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PENSACOLA PNJ.COM
News Journal

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Santa Rosa's student ID card proposal fails

Board members say parents raised safety, security concerns

Mary Lett

Pensacola News Journal
USA TODAY NETWORK - FLORIDA

Student ID cards will not be coming to Santa Rosa County schools next fall. The proposal failed after Santa Rosa County District Schools Supt. Karen

Barber recommended approval of a policy that would allow the district to institute student identification cards that students would be required to wear on lanyards throughout the school day and at school-sponsored events..

Santa Rosa School Board Chair Carol Boston made a motion to approve the recommendation at the Thursday meeting, but it failed to get a second and never went to a vote.

Board members Elizabeth Hewey and Linda Sanborn said they had been

contacted by parents who were concerned about the safety and security of the ID cards, which would have been issued to all K-12 students.

"Not a single parent has contacted me to say that it's a good idea," Sanborn said.

Boston said the feedback she had received from school districts that implemented student ID cards was that it was effective.

The school board discussed the potential to adopt ID cards at its April

meeting and later held a public hearing on the issue. The school board postponed voting on the ID cards until its May meeting over concerns and questions from parents about the use of ID cards.

Travis Fulton, SRCDS director of purchasing who also oversees transportation, said in his presentation on Thursday night that the ID cards would be encrypted and would include only student

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Dominick Bianchi shows off his musical chops while fellow musicians, Tripp Tapley, Joseph Ahearn, Sophia Thomas, and Tony Aninon look on during an exhibition on May 11. PHOTOS BY TONY GIBERSON/PENSACOLA NEWS JOURNAL

88 KEYS TO SUCCESS

Gulf Breeze piano students, ages 8 through 11, to play Carnegie Hall

Troy Moon

Pensacola News Journal
USA TODAY NETWORK - FLORIDA

While Pensacola's Keyla Richardson was competing in front of the world on the "American Idol" stage on May 11, five cool kids from Santa Rosa County were at the Minds On Music on Gulf Breeze Parkway doing press and posing for photos in anticipation of their own big day on stage.

And what a stage.

The five children, ages 8 through 11, will perform at the world-renowned Carnegie Hall in New York City on June 10. The young pianists won the chance to perform on perhaps music's grandest stage through their high finishes at the recent Gulf Coast Steinway Music Competition XI, which featured young



Mind on Music students Thomas, Bianchi, Tapley, Aninon, and Ahearn are traveling to New York City to perform at the legendary Carnegie Hall in early summer.

See STUDENTS, Page 2A

DeSantis: Speaker thwarting his agenda

Governor blames Perez for rejected legislation

Ana Goñi-Lessan

News Service of Florida
USA TODAY NETWORK

Gov. Ron DeSantis has grown frustrated at pieces of his agenda being thwarted by the GOP-led House, and lashed out at Speaker Daniel Perez on May 14.

"When you have people that got elected on our back, like the speaker of the House, get in and do the opposite of what the voters expected us to do, I'm going to call that out," DeSantis said during an event to unveil a statue of James Madison in Madison County. "I'm going to let people know that that's what he's doing."

The comments came two weeks after the House rejected DeSantis' push to pass bills to expand vaccine exemptions for children entering public schools and to install consumer-friendly regulations on artificial intelligence products and companies.

Moreover, lawmakers are engaged in budget negotiations, where the House is refusing to fund several of DeSantis' priorities.

In the latest round of budget offers the evening of May 14, the House didn't include money for two programs championed by First Lady Casey DeSantis — a cancer research innovation fund and a food testing program.

Rep. Alex Andrade, R-Pensacola, the House's lead health care budget negotiator, said he hadn't seen any justification for the \$30 million the Senate wants to put into the cancer research fund, noting the budget already includes \$60 million for existing cancer research programs.

"I'd need to see exactly what that additional funding would do to increase any funding for cancer research, but we do have significant amounts of money in both the House and Senate right now for cancer

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