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**METHOD**

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referendum go on the March ballot.

"That took on a life of its own," said Elswick, whose husband is again heading up the political action committee endorsing the appointed superintendent. "That distracted everyone. It became an issue of what kind of voter turnout we would have in March. Would people be disenfranchised? That was a real problem."

Elswick said she has talked to many people, and they all say it has a better chance of approval this fall because of the contentious relationship the board has had with Superintendent Anna Cowin.

"There are still people in the community who say, 'You'll never convince me to give up my ability to vote,'" Elswick said. "But we see this as a chance to hire a highly quali-

fied superintendent. We feel like it's worth it."

People can change School Board members every two years. But they can only change the superintendent every four years.

Board member Scott Strong agrees the appointed superintendent referendum stands a better chance this year, but not because of the often-acrimonious relationship between the board and superintendent.

"It's a more thoughtful process based on their qualifications," said Strong, who has led the board's effort to develop a process to appoint a superintendent. "It's not a popularity contest. Maybe the best person is not running for superintendent. Maybe he or she isn't even in the state."

With elected superintendents, people are often forced to pick the lesser of two or three less-than-appealing choices, Strong said.

As for herself, Cowin said she supports the appointed superintendent referendum.

But she said there's a problem with the state laws on the issue.

"The elected superintendent comes in with an agenda; so do the board members," Cowin said. Frequently, those agendas differ, she said.

Additionally, she said, only one superintendent in the past 40 years has served more than one term.

**RENTING**

Continued from Page 7

facility, he said, but that doesn't bother him. The congregation's arrangement suits him just fine — for now. Planting more permanent roots is a longer-term goal. The congregation is hoping to buy land, and eventually build on it. He said as the church becomes more established and when the time is right, it will happen easily.

South Lake Charter School charges roughly \$1,000 per month for the use of its facilities. Anderson said it would cost more to have a full-time location, but it would save time each week. The curtains, sound system, chairs and other supplies must be set up before each service, and cleared away before the congregation calls it a day.

"It's always nice to have a place to call home, but the longer we're here, creating spiritual experiences, the more special we become in the hearts of everyone who gathers here," said Anderson. "As people begin to share and experience their own personal spirituality, the place will begin to take on a character that is more meaningful to them."

"It will become the special place those people will associate with their experiences."

**E-COMP**

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levels, then measuring how much each student improves.

"We want to make sure every teacher has an equal opportunity to qualify for bonus money and want to make sure it really is value-neutral," Boyd said.

Some teachers, though, still have concerns regarding the plan's fairness and how it might affect the atmosphere within a school.

"It (E-comp plan) will not bring teachers closer together," Gathman said. "In fact, I think it will make them more competitive and secretive with each other. Nobody is going to want to share their good ideas for getting their students ready for the FCATs because they will be competing against one another for the raises."

According to Boyd, only 10 percent of FCAT-tested teachers in the state will be chosen as qualifiers for more money, although literature regarding the program indicates that 10 percent is only the minimum number of teachers who must be rewarded, and that districts may choose to reward a larger number if they wish.

And according to that same literature, state officials expect \$55 million in bonuses to be handed out statewide in 2006-07, up from \$12.6 million in 2004-05.

The Department of Education has said that it will work with groups of content-area experts to measure student achievement when evaluating the performance of non-FCAT teachers.

Many teachers agree on the plan will bring stress not only to them, but also to their students.

"Our livelihood and well-being is suffering and our stress carries over to the kids," said Gathman. "And that we are supposed to teach an entire year's worth of learning by February (when the FCAT is given) is not very fair for the students."

Although the plan still needs legislative approval, the state appears to have its work cut out for it in convincing teachers of the plan's benefits.

"I don't see how they are going to smooth it out and make it fair for everyone," said Jennifer Johnston, another of Mascotte's fourth-grade teachers.

Johnston said she cannot fathom how state officials will justify the pay when there are teachers who have regular classes and others who teach in specialized areas such as special education or physical education.

Johnston also said that trying to ensure all FCAT curriculum is covered will only add to teachers' already crammed lesson plans.

"Cramming to that degree not only puts stress on the teachers but takes away from the students' learning," Johnston said. "They stop learning for the sheer enjoyment of learning."

"That shouldn't be," she said.

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**SINAI**

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Schlaver said the idea for the Clermont congregation was born out of the home of a close friend and Executive Vice President of the congregation, Gwen Levy. She and her last husband Mel invited 10 people who were interested in a Clermont congregation to their home in King's Ridge to discuss how to make it happen. Soon they had a meeting place and plans were in the works to buy their property for a new building.

It has always been something of a struggle for Schlaver to attend a temple. She grew up in Miami, where there were not many synagogues. She said her family only had one car so it was hard to travel at night. When she moved to Clermont years ago she found that the nearest synagogue was still miles away but she did have means to travel. The thought of having her very own temple to attend that is close to her home is something that is very exciting for Schlaver.

For now, the people who attend temple at the Jenkins Civic Auditorium try to transform it into a place of worship as much as they can, with the traditions they bring from home.