

HILLSBOROUGH ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS

April 8, 2002

Minutes

Present: Fred Andrews, Nuri Ayres, Ed Ballas, Connie Hayden-McPeak, Ina Helmick, Judy Kennedy, Brenda Kearse, Jean Leone, John Miliziano, Brenda Nolte, Bill Orr, Pat Smith, Don Sorondo, Peter Russo, Ken Otero, Tee Solomon, Mark West, and Mari McBryar.

President Mark West called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM.

A. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORTS:

I. Secretary - Sandy Bunkin:

In the absence of the Secretary, Mark West asked the Board to review the minutes of the March 2002 meeting. The minutes were adopted with no changes.

II. Treasurer – Nelson Luis

In the absence of the Treasurer, Mark West asked the Board to review the monthly financial report. No corrections were made and the March 2002 report will be filed for audit. Mr. West asked the Board if they wanted to continue with the ad in the School District of Hillsborough County calendar. Judy Kennedy made a motion to recommend that the ad be continued. Connie Hayden-McPeak seconded it and the motion carried.

III. Membership Report – Nuri Ayres

Nuri Ayres reviewed the membership report, noting that one new retired member had been added. Four members have retired from the school district, and several non-members recently received promotions to Assistant Principal I positions.

IV. President’s Report – Mark West

Mark West gave a report on the outcome of the March Superintendent’s Roundtable. Both he and Dr. Miliziano have received correspondence concerning the change in the work year for APIs at the middle school level (12-month to 11-month). Much discussion ensued and Board members made comments and asked questions that included the following:

- ✓ The recent four-day cut to the work year of all 12-month employees makes this a double hit for the APIs.
- ✓ Those APs in the five-year window right now will be financially affected by this cut for the rest of their lives.
- ✓ There are rumors of reinstating summer school next year once the APs are already changed to 11-month employees.
- ✓ Why target \$300,000 now? Vacation time payoffs alone will negate any savings.
- ✓ The timing of this budget cut is bad; it seems very similar to what happened to Elementary APs last year.
- ✓ A perception exists that this cut leans toward “elementary versus middle school” arguments.
- ✓ Why weren’t senior high APIs made 11 months?

Pat Smith mentioned to the Board that, by a recent state directive, 3500 students would be involved in FCAT testing over the summer. Also, Adult Education will be offering programs that seniors need to graduate, and Hillsborough County will be graduating 500 seniors even without traditional summer school. APIIs at the high school level will be coordinating those efforts. In addition to those programs occurring in the summer, there will also be SAT Prep, online courses, fee-based camps, etc. Her point was that summer school is not being totally shut down.

Judy Kennedy noted that the HASA Board needs to respond from a united standpoint. She likened this cut to a slap in the face to our future administrators. It was mentioned that more cuts of this nature are expected in the near future, that APIs will not be the only group affected. A suggestion was also made to establish a window of time for registration, not open registration all summer. This would give the principals needed time to take care of other pressing tasks such as interviewing new teachers for the upcoming year.

It was agreed that Dr. Miliziano would speak one on one to the Superintendent about the Board's concerns regarding this issue.

Executive Director's Report – John Miliziano

Dr. Miliziano asked for suggestions regarding possible articles for the April newsletter. He mentioned the Retirement Benefits information that was published in the March newsletter; more research needs to be done and shared with legislators regarding the FRS surplus. The Legislative Benefits Committee will focus more on this type of research in the coming weeks.

Dr. Miliziano suggested that HASA begin to think about becoming involved in a function for the Governor's Race. The Tampa Bay Area Coalition will be meeting on the 16th and may try to come up with an event for the candidates to speak. HAPE could possibly be involved, as well as other organizations.

Dr. Miliziano asked Holland and Knight LLP to give an opinion on the retirement benefits bills that went before the legislature. He informed the Board that the state charges counties a fee to administer the FRS program and that the surplus is indeed large. Pat Smith mentioned that the FASA Legislative Summary predicts the fund to increase even larger in the near future.

Dr. Miliziano questioned the \$500 that HASA contributed last year toward the Education Foundation scholarship; was the scholarship awarded? If not, where is that \$500? Discussion ensued that seemed to determine the scholarship was not awarded last year. This issue will be researched. Also, Mike Smith of the Foundation has expressed an interest in matching additional scholarships, thereby enhancing the scholarship program. Mr. Smith also mentioned that the Foundation was applying for grants to fund professional development activities, and wondered if HASA would be interested in participating with them.

B. OLD BUSINESS

Don Sorondo reported on the recent Health Insurance Committee meeting. Many complaints being received had to do with online enrollment. The insurance company had hoped for more employees to opt out, but not many did. The plan design was discussed at the meeting, without any real decisions being made. Ken Otero noted that the insurance companies do not want the business of the School District. The District costs the companies too much money, and they are not profiting. Humana has planned an increase in the near future.

Bill Orr reviewed the upcoming elections schedule and informed the Board that nomination forms will be forthcoming next month.

Pat Smith reported on the status of scholarships. The NOVA recipient was unable to utilize her award so we are still in the process of determining a new recipient. There are currently six new applicants and the award should be determined shortly.

In the absence of Charlotte Valenti, Connie Hayden-McPeak gave a report on the status of the Spring Social. She indicated that a clean up crew would need to be established in order to have our deposit returned. There will be no entertainment this year as many thought it was too distracting in years past. A variety of beers and wines will be available, but no elaborate bar set up.

Brenda Kearse reported that the HASA awards nominations are coming along, although not as many have been received as had been hoped. If enough nominations are received, nominees will be honored along with winners.

C. NEW BUSINESS/ROUNDTABLE

- Brenda Nolte: Ticket prices for end of the year events have steadily risen over the years and it is getting more and more expensive for administrative staffs to attend functions. It is often difficult for them to choose which events to patronize. Judy Kennedy mentioned that it is a concern in the elementary level also.
- Pat Smith: Congratulations to Fred Andrews on his new grandbaby.

The meeting adjourned at 6:03 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandy Bunkin, Secretary