

Hillsborough Association of School Administrators
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
June 8, 2009

In attendance: Ken Allen, Lou Cerreta, Mary Cunningham, Cathy Davis, Linda Denison, Ernie Fernandez, Chuck Fleming, Alice Gault, Wendy Harrison, Connie Hayden-McPeak, Marilou King, Joe Leavens, Jean Leone, Nelson Luis, Eddie Ocasio, Derrick McLaughlin, Nancy Medina, John Miliziano, Audrey Miller, Herbert Peeples, Jason Pepe, Mike Phillips, Barbara Pittman, Joann Redden, Jim Rich, Peter Russo, Sherrie Sikes, Maria Singfield, David Smith, Tee Solomon, David Steele, Elsa Tuggle, Laura Zavatkay. Guests: MaryEllen Elia, Superintendent of schools; Connie Milito, Government Liaison; Paul LaBarbara and Brian Strickland of Westshore Financial; Larry Davis, husband of Cathy Davis, Webmaster.

Dinner was provided at 6:00 PM sponsored by Westshore Financial.

At 6:25 PM President Elsa Tuggle thanked School Food Service for the dinner and welcomed the group to the June “end of year” Representative Board of Directors monthly meeting. Introductions were made around the room. At 6:30 PM the annual group photo was taken by Eddie Ocasio, Bryn-Alan Photography, a HASA business partner.

At 6:40 PM Mrs. Elia spoke to the HASA Board, thanking HASA for its support for her and the School Board. She spoke about current budget issues. In two years, \$66 million non-recurring dollars will go away, but due to preparedness, Hillsborough County Public Schools has the largest cushion to fall back on and a good bond rating. She noted that she intends to keep employees informed about issues impacting the school district’s budget using the email pop-ups in FirstClass. She suggested that the pop-ups be forwarded to retirees who do not have access to district email. Future scenarios to watch include reduced FTEs and possible declining tourism revenues. She thanked HASA for keeping its members informed and calm.

Regarding the Gates Grant, Mrs. Elia explained that the district was invited to be one of 17,000 districts that would be submitting grant applications. Hillsborough schools is now in the top 10 and hoping to be included in the top three districts to be considered for this program. The actual application is due July 31st. In the beginning of August, Hillsborough Schools will present its proposal to the Gates board in Seattle, and in September the top three school districts that will receive grants from the Gates Foundation will be identified. The award of the grant to Hillsborough Schools would affect all employees for five to seven years. The goal is to have a sustainable, quality school district to use as a national model. Regarding the Salary Study: It has been put on hold to see the results of the Gates Grant.

Connie Milito was introduced and spoke to the HASA Board. Ms. Milito gave a brief history of her experience in the school district. She talked about her role in Tallahassee as a representative of Hillsborough Schools and its interests. Ms. Milito recanted the 2009 Special Session results. She explained how the \$260 million projected budget became \$9 million. Budgetary holes caused by the falling housing market were plugged with transfers of mils. Health care, education and prisons are the top three funded programs. In two years, the \$66 million will not reoccur; Medicaid and Medicare will need to be shored up, and housing markets may not have yet hit bottom. In December of this year, Ms. Milito expects an adjustment to district budgets. Planning for the adjustments will need to be done now.

During session, only one bill passed, Differentiated Accountability, which is a pilot project that places the Federal program No Child Left Behind in all districts. NCLB will now include other low-performing students besides Title I students currently assisted. This will cost additional dollars.

Ms. Milito distributed handouts about the Conforming Bill and offered her email address for questions. She also talked about the Retirement Bill. The Retirement bill affected all FRS agencies, i.e., law enforcement, education, etc. The biggest change is that after 7-1-2010, no FRS retiree can go back to work for an FRS agency within six months of initial retirement.

Westshore Financial addressed the group, promising to work hard for HASA and work alongside other business partners to be of service to HASA members. Brian Strickland gave a brief overview of their services and their unique product called the “Living Balance Sheet”, a wide-angle view of clients’ financial life. Cash-flow management is a key to the evaluation process. Contact information was distributed to HASA board members.

A. Minutes – Laura Zavatkey

2008-2009 Secretary Laura Zavatkey presented the May minutes for review. The minutes were reviewed and it was moved and seconded to accept the minutes as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

B. Treasurer’s Report – Nelson Luis

2008-2009 treasurer Mr. Nelson Luis distributed the May treasurer’s report and reviewed its contents. With no good interest to the savings account, dollars are not kept long in savings. A motion was made and seconded to accept the treasurer’s report and the motion passed.

