



CITY OF VENICE

Office of the City Manager

401 West Venice Avenue, Venice, Florida 34285

(941) 882-7398

elavallee@venicefl.gov

www.venicegov.com

December 7, 2021

Dr. Brennan W. Asplen III, Ed.D., Superintendent
Sarasota County Schools
1960 Landings Blvd.
Sarasota, FL 34231

Dear Dr. Asplen:

Subject: Agenda Items for January 21, 2022 Convocation

Thank you for the invitation to participate in the 2022 Convocation of Governments. I have shared your invitation with our City Council and staff. Below I have summarized their observations and comments concerning the City's on-going partnership with the School District,

The successful partnership between the City and School District has yielded many benefits through a program of mutually shared resources. To name a few:

- The City and School district shared in the installation of enhanced street lighting on Bahama Street in Venice. The additional lighting adds significant safety for students, parents, and visitors to the Venice Elementary School, Venice High School and Venice Performing Arts Center. The partnership provides for continuing maintenance of this significant safety enhancement
- The School provides opportunity for members of the Venice public to use tennis courts located on School property, at times when the courts are not in use by students
- The Police and Fire Departments in Venice operate a periodic preventive and reactive series of tactical training programs to better equip our community for a coordinated response to manmade and natural disasters. These tactical response programs have been in effect for ten years.
- Each year, the City hosts a *Student Government Day*, wherein selected high school students spend a day with City professionals learning about the various professional and vocational employment opportunities in public service. The day culminates with the

students operating a City Council meeting. This has been an award-winning program and copied by other municipalities, with similar success.

- The Venice Fire Department engages in a number of events with the Schools including:
 - Participate in an annual career day at the High School, and Middle School
 - Annually assists with “*hands only*” CPR training for High School seniors
 - Participates in First Responder Night at Venice High School

Going forward, the City is offering the following collaborative programs to the School District:

- High School Internship: The Venice Utility Department is a large and diverse department that employs more than 60 employees. The Department staff includes numerous vocational and professional disciplines such as engineer, marketing/ public relations, plant operators and mechanics, GIS specialists, administrative personnel, and technically trained field personnel. The Utility Department is offering to partner with the School District to host a short-term internship for students who may have an interest in exploring one of the many vocational and professional careers. Students selected for this program would receive on-site hands-on experience.
- Service Delivery – Recycling: The City owns and operates its own Solid Waste and Recycling Enterprise Fund. Currently, the City collects trash for the School District. As the School District has countywide jurisdiction, many of the services are contracted on a wide geographic basis. However, if the School District is interested in pursuing a localized recycling service, the City of Venice offers an exceptional high quality program and would be willing to negotiate a service contract.

The City appreciates the many services and resources shared between our organizations and welcomes any opportunity to expand our successful partnership. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Edward F. Lavallee
City Manager