

Pete Gorman

March 26: A loss and some gains

(excerpted paragraphs pertaining to equity)

On Friday, we had the last budget workshop with the Board. I think we're getting close to developing the budget we'll formally bring to the Board. But it's important to remember that the budget that will be brought to the Board for approval may not be the budget for next year. We still have to get approval from the Board of County Commissioners.

Throughout the budget process, the most discussion has focused on equity. What is equity? That question prompted me to look for a Board definition of equity. I found it -- we have a Board-endorsed definition of equity. It's important to keep in mind that this definition was endorsed by the Board but not adopted by the Board. The definition reads, "equity is the condition in which each student is able to realize his/her full potential for academic achievement, individual performance and personal success."

The definition is an interesting one because in most cases, people tend to view equity as an issue affecting students who are performing below grade level or are in poverty. However, equity affects everybody because the definition says that every student should reach full potential.

So an answer to the question "which programs deal with equity?" depends on how you define it. If equity is helping all students reach full potential, then all the items in the budget deal with equity.