FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Woltanski donates unused campaign funds to local schools.**

Newly elected Monroe County School Board member, Sue Woltanski, has donated the majority of her unused campaign contributions to local schools. Woltanski was elected on June 22nd, at the end of the ballot qualifying period, when she remained unopposed in her District 5 race. She will assume her position on the School Board in November.

“I am grateful for the tremendous community support I received during my campaign and wanted to be sure my unused campaign funds were put to good use,” Woltanski stated.

As per 106.141, F.S., candidates are required to dispose of excess campaign contributions. She has donated her unused campaign contributions to local non-profits.

$1,000 was donated to Plantation Key School PTA, to be used to help fund “Science On a Sphere®” in the new school. Often seen in science centers, the NOAA website describes Science On a Sphere® as “a room sized, global display system that uses computers and video projectors to display planetary data onto a six foot diameter sphere, analogous to a giant animated globe.” NOAA researchers developed Science On a Sphere® as an educational tool to help illustrate Earth System science to people of all ages. “Once installed, Science On a Sphere will be a valuable learning tool for PKS students and I hope it will become a field trip destination that all Monroe County students can enjoy,” Woltanski said.

Another $1,000 was donated to Rotary Club of Key Largo Charitable Events to help fund the VPK wraparound program at Key Largo School. Voluntary Pre-K, or VPK, is a state funded pre-Kindergarten program.  The state currently funds 3 hours per day of Pre-K. Key Largo School's VPK wraparound program provides before and after care for children, making VPK more accessible for working families. Woltanski explained, “High quality childcare is scarce in the Upper Keys and I believe this program fills a vital need in our community. I believe public schools can and should serve as the center of their community; Key Largo School and this wraparound program provide a great example of a school serving its community's needs.”

She, also, donated $700 to the Upper Keys Band Boosters to help fund a new drum line for Coral Scores High School’s Marching Band. A few years ago, Coral Shores Marching Band’s drums were damaged and are in desperate need of replacement. Ms. Woltanski expressed her hope that the community will join her in supporting performing arts and the rebuilding of CSHS’s Marching Band.

Finally, she donated $300 to Treasure Village Montessori PTO to support their arts programming.

Individuals interested to donating to these projects should contact the schools directly.

For more information about Science On a Sphere®: <https://sos.noaa.gov/What_is_SOS/>

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