

Randy,

In all my 11 years as a teacher in Key West, you and the staff under your guidance have always given and done whatever it takes to create a successful school and learning community. Thank you for all that you do each and every day, sometimes under the most unusual of circumstances.

I don't know if you remember this moment, but it is permanently pressed into my memory. To this day I still tell the story of 3 years ago, just after Wilma, when I stood outside of the old Poinciana school building. The storm had past days ago and families were trying to pull their lives back together. You rallied the troops and brought any of those among us who could get back to work, and we got the schools open. The idea was to help the kids have a safe, dry place to learn, and to provide families with the time they needed to regroup. But low and behold on that morning the skies opened again, and the ground just swelled up with rain. The saturated street flooded once more, and the waters ran all the way up to schools door step.

Families got to the school by any means they had, but just could not get to our doors and dry ground. The children, their families and the school were separated by a river of water. It was at that moment that I felt overwhelming pride to be a part of the Monroe County School System. A few of the teachers, such as Betty Shapiro and me had started to carry the children into the school, through the waters. And before I knew it there we were, teachers and administrators together, caring children through the flooded streets, from cars and their parent's arms, to safety. It was hard work and the children were scared, but they were also happy to be back at school. At one point you turned to me, checking in to see how I was doing, and with a nod and understanding smile you said proudly, "***Whatever it Takes.***" Inspired, I stood side by side with you, other teachers and other administrators and we continued to carry the children through those waters for 2 ½ hours.

It has been the moments like this that I have experienced over recent years that make me very proud of my school community, and been a force that drives my love of teaching.

Thanks to you for all that you do for our community. Thank you for doing whatever it takes to keep this community of leaders and learners strong. Your message and motivation is inspiring, and I am proud to stand side by side with you in most any storm.

Be safe, and take care.

Seana Cameron