

HILLSBOROUGH EDUCATION FOUNDATION TOP GUN CAMPAIGN



THE FRIDAY REPORT

Friday, March 20, 2015

It is springtime and a time for new beginnings. At our most recent HEF Board Meeting this last Wednesday we had an opportunity to greet our new HCPS District Superintendent Jeff Eakins. He spoke about the directions where he will focus the attention of the School District as he takes the helm.

In his message to our Board he stressed the importance of student graduation rates which need to be improved. He emphasized the need to prepare students for not only graduation, but also for entrance into the workforce, for future technical training, or for college. Mr. Eakins was optimistic about the future of the School District with a renewed common dedication of teachers and employees to the mission of the education of our children. He wants to initiate a new spirit of cooperation within the District and with its partners in the community. He particularly emphasized the importance of working with our Foundation in the years ahead.

Also at this Board Meeting was the beginning of this year's Annual Board Excellence Campaign. Our campaign is one in which all Board members go out into the community to encourage their friends, families, and business associates to consider a donation to the work of the Hillsborough Education Foundation. "Top Gun" is this year's campaign theme, based on the Tom Cruise movie of the same name. The Board is divided into five teams to see which team will be the "Top Gun" in fundraising for the campaign. Tom "Maverick" Dorety and Phil "Goose" Jones reprised the main characters of the movie complete with flight suits, aviator glasses, and, of course, the "Top Gun" baseball caps to kick off the



campaign. The goal for this year's campaign is \$250,000, which will enable the Foundation to impact the lives of even more students and their teachers in the year ahead. Thanks go out to our team captains Royce "Piano Man" Reed, Chris "Bull" Taylor, Chas "Lone Wolf" Bruck, Sol "Sundown" Fleischman, and Andy "Ruach" Harris. These captains and their teams will be in the "Top Gun" competition until the winning team is announced at the Annual Board Thank You Dinner at the Airport Marriott with its rotating banquet room overlooking the takeoff and landing of jets at the Tampa International Airport.

Spring is a time in nature for new growth in the flora and fauna of our land. New beginnings are important in our lives also. In these new beginnings, we are encouraged, renewed, and inspired to new heights of personal satisfaction and service to our fellow human beings.

Happy springtime to each of you! May it be a season of good "new beginnings" for our Hillsborough County School District, our Foundation, and for each of you.

All the Best,

Phil