

1 **ISSUE # 1 – Virtual Educator Technology**

2 1. Article V – Working Conditions (New Section) Virtual Educators

3 *Shall Virtual Educators be provided with computer hardware, software, peripherals,*
4 *printers and internet access as all other classroom teachers paid for by the District?*

5 **MEA Position:** Virtual Educators should receive the same terms and conditions for computer hardware,
6 software, peripherals and internet access capabilities as all other bargaining unit members and should
7 not be required to purchase computer equipment and internet access. Any requirement that Virtual
8 Educators purchase equipment and internet access would essentially be a reduction in pay for
9 bargaining unit members assigned to these positions.

10 **MEA Proposal:**

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12 **ARTICLE V – WORKING CONDITIONS**

13 **Section “NEW” – Virtual Education Program Teachers**

- 14 a. Teachers employed as Virtual Education Program Teachers (eTech School) shall be
15 entitled to all provisions within the collective bargaining agreement unless specifically
16 modified within this section.
- 17
18 b. The work day for eTech School teachers shall be 7.5 hours each day. However, the hours
19 must be between seven in the morning (7:00 am) and seven in the evening (7:00 pm) and
20 may not be continuous. The work day shall include a duty free lunch period and no less
21 than one hour per day for planning during the 7.5 hour work day. Student contact will be
22 limited to the equivalent of 360 minutes per day. Teachers shall communicate their work
23 hours to the supervisor, students and parents.
- 24
25 c. Teachers shall not be required to work more than a 37.5 hour work week.
- 26
27 d. Teachers shall not be scheduled to work on paid holidays, Saturdays or Sundays.
- 28
29 e. Teachers will be granted scheduled inservice days and provided with information
30 regarding scheduled inservice programs so that they may participate in relevant programs
31 of their choice.
- 32
33 f. Teachers will be granted 3 record days as described in the approved district school year
34 calendar.
- 35
36 g. The District shall ensure that each eTech teachers have the necessary technology and
37 online access required to perform the requirements of the position including, but not
38 limited to, computer hardware and software, fax/printer hardware, fax and internet
39 connectivity, and materials and supplies.
- 40

1 h. Teachers shall receive inservice training related to the district and state program and
2 curricular requirements prior to any student contact.

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4 **MEA Rationale:** The District has decided to implement the eTech virtual education program and assign
5 or hire teachers to work in this program. MEA has proposed the above language to address salary,
6 benefits, hours, terms and conditions for these bargaining unit employees. During negotiations, the
7 District verbally stated that it had no objection to many of the provisions within this proposal. However,
8 the district has verbally stated that it was not interested in establishing the daily window expressed
9 above as “the hours must be between seven in the morning (7:00 am) and seven in the evening (7:00
10 pm)”. Without a specific time window it may be interpreted by students, parents and District
11 administration that teachers are effectively actively working at any time within the 24 hour day. MEA
12 contends this window would be appropriate to communicate to students and parents to ensure that
13 they are aware of the expectations of contact from teachers.

14 The District has also stated that the employee must provide the computer technology and internet
15 access as “a condition of employment.” MEA contends that these are appropriately addressed as
16 negotiations issues. MEA is proposing that “The District shall ensure that each eTech teachers have the
17 necessary technology and online access required to perform the requirements of the position including,
18 but not limited to, computer hardware and software, fax/printer hardware, fax and internet
19 connectivity, and materials and supplies.” In June of 2011, when the district first communicated to MEA
20 its intention to implement the eTech program, the communication noted that the District would provide
21 the necessary technology access for virtual educators. (Union Exhibit #1A) All other bargaining unit
22 teachers within the District are provided computer technology and daily access, while working, to the
23 District’s intranet through online access. MEA contends that Virtual Educators should receive the
24 technology and access to perform successfully as a District employee. To do otherwise would effectively
25 reduce the salary of Virtual Educators due to the expense of purchasing computer hardware,
26 peripherals, software, Printers, supplies and internet access.

27

Proposed Opening: August 2011

Goals:

- To provide opportunities for students who are no more than 1 year behind their cohort group to recover credits and get back on track for graduation
- To provide opportunities for over-aged middle school students to get back on track with their cohort group
- To provide opportunities for students to accelerate course work
- To provide opportunities for students to complete the online GED Preparation course
- To provide opportunities for home school students to access middle and high school courses
- To provide an opportunity for a summer program for students

Primary Target Population:

- Traditional public school students, including charter schools
- Private school students
- Home school students
- GED Preparation (over-aged students who want to earn a GED)
- Hospital Homebound Students (longer term)

Instructors:

eTech School of Manatee will use full-time as well as, part-time/adjunct teachers dependent on actual enrollment.

The district will ensure that each teacher is provided with (or have access to) a laptop computer and fax/printer.

Teachers pay will be based on the currently negotiated salary schedule. The average work day will be 7.5 hours. Teachers will be on call 8am – 8pm. Teachers will communicate their office hours to students and parents.

Projected Enrollment – Year One:

The projected enrollment for the 2011 – 2012 school year will be 125 students

Franchise Calendar:

The franchise calendar will follow a 180 day calendar as the normal school year. The Franchise would not be available for summer access.

Fees:

The district receives the full funding for any student enrolled in the school district franchise and pays the Florida Virtual \$50 per half credit

To Do's:

- Establish policies and procedures for the operation of the Franchise
- Complete a contract for services with Florida Virtual School
- Hire staff
- Participate in training from Florida Virtual School
- Others to be determined.