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500 new jobs created if Lee Schools says good bye to 500 retired Triple Dippers earning a paycheck and pension to do the same job!

“Will the Lee School District pass up on the opportunity to hire 500 future employees by keeping on the District payroll 500 retired employees collecting retirement checks and a salary to do the same job?” asked Dr. Alberto Rodriguez, former Lee School District Administrator.

Attached are the names and titles of 500 Lee County School Employees who are receiving \$58.7 million¹ of cash bonuses just for showing up to work and collecting \$27.8 million² 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.

“The American unemployment rate is now 14.7%, the worst America has seen since the Great Depression³. **We call upon the Lee County School Board to simply not renew the contracts of these “retired” triple dippers and give 500 of our unemployed taxpayers a chance at these jobs**” said Ron Pure, Chairman of Taxpayers Action Group. All Lee County School employees work under one year contracts, (except for Greg Adkins', \$209,057 a year, three- year contract plus \$21,000 a year retirement supplement⁴).

“Only 134/500 approximately 27% of Drop Double Dippers are traditional Classroom teachers”, noted Dave Jaye, of the Taxpayers Action Group, who conducted the analysis of data provided by Lee County Schools and the Florida Department of Management Services. “Twenty one of these Triple Dipper “Public Servants” collect over \$100,000 salaries. Over 71% of the Triple Dippers 358/500 collect a salary above the Lee County Average of \$45,000⁵. Replacing the 500 Triple Dipping Lee School Employees with freshly trained and newly educated entry level people would **save taxpayers approximately \$22.6 million each year without cutting a single School job**⁶! These 500 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”.

“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”, noted Ron Pure. TAG will shortly release the

¹ Excel Sheet attached from Florida Department of Management Services, subset of entire State DROP employees provided by **Tamara Austin** Tamara.Austin@dms.myflorida.com

² Lee County Schools Public Records Request 20-462

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

⁴ <https://www.news-press.com/story/news/education/2018/06/05/lee-county-school-board-approves-new-contract-superintendent/672249002/>

⁵ https://www.payscale.com/research/US/Employer=Lee_County/Salary

⁶ The starting pay, step increases and final pay of all positions is listed online, for 2019, there will be an increase for School year starting August 2020 <https://www.leeschools.net/cms/one.aspx?portalId=676305&pageId=3025964>



methodology for saving approximately \$22.6 million by replacing DROP Triple Dippers with 500 unemployed Lee County Taxpayers including supporting documents and an updated website, tripleddippers.org.

The Lee Schools Triple Dippers include many dead weight, none core mission employees including 7 bus drivers, 14 janitors, 5 cooks, 7 Clerk Typists, 5 book keepers, 6 bus attendants and incredibly **a messenger/courier!** There are 72 “retired” secretaries, most taking a salary of over \$52,000 plus cash bonuses. The highest paid “retired” Secretary is Mark Morehead, Driver Education secretary taking a \$71,404 salary and cash bonus of \$280,484! Most private businesses use personal computers, not overpaid Secretaries!”

“The highest paid Lee Schools Triple Dipper is Melissa Robery, **one of two ‘Turn Around School’ Principals** taking a salary of \$121,917 a year **plus a cash bonus of \$273,403!** **The highest cash bonuses are \$353,999 to Charles Bradley (Salary \$110,670) \$327,919 Edward Konowal (salary \$97,267) and David Larosa \$321,512 (Salary \$117,169)**” noted Dave Jaye. “Before becoming Triple Dippers, Lee Schools Senior Managers were paid 25.41% of their salary into their retirement compared to 8.47% employer (taxpayer) pension payments for teachers and other regular employees⁷. Taxpayers also pay another 1.72% of salaries for retirement health care.

“Replacing DROP employees with freshly trained, entry level employees means that Lee Schools could have avoided borrowing \$25 million on September 12, 2018 to pay for Hurricane Irma related damages,⁸” noted Ron Pure, Chairman of TAG. “The decision to borrow \$25 million rather than end the DROP Triple Dipper program is another example of the poor management decisions the 2018 the Lee County School Board and School Bureaucrats. The Deferred Retirement **Option Program (DROP)**⁹ 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)¹⁰.

“A detailed research project started by TAG back in June 28, 2018 showed that Lee Schools could have saved \$21 million by replacing these over paid, over the hill Employees with freshly educated and trained entry level employees,” observed Dave Jaye. “Now the savings are estimated to be \$22.6 Million. “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%¹¹ compared to teachers who receive 8.67%. Today, Lee County Schools would save over \$22.6 million a year in costs without cutting a single position! Taxpayers and students are on the hook to pay \$40 billion in unfunded public pensions and retiree

⁷ Tamara Austin | Operations and Pension Analyst Retirement 850-414-6345 Tamara.Austin@dms.myflorida.com

⁸ <https://www.news-press.com/story/news/education/2018/09/12/lee-county-school-board-borrow-25-m-cover-storm-related-expenses/1276692002/>

⁹ <https://uwf.edu/media/university-of-west-florida/offices/hr/documents/DROPques.pdf>

¹⁰ <https://myfrsguide.com/drop-info/>

¹¹ https://www.dms.myflorida.com/workforce_operations/retirement/employers/contribution_rates



health care. 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 30% drop in 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. “Further, the Lee County School Board shifted their personal responsibility to the taxpayer after it voted itself and every Lee School employee an unscheduled 3% pay raise in 2011 right after the Florida lawmakers passed the first time ever requirement that public employees contribute 3% of salary into their pension program.”

“Collecting a pension and huge salary at the same time is abusing the taxpayers and denying \$22.6 million a year of services for Lee students,” noted Ron Pure. “It has been 40 years or longer since these Triple Dipping school bureaucrats earned their College degrees. Many of the 40 Double Dipping Retired Secretaries, Clerk Typists and Clerks didn’t even earn more than a High School Diploma!”

“Students, employers and 500 unemployed taxpayers 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 Lee School Bureaucrat Triple Dippers haven’t been in college since 1978! Not renewing the contracts of these 500 Lee School Triple Dippers “retirees” would be good for the Triple Dippers, students, employers and taxpayers and 500 unemployed Lee County workers,” observed Ron Pure.

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