

New Principal Takes Over at North County Charter School as Latest Effort by Board to Return to “The North County Charter School Way” of Excellence

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For immediate release:

Mr. Gregory Potter officially took over as Principal of North County Charter School November 1st. Mr. Potter’s most recent assignment was as an administrator in Okeechobee County but he comes with over 33 years of experience as an educator and administrator in Brevard, Okeechobee, and Maine where he was a Principal and then Superintendent of Schools.

“After a national search resulting in three great finalists, the Board is excited to have an experienced instructional leader like Mr. Potter at the helm of our educational program and look forward to his analysis and suggestions for the Board to consider. The Board unanimously voted its confidence that he has exactly what our school needs to return to the greatness it has known for most of its 25 years of existence.” Shawn R. Frost, NCCS Board President and former Indian River District School Board Member and Chairman.

Potter’s addition is the latest in a number of actions taken by the Governing Board to improve the culture and climate at NCCS and restore it to where it was a few years ago. Other actions since July include:

- Creation of a Parent Involvement Committee
- Rewarding staff with \$1,000 bonuses for ideas to improve the school
- Adding experienced Board Members such as Dale Simchick and ensuring all board members receive training in ethics, conflicts of interest, sunshine laws, and financial accountability.
- Making meeting policies even more transparent and meeting at different times so that employees and parents with different schedules can participate.
- Developing an on-boarding program for staff and parents to understand the unique opportunities and history of NCCS and what about our charter makes our school different than the district schools.
- Reciting the Pledge of Allegiance as a school over the intercom.
- Revisiting all board policies to ensure they are in alignment with the Charter Contract and the historical mission and vision of the school.

According to a document prepared for the orientation and on-boarding program by one of the founding board members of the school and current Business and Finance Director, Mr. Ken Miller, NCCS since 2003 has been an “A rated” school 12 times, earned a “B” three times and not been issued grades 2 years under administrators Dorie Miller and Beth Miller. Recently the school has slipped to being ranked 15th in the county and earned a grade of “C” for two consecutive years, prompting the Board to change Principals and hire Mr. Potter with the mandate to make sure students are learning and that test scores reflect that learning.

In his welcome letter to parents, Mr. Potter wrote “I feel blessed to have this opportunity! That said, I understand there is a lot of hard work ahead, as we together seek to fulfill the school’s philosophy and purpose, which is to ‘demonstrate that students can learn at high levels, through and academically rigorous and innovative curriculum that incorporates the development of good character.’ (p. 1 NCCS Inc. Charter renewal contract, dated 6/25/ 13).”

The newly formed Parent Involvement Committee will be working with Mr. Potter and the Board to plan a “Family Night” where parents of current and potential students can get to know Mr. Potter and learn more about the NCCS difference.

There will also be orientation sessions for would-be students and their families to explore if they wish to enter the lottery to fill open seats beginning in January 2023.

A list of all events and opportunities may be found on the North County Charter School website: <http://nccharter.org>

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