

**Hillsborough Association of School Administrators
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
February 2, 2009**

In attendance: Ken Allen, Carla Bruning, Lou Cerreta, Mary Cunningham, Linda Denison, Ernie Fernandez, Wendy Harrison, Sheryl Kosco, Connie Hayden-McPeak, Marilou King, Nelson Luis, Lois Mautte, John Miliziano, Herbert Peeples, Peter Russo, Sherrie Sikes, David Smith, Tee Solomon, Joe Trumbach, Elsa Tuggle.

At 5:50 PM President Elsa Tuggle welcomed the group to the regular Board of Directors monthly meeting.

A. Minutes – Laura Zavatka

In the absence of the Secretary, Ms. Tuggle presented the January minutes. The minutes were reviewed and it was moved and seconded to accept the minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

B. Treasurer’s Report – Nelson Luis

Mr. Nelson Luis distributed January treasurer’s report. Mr. Luis reviewed the monthly expenditures and noted that two new six-month CDs were purchased in the amount of \$50,000. \$57 has already been earned in interest. In addition, a credit/debit card has been applied for and approved. He noted that the totals may appear down because the check containing dues collected through payroll deduction had not yet been received. That check will total approximately \$11,000 and should be received in a few days. A summer reserve will be established to get the association through the summer months when payroll deduction checks are not received.

Dr. Miliziano noted that dues have not been raised for over 28 years and no need exists to raise dues. With current abundant funds, additional dollars can be added to worthwhile projects, professional development events and scholarships so that savings do not grow too large. A motion was made to accept the January treasurer’s report for audit. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously. Mr. Luis asked Representative Board members to fill out check requisitions and attach receipts for reimbursements.

C. Membership Report – Tee Solomon

Ms. Tee Solomon reviewed the January membership report. The current membership number is 822. Representatives should attempt to bring non-renewal cash members back into the “fold”. It was mentioned that four new administrative appointees were made at the last school board meeting. Representatives should contact any appointees that they know.

D. President’s Report – Elsa Tuggle

Mrs. Tuggle summarized the January 31st budget reduction summit for the board members who were not able to attend. She thanked everyone who did give up their Saturday to attend, mentioning the Superintendent’s staff members who were there. These included Ken Otero, Cathy Valdes, Dan Valdes, and David Steele. She reviewed the recommendations that were established from the four breakout groups. Six budget-reducing suggestions were identified to take to the next Superintendent’s Roundtable. They are:

1. Review staffing ratios district wide in every area
2. Renegotiate union issues – look at contractual items
3. Rehire retirees at step one, year by year contract.
4. Reduce substitute use - \$14 million per year.
5. Furlough days: Schedule during Thanksgiving week and/or during pre-planning days
6. Reduce school year calendar to 180 required student days.

The Representative Board was asked to get the information out to their groups. A suggestion was made to track the recommendations to see if a savings amount could eventually be attached to one of the HASA suggestions. The anticipated cuts for next year will be in a range from \$60 - \$120 million. A motion was made to accept the recommendations for presentation to the Superintendent. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Superintendent's Roundtable will be rescheduled due to a death in Mrs. Elia's family. Issues when the meeting is rescheduled will be (1) The recommendations from the summit for budget reductions; (2) The status of the salary study and (3) Ask the Superintendent if she thinks the summit results would be a suitable topic for the upcoming School Board Forum.

School Board Forum topics were discussed. One topic could be the current trend toward circumventing the school district's Grievance Procedure and how to deal with visitors to School Board meetings who attempt to malign our administrators in public. Dr. Miliziano gave a brief history of the three-part grievance procedure and its purpose. Discussion ensued as to whether it is appropriate to present this issue at the Forum, where traditionally the dinner has been a more positive venue, to thank the school board members, give information on current HASA initiatives, etc. A suggestion to "inservice" newer School Board members and current HASA Board members on the grievance procedure process might be a better option. It was suggested that a more across-the-board "refresher" presentation of the Grievance Procedure could be presented for the benefit of all school board members and HASA board members. It was noted that the chairman of the School Board, Carol Kurdell, schedules School Board workshops. Is it a viable suggestion for HASA to request a workshop with the School Board? It was agreed, and Dr. Miliziano will meet with the attorney, school board chair and Buddy Raburn as to the possibility of a workshop in the very near future. It was noted that we owe it to HASA members to let them know that we are concerned about this issue and are working to find some resolution.

It was suggested that alternative Forum topics can be (1) A general summarization of the results of the Summit. (2) Coalition/Legislative updates can also be given, Legislative Days report, etc. School Board members will also be given an opportunity to speak to HASA and offer questions, comments, etc. Another suggestion was to take three or four minutes to identify HASA, who we are and who we represent in case newer School Board members never really got the information.

E. Executive Director's Report – Dr. John Miliziano

Dr. Miliziano gave a report on the Tampa Bay Area Coalition meeting of the 14th. Jim Warford spoke of the future of FASA and the possibility of educational groups filing an "adequacy" lawsuit. The state used to provide about 55% of school funding. That has dropped to 45%. Larry Carmichael assured attendees that the FRS is still actuarially sound. It was noted that the legislature's intrusion into the trust fund will be limited to benefit the members of the fund. FASA is doing a membership drive that offers \$1,000 to anyone who gets ten new members.

Dr. Miliziano asked for articles for the Spring Newsletter. Positive comments were made about the current newsletter. The administrative assistant noted that Adult Education may be purchasing a full page ad in the next newsletter.

Roundtable:

Lois Mautte reported that the School Board forum will be a very positive meeting, even in light of the budget crisis. School Board members will be positioned one at each table. Dr. Miliziano reminded everyone that alternates have been invited this year. This could cause the dinner to be more costly than in past years.

Lou Cerreta reported on his and Dr. Miliziano's recent experience with Westshore Financial. The company has been extremely thorough. He and Dr. Miliziano both have been very impressed. A recommendation was made to have Dr. Miliziano conclude his experience and then the HASA Board make a decision on whether or not to make it available to our membership, with a preface that HASA is not "selling" the product. The HASA Board asked to be kept posted.

Linda Denison has had several emails about ACP and will give results at the next meeting. Four inquiries have been received regarding the available staff development funds but information was missing so she will bring more information as it is received.

Ken Allen reported on Legislative Days, a very positive experience. The group met with fourteen Hillsborough delegates for some very positive discussions. Topics included (1) Asking them to look carefully at securing **recurring** additional revenue (i.e., tax exemptions) to bring revenue into state coffers for education. (2) Mandate that class size amendment be delayed, (3) Permit School Board autonomy to make decisions for their own districts, (for example, number of school days, teacher salaries). The Governor promises to avoid deep cuts that will affect children, elderly and disabled. When the entire budget comes out, Dr. Allen will review it and bring information to the HASA Board.

Dr. Miliziano commended Ken Allen for taking on the legislative committee and doing a great job.

Dr. Miliziano noted that Mary Cunningham will be working to garner the names of worthy candidates for the annual HASA awards.

Dr. Miliziano commended the group for coming out into the rain to attend a meeting. He also thanked the group for their candor and reasoning on sensitive issues.

With no further reports, the meeting was adjourned at 6:56 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Zavatkey

Laura Zavatkey
2008-2009 Secretary

**Minutes not official until ratified at the March 2, 2009 meeting.*