been with the School District for 12 years, preparing and serving nutritious meals to students and staff.

Food Service Assistant II's, prepare food items while monitoring food production and ensure that good quality food is served in proper quantities at the appropriate time. Representing the 63 employees in this work districtwide was Maria Ocampo who has been with the district for 19 years. She works in the cafeteria at Manatee Elementary School.

Production Assistants directly assist the Food Service Manager in the successful operation of the food service program. Representing the five people in this work districtwide was Tammie Bennett from Forest Hill High. She is a 12 year employee with the district.

Thank you to all our School Food Service employees for your contributions to the excellent health and nutrition of our students, teachers and school staff.

Over 1,000 frontline transportation staff, mechanics, drivers and attendants, are working behind the scenes and behind the wheel each day helping deliver our students safely to and from school and other school related activities.

Employees in the Maintenance Section of the Transportation Department provide maintenance for 1,700 district-owned vehicles, and complete over 9,500 vehicle inspections and 6,500 vehicle repairs annually. Javier Jimenez is a 22 year veteran of the School District, and he represented his 108 dedicated colleagues- mechanics, mechanic helpers and parts technicians at the recent School Board recognition.

700 Palm Beach County School Bus Drivers transport approximately 60,000 students to and from school daily. In addition, they provide transportation for over 8,000 field trips annually. Mayra Cota has been with the district for eight years and represented all of the dedicated School Bus Drivers, each of whom is required to have 40 hours of classroom and behind-the-wheel training.

School Bus Attendants provide supervision and care for approximately 5,000 special needs students. This requires true dedication to serve for our most vulnerable students. With the district for eight years, Cynthia Lewis represented the 287 School Bus Attendants.

To all our Transportation Department employees, the School Board, the School District and parents throughout the county thank you for your contributions to the safe and efficient transportation of our students.