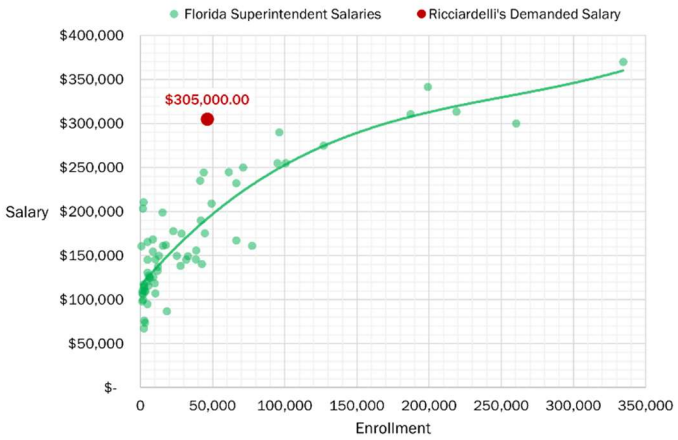
DEBUNKING THE MYTH:

"This salary is in line with other superintendents across the state."



At the last Collier County School Board meeting, the Board offered incoming superintendent Dr. Leslie Ricciardelli a salary of $285,000, in addition to up to $15,000 in performance incentives. Ricciardelli rejected the offer and countered with a request for a salary of $305,000 with no performance incentives. When questions were raised about this sky-high price tag, School Board Member Stephanie Lucarelli claimed that the requested salary was in line with other superintendents across the state. We investigated this claim by collecting and analyzing superintendent salaries from all of Florida, along with data on how many students were enrolled in each superintendent's jurisdiction. The chart above displays that data. Clearly, Ricciardelli's demanded salary is unprecedentedly high.

"A $305,000 salary is in line with other superintendents across the state of Florida."

FACT CHECK:

FALSE

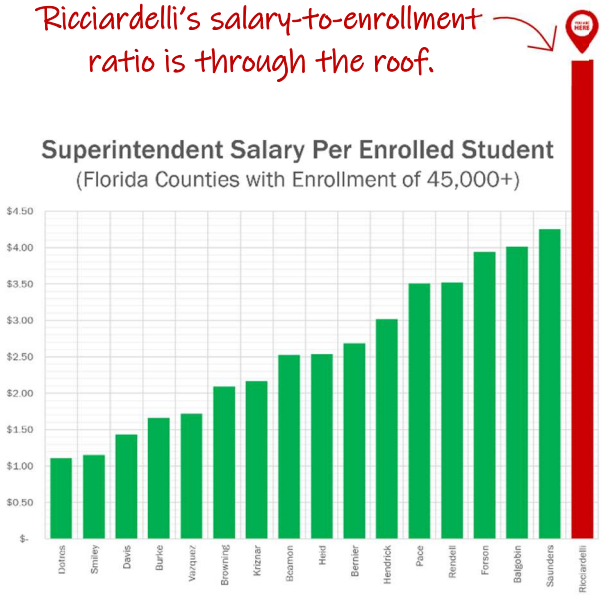
THE FACTS:

For Ricciardelli's salary to be "in line" with districts with similar enrollments throughout Florida, it would need to be decreased to $191,104, according to a regression model.

Ricciardelli is requesting to be the 5th-highest paid superintendent in Florida, despite Collier County only having the 16th-highest enrollment in the state.

All five Florida superintendents who currently make $300,000/year or more oversee counties with enrollments more than four times higher than Collier County's.

The average superintendent salary for Florida counties with enrollment of 40,000-50,000 (like Collier County) is $199,084.



Trust the data.

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