



May, 2006

Message from the President



With the 2005-06 school year winding to a close, we will soon have time to look back over the previous year's challenges and accomplishments as we set new goals for the future. Professionals in the field of education have the unique opportunity to establish "New Year's" resolutions/goals twice during the year. Goal-setting typically occurs once at the start of the "New Year" in January, and again at the start of the "new school year" in the fall. I have often confused my family and friends by talking about the "end of the year" in May.

One of HASA's goals this year was to increase our membership and become an even stronger and more diverse organization. That was accomplished by enrolling an all-time high of 717 members this month. We appreciate the involvement of all of the administrators who have recently joined, and those who have continued their HASA membership. This year I was fortunate to work with a highly talented Board of Directors, a dedicated Executive Director (John Miliziano) and a supportive Past-President (Ken Allen). I look forward to working with our incoming president, Lou Cerreta, as he takes on two big challenges for the coming year: President of HASA and opening a new elementary school. With those two challenges, knowing Lou, I am sure that he will accomplish a lot of goal-setting in the months ahead.

- Pat Smith, HASA President
2005-2006

*"Do not go where the path may lead, go instead
where there is no path and leave a trail."*

- Ralph Waldo Emerson

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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WEBSITE:

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Message From the Executive Director

Dr. John Miliziano



What Needs To Be Done Next

Although FASA was not successful in getting the Health Insurance Supplement, the DROP, and the Re-Employment bills passed, FASA's hard work was responsible for getting the legislation passed that will, in the long run, help administrators do their jobs. The additional revenue that the legislature allocated to the local districts will certainly filter down as extra benefits for all school administrators. In the next several weeks we should be getting a full report from FASA of all the favorable legislation that was passed and the unfavorable legislation that was prevented from passing.

Now is the time for all Hillsborough County School administrators to thank those legislators from our districts that co-sponsored our three legislative priorities. We need to let them know that we appreciate their support and hope that we can count on them again in the future. We also need to let FASA know that we appreciate all that they did in trying to get these three priorities passed. **For more information, please read the "2006 Florida Legislative Update" article printed in this issue.**

We need to put this year behind us now and start planning for next year. School administrators need to consider what our strategy should be in preparing for the 2007 Florida Legislative Session. Do we continue advocating for the same three or four legislative priorities? Should we select only one or two priorities and focus all our energy on only these priorities? Should we consider changing priorities? In doing this reassessment we will need the help and counsel of FASA, our state parent association. We need to start our dialogue now and begin setting strategies that we can pursue in the coming weeks and months. FASA can help the local

associations understand what bread and butter issues are do-able and those that are not realistic with the political climate that now prevails in Tallahassee. FASA can also help support grass roots advocacy by providing some helpful talking points that administrators can use as they interact with their local legislators.

Local administrators associations must intensify their efforts to build positive relationships with their respective legislative delegation members. We need to do this now, starting today. School and district administrators must go out of their way to invite legislators to their places of work to show them the good work that is being done. Legislators need to understand that good schools require good teachers as well as good leaders.

Local associations must also continue to promote the establishment of Political Action Committees, PACs, so that we can support present and aspiring legislators that understand and support public school education. We cannot expect legislators to support us if we are not ready to support them in their efforts to get elected into office.

HILLSBOROUGH ADMINISTRATORS MUST THANK:

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May 9, 2006 Florida Legislative Update

By Dr. John Miliziano



The Florida Legislature this year rejected all three priority bills that school administrators have been advocating for the past several years. The good news is that another priority that administrators wanted **did** pass and now is waiting for Governor Bush's signature to become law.

Senate Bill 442, filed by Senator Alfred Lawson of Tallahassee and co-sponsored by seven senators including Victor Crist of Hillsborough, Nancy Argenziano of Crystal River, Mike Fasano of New Port Richey, Michael Bennett of Bradenton, and Dennis Jones of Seminole, would have increased the Health Insurance Supplement from \$5 to \$7.

The accompanying House Bill 105, filed by Representative Bob Allen of Merritt Island, and co-sponsored by 16 representatives including Bruce Anton of Orange, Mike Bilirakis of Palm Harbor, Mary Brandenburg of Palm Beach, Ron Ragan of Sarasota, Edward Bullard and Juan Zapata of Miami, Faye Culp and Bob Henriquez of Hillsborough, and Charlie Justice of Pinellas, would have also raised the Health Insurance Supplement to \$7.

