

## MESSAGE FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Jim Warford, Executive Director

Last week FASA President, Dr. Marie Wright, and I attended the October meeting of the Tampa Bay Area Coalition of School Administrators at the invitation of Dr. John Miliziano, HASA Executive Director. Also attending was FASA Legislative Committee Chairperson, Wendy Dodge, who spoke about the importance of lobbying at the local level prior to FASA's Legislative Days set for January 10-12 in Tallahassee.

Wendy briefed the Coalition members on current issues and listened as members identified the Coalition's top five legislative priorities for the 2010 session. The issues are prioritized as follows:

1. Repeal or adjustment to the Class Size amendment
2. Delay any new high school graduation requirements
3. DROP for administrators
4. Local control of school start times
5. Provide FRS benefits to families of deceased employees

By email, surveys, and our website, FASA has been gathering input from members and local associations throughout the state for our 2010 Legislative Platform. A complete draft is going to the FASA Board for final approval this week. We will be distributing the 2010 Legislative Platform next week and provide you talking points for all issues and be watching for a new series of FASA Video Updates on important legislative issues.

In addition, Dr. Marie Wright and I both spoke about the importance of local administrator associations and I asked that John Miliziano lead a session during FASA Legislative Days for the purpose of trying to come up with a method of grouping local associations into regions, for the purpose of providing representation on the FASA Board for local associations.

During these difficult budget times, it is more important than ever before that we work together throughout out state to speak with one voice about the importance of Florida's public schools. Many important decisions will soon be made. School leaders must be at the table and our voices must be heard!

Have a great day!

Jim Warford