C. Membership Report – Tee Solomon

Ms. Tee Solomon reviewed the May membership report, noting the current membership total at 822. Membership is alive and well and the goal is to continue to grow within the next two years. The May membership report was approved for filing.

D. President’s Report – Elsa Tuggle

Mrs. Tuggle asked Dr. Miliziano to share the election results. Dr. Miliziano reviewed the results, noting that three new board members would include Trisha Fitzgerald (API), Jason Pepe (Treasurer), and Georgene Diaz (TCAE). Service recognition plaques were distributed to departing HASA board members, Audrey Miller, Peter Russo, and Nelson Luis. Dr. Ken Allen presented a special plaque to the outgoing President, Elsa Tuggle. He thanked her for her dedication, leadership and capable handling of the HASA Presidency for 2008-2009. Ms. Tuggle introduced incoming Executive Board member Jason Pepe, and incoming President Tee Solomon.

Tee Solomon called everyone’s attention to the HASA Orientation document included in their folders. She gave a brief overview of HASA, its mission, its components, the makeup of the Executive Board and Representative Board, etc. Committee chairs gave brief summaries of their duties and Ms. Solomon described her goals for the 2009-2010, first and foremost, full support from the HASA representatives and/or officers.

Ms. Tuggle highlighted the involvements that HASA has undertaken in 2009-2009, including the budget summit and Grievance Procedure awareness for School Board members.

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

FASA Summer Conference: The conference will be held in Orlando July 26, 27 and 28, 2009. Ten attendees are going and HASA is funding seven of the ten attendees. A session on the 27th will be on **bullying**. The session is free, but the luncheon carries a charge. HASA will try and work out a partnership with FASA to help fund the luncheon as much as possible. Dr. Miliziano encouraged as many as possible to attend. He also encouraged everyone to join FASA if they are not members already. FASA has drastically reduced its fees in light of tight economic times.

Dr. Miliziano is working with Doug Mortellaro, CPA and one of HASA’s business partners, regarding qualification for IRS regulations. (See the Executive Board minutes below).

DOE Principal and Assistant Principals Awards program is up and out, thanks to help from HASA. Interest has already been expressed and Hillsborough Schools should have applicants in the running for the awards.

HASA was instrumental in bringing awareness to the Superintendent and School Board regarding the grievance procedure. Meetings went well with six School Board members and the district attorney. Results will be additional training in the Grievance Procedure.

No meeting will be held in July. The ISC was suggested as a meeting place for the 2009-2010 meetings. Dr. Miliziano will check into that possibility.

F. Roundtable:

Wendy Harrison from the AP council thanked HASA for door prizes at its last meeting.

Cathy Davis, webmaster, noted that the website should be improved this coming year with help from her mentor, her son.

Bobbie Pittman spoke about the Breast Cancer Three Day walk. She will be participating, and is doing her fund raising. She has three hundred dollars to raise to meet her minimum. She will give tee-shirts for a \$20 donation. Every little bit helps. All dollars go right to research.

At the August meeting, an installation of officers will occur, and Dr. Earl Lennard will officiate.

A delegates' report will be required for attendees at the FASA conference.

Laura Zavatkay assured incoming HASA Board members that their experience would be enriching and rewarding.

A door prize was awarded to Mary Cunningham, whose name was drawn.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Zavatkay

Laura Zavatkay
2008-2009 Secretary

**Minutes not official until ratified at the August Board of Directors meeting.*

Executive Board:

The Executive Board met June 8th prior to the Representative Board meeting and made the following decisions:

1. Proceed with the filing for 501-C-6, Business League Standing, utilizing the assistance of a CPA. The one-time filing fee will be \$750; the CPA fees will be \$450
2. The Executive Board agreed to spend up to \$300 for a Business Partner's Luncheon, to give our business partners opportunity to network, get to know one another, and give input as to HASA's program of activities.

Minutes Addendum - 6/26/2009: Dr. Miliziano polled the Executive Board by telephone for approval of the following items:

1. HASA provide a \$2,000 check to FASA to help offset summer conference costs;
2. The API council be offered \$ 30 for each member recruited from its ranks.

Both items were unanimously approved by the Executive Board.