

For Immediate Release

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Collier Schools  
Superintendent  
Kamela Patton the  
Triple Dipper Queen  
with a Cash Bonus of  
\$685,655 and salary  
of \$245,672 plus



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### **255 new jobs created if Collier Schools says goodbye to 255 retired Triple Dippers earning a paycheck and pension to do the same job!**

“Will the Collier School District pass up on the opportunity to hire 255 future employees by keeping on the District payroll 255 retired employees collecting retirement checks and a salary to do the same job?” asked Ms. Sandy Doyle, a Naples Resident and Taxpayer advocate since 1990. “Every year when I look at my property tax bill, just over half is for the Collier School District.”

[The names, titles, salaries and cash bonuses](#) of 255 Collier County School Employees who are receiving \$36 million<sup>1</sup> of cash bonuses just for showing up to work and collecting \$16.5 million<sup>2</sup> in salaries to do the same job at the same time, and are the only public employees who don't pay 3% of their salary into the Florida Pension system. See [www.tripledippers.org](http://www.tripledippers.org)

“The American unemployment rate is now the worst America has seen since the Great Depression<sup>3</sup>. **We call upon the Collier County School Board to simply not renew the contracts of these “retired” triple dippers and give 255 of our unemployed taxpayers a chance at these jobs**” said Ron Pure, Chairman of Taxpayers Action Group.

All Collier County School employees work under one year contracts which expire June 30 each year, (except for Superintendent Kamela Patton's, \$245,672 a year, three- year contract plus \$7,800 yearly car allowance, 30 paid vacation days, six paid conventions a year, cell phone \$175 per month, plus benefits<sup>4</sup>). **Note:** Superintendent Patton **failed to increase student achievement scores in 8 categories**, including one objective to increase the math scores by only 1% point for students in 3<sup>rd</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> grades.

“Collier public schools are failing 40% of our 47,000+ students who cannot read or write at grade level on National tests. These are largely the low income and minority students. With COVID-19, up to 40% of parents are seriously considering homeschooling. CCPS needs to up the quality and stops wasting money,” said Keith Flaugh, Director Florida Citizens' Alliance. <https://floridacitizensalliance.com/liberty/>

<sup>1</sup> Excel Sheet attached from Florida Department of Management Services, subset of entire State DROP employees provided by **Tamara Austin** [Tamara.Austin@dms.myflorida.com](mailto:Tamara.Austin@dms.myflorida.com)

<sup>2</sup> Collier County Schools Public Records Request finally emailed May 22, 2020 by Leanne Zinser, Supervisor, Communications & Community Engagement [ZinserLe@collierschools.com](mailto:ZinserLe@collierschools.com)

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.bls.gov/news.release/pdf/empst.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.naplesnews.com/story/news/education/2019/07/31/collier-county-school-board-extends-superintendent-contract-after-evaluation/1876620001/>



“Only 110/255 approximately 43% of the Collier Schools DROP (Deferred Retirement Option Program) Triple Dippers are traditional Classroom teachers”, noted Dave Jaye, of the Taxpayers Action Group, who conducted the analysis of data provided by Collier County Schools and the Florida Department of Management Services. **“Over 75% of the Triple Dippers 193/255 collect a salary above the Collier County average of \$48,000<sup>5</sup>.** Replacing the 255 Triple Dipping Collier School Employees with freshly trained and newly educated entry level people would **save taxpayers approximately \$20.1 million each year without cutting a single School job<sup>6</sup>!**

This \$20.1 Million savings by replacing Triple Dippers is the best reason to vote NO on the \$34.3 million school operating budget tax increase on August 18, 2020. Collier School Bureaucrats are robbing the children’s piggy bank, the capital budget, which by law is required to be spent on buildings like the scheduled \$100 Million new High School, building renovations, computers and safety improvements, not operating funds which are approximately 80% for salaries!”

“No responsible family nor business nor homeowners Association would ever transfer money saved for a new roof, new elevator, a new car, a new AC or college education to the daily living expenses. Collier Schools has a spending problem having raised taxes in 2019, has \$290 M surplus/reserve, and \$41.8 M Debt with only a 1.4% student increase<sup>7</sup>. Collier Schools should privatize non academic services including cooks, bus drivers, secretaries, driver’s education just like Duval Schools and many Charter Schools. Collier Schools privatized janitor services in 2008 saving approximately \$5 million a year<sup>8</sup>” noted Ron Pure.

“These 255 over-paid, most over 65 years old school “retirees” also receive supplemental pay, cashing out of unused days at highest salary, not salary when days were earned and some get take home cars”. Eleven Triple Dippers collect cash bonus over \$300,00 and 155 receive a cash bonus over \$100,000, just for showing up to work!”

“The cherry on the top of these Triple Dippers is since these “Public Servant “Retirees” can afford to delay Social Security which then increases 8% per year to age 70”, reported Ron Pure.

