

THE INFORMED DEMOCRAT OF SWFL



Update from *The Purple Group*

By Maddie Stewart

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It may be hot and humid, but The Purple Group is still busy advocating for public education, students, parents and teachers in Lee County. Are you feeling energized, maybe even hopeful, after attending the recent rallies but looking for a consistent, productive way to “get into good trouble?”

Read on to see what we're up to and then [contact us](#) via our [Facebook The Purple Group Lee County, Florida](#) or at MVSTEWART16@aol.com for more information on how you can contribute your ideas and energy.

We are NOW active at both monthly SDLC School Board Meetings:

- Board Workshops: 3rd Tuesday of the month, 1pm. Public comment at the end of the meeting.
- Board Action Meetings: 3rd Tuesday of the month, 6pm. Public Comment at the beginning of the meeting.

These regularly scheduled public forums, open to all, offer an opportunity to listen and learn from discussions among Superintendent, Staff and Board members and, then, speak out during public comment on the important issues before them. *Meet us before the meeting to plan your statement or just come and be present for teachers, parents and students.*

Where: School District Offices, 2855 Colonial Blvd, Ft. Myers 33966.

Go to: [LeeSchools.net](#), click on School Board header to sign up for reminders of meetings and see the agendas beforehand.

Issues we are focusing on right now include:

- Teacher contracts and fair pay for all. Negotiations resume in August.
- What's happening with Books in our schools? If books are removed from a teacher's classroom library or the school library they are, in effect, banned because students do not have free, easy access to them. We need more information on what will be available for teaching and learning come August.

In the wider Lee Community:

When we learned that ICE could come into our schools with a legally executed warrant and talk to minor students WITHOUT any adult present, we took action. Our leadership team created and is distributing a Student Rights Card to educate students and their families about the rights ALL persons living in the US have no matter their immigration status. The card is a guide not only to your rights but to what an officer might ask and a possible way to respond. These cards are being distributed throughout the county by those canvassing in precincts, through resiliency hubs, food pantries, at churches, and more. Click below to see the card.

DO you have ideas of other outlets for this vital information? Contact us! Print out the cards and share it with anyone you know or anyone who may know someone who is in danger of being picked up by ICE.

Join Us on [Facebook!](#) Learn more! Stand up for Public Schools, Students, Parents, and Educators!