“The Collier Schools Triple Dippers include many dead weight, none core mission employees including 4 bus drivers and 2 *bus Managers*, 7 cooks, and incredibly a plumber! There are 16 “retired” secretaries/clerks/office managers, most taking a salary of over \$35,000 plus cash bonuses. The highest cash bonus of \$132,808 will be taken by “retired” Elementary School Office Manager who is also taking a salary of \$52,444. Most private businesses use personal computers, not overpaid Secretaries!”

After the Triple Dipper Queen Kamela Patton, **the next highest cash bonuses are:**

**\$395,020** to Michele Antonia **Advisor Workforce Education!** taking a **salary \$92,413**  
**\$390,341** to Charles Frontz, Admin Director School Operations taking a **salary \$140,879**  
**\$353,044** to Terri Lonneman, Elementary School Principal, taking a salary **\$113,454**

<sup>5</sup> [https://www.payscale.com/research/US/Employer=Collier\\_County/City/Naples-FL](https://www.payscale.com/research/US/Employer=Collier_County/City/Naples-FL)

<sup>6</sup> See tripledippers.org and Collier Schools compensation schedule. There will be an increase for School year starting August 2020

<sup>7</sup> <file:///E:/Documents/Florida%20issues/Collier%20County%20Schools/FY20%20Final%20Budget%20Book-Part%201.pdf>

<sup>8</sup> <http://archive.naplesnews.com/community/collier-superintendent-to-recommend-outsourcing-janitors-to-familiar-company-ep-401573710-332405332.html/>



“Before becoming Triple Dippers, Collier Schools Senior Managers were paid 25.41% of their salary into their retirement compared to 8.67% employer (taxpayer) pension payments for teachers and other regular employees<sup>9</sup>” said Dave Jaye.

“The Deferred Retirement **Option** Program (DROP)<sup>10</sup> allows School Districts and government units *the option* to allow employees at age 65 to “retire” then after 30 days come back to work and collect a pension and paycheck at the same time to do the same job!” (with at least 8 years of service or 33 years of service, regardless of age)<sup>11</sup>.

“Due to the growing, outrageous public retiree pension and health liability, the Employer salary match (taxpayer paid) of DROP public employee pensions increased to 14.60%<sup>12</sup> compared to teachers who receive 8.67%. Today, Collier County Schools would save over \$201.1 million a year in costs without cutting a single position! Florida Taxpayers and students are on the hook to pay \$40 billion in unfunded public pensions and retiree health care<sup>13</sup>. The unfunded public pension and retiree health care liability is a \$7,100 liability for every man, woman and child in Florida, much more with the huge drop in the US Stock market.

“Replacing Retired Triple Dippers would also save Florida Taxpayers an additional **\$834,635** since Retired Triple Dippers **are the only Florida public employees receiving a salary who don’t pay 3% of salary to support their pensions** just like every other public employee must do since 2011,” said Ron Pure.

“Collecting a pension and huge salary at the same time is abusing the taxpayers and denying \$20.1 million a year of services for Collier students,” noted Ron Pure. “It has been 40 years or longer since these Triple Dipping school bureaucrats earned their College degrees. Many of the 16 Triple Dipping Retired Secretaries, Clerks Typists and etc. didn’t even earn more than a High School Diploma!”

“Students, employers and 255 unemployed taxpayers in Collier County would hugely benefit from having fresh, newly educated and trained entry level employees. Think about how much technology, finances, business and training has changed over the last 10 years and many of these Collier School Bureaucrat Triple Dippers haven’t been in college since 1978! Not renewing the contracts of these 255 Collier School Triple Dippers “retirees” would be good for the Triple Dippers, students, employers and taxpayers and 255 unemployed Collier County workers,” observed Ron Pure.

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**Note:** “Collier County School District was the only Collier County governmental entity that fought our requests for the Public list of their Triple Dippers employees. We had to file a complaint with the State Attorney General’s office to obtain Collier School’s Triple Dipper list! Sunshine laws are the best disinfectant for the financial abuse of School Children and Taxpayers”, observed Dave Jaye.

<sup>9</sup> Tamara Austin | Operations and Pension Analyst Retirement 850-414-6345 [Tamara.Austin@dms.myflorida.com](mailto:Tamara.Austin@dms.myflorida.com)

<sup>10</sup> <https://uwf.edu/media/university-of-west-florida/offices/hr/documents/DROPques.pdf>

<sup>11</sup> <https://myfrsguide.com/drop-info/>

<sup>12</sup> [https://www.dms.myflorida.com/workforce\\_operations/retirement/employers/contribution\\_rates](https://www.dms.myflorida.com/workforce_operations/retirement/employers/contribution_rates)

<sup>13</sup> <https://reason.org/commentary/with-debt-and-unfunded-liabilities-growing-floridas-pension-system-still-need-reform/>