Both of the above the Senate and House bills were heard and approved by several committees but never made it to the Senate and House floors for a vote. It is believed that the leadership gave Senator Lawson the choice of passing one of his two bills, raising the health insurance supplement or raising the per-diem and mileage reimbursement for all state employees, and he chose the latter.

Senate Bill 428 filed by Senator Alfred Lawson of Tallahassee that increases the per-diem reimbursement to \$36 per day (6-11-19) and raises mileage reimbursement to 44.5 cents per mile was passed by the Senate by a vote of 115 to 0 and the House by a vote of 38 to 0. House Bill 477, was filed by Representative Loranne Ausley of Tallahassee. This

legislation must now be signed by the Governor for it to become law. The provision of this legislation is permissive not mandatory. Local school boards may reimburse up to the maximum prescribed by the new law or any level between what they are now reimbursing and the maximum. This bill was promoted and lobbied by the state employees group from the Tallahassee area.

The Re-Employment Legislation, Senate Bill 102 filed by Senator Stephen Wise, and co-sponsored by Senators Jim King of Jacksonville and Victor Crist of Hillsborough, would have allowed administrators to be re-employed one month after retirement without penalty. The companion House Bill 389 was sponsored by Representative Bill Proctor and co-sponsored by Faye Culp and Bob Henriquez of Hillsborough, and Ron Regan of Sarasota. Both bills were approved by the Education and Pre-K committees respectively, but neither made it to the floors of the Senate or House for a vote.

The DROP Legislation, Senate Bill 1064, filed by Charlie Clary of Panama City and co-sponsored by Senators Victor Crist of Hillsborough, Evelyn Lynn of Ormond Beach, and Dave Aronberg of Fort Myers, would have extended the DROP for administrators an additional three years. The companion House Bill 659 filed by Ralph Arza of Miami and co-sponsored by Faye Culp and Bob Henriquez of Hillsborough, Charlie Justin from Pinellas, Ron Regan of Sarasota, and Adam Hasner of Delray Beach would have also extended the DROP. Both bills were approved by several committees but also never made it to the Senate or House floors for a vote.

For more information regarding A++, Uniform School Start Date, Course Requirements for Promotion and Grading, Electronic IEP information and more, log onto to the HASA website at www.hasaonline.com.



HASA is thrilled to welcome the following new members to its ranks:

Milady Astacio

Debbie Fitzpatrick

Julia Saltzgaver

Jonathan Barlar

Paul Lindstrom

Dawn Stites

Tiffany Ewell

Jenifer Neale

Sharon Zulli

April 25TH Meeting With The Superintendent



HASA's Executive Board met with Superintendent MaryEllen Elia and Deputy Superintendent Dan Valdez to discuss the following items.

Appreciation was acknowledged that staff has followed through with HASA's request that training be conducted for all school administrators assigned emergency shelter duty. After the last hurricane season, it became apparent that those responsible for opening and staffing shelters needed specific instructions as to their responsibilities.

The Superintendent was informed that the Tampa Bay Area Coalition was conducting a second survey designed to capture additional data on employment benefits offered by our neighboring districts. When the survey is completed we will learn: Which districts are providing a 2% retirement multiplier to their senior staff; the percentage of accrued sick leave paid out at retirement; longevity pay; supplements for specialists and doctoral degrees; health insurance payment for employees and their dependents; and life insurance payments for retirees.

Superintendent Elia was pleased to hear of the progress being made in selecting nominees from our district that will participate in the Florida Department of Education's Principal and Assistant Principals of the Year Awards Program to be announced at the FASA Summer Conference in July.

The HASA Executive Board also discussed anticipated pay raises for teachers and administrators. The issue of providing a cost of living pay increase for administrators at the top of the pay scale was also discussed. The concern of how corrections can be made for the pay anomalies that have crept into the salary schedule in past years was also addressed.

Although the concerns of rising gas prices and cost of travel have been discussed at previous Superintendent Roundtable meetings, HASA respectfully requested that the Superintendent consider placing on the budget agenda, mileage and per diem reimbursement.



FASA's Annual 2006 Summer Conference

By Jim Warford, FASA Executive Director

Please join FASA for a family-oriented Summer Conference at the Boca Raton Resort and Club July 21-24, 2006. Don't miss this opportunity to increase your knowledge of innovative best practices for schools and enjoy one of Florida's most beautiful beach areas.

The FASA summer conference will additionally feature a "Conference Within a Conference", lead by Dr. Bill Daggett, to include a full day of sessions targeted to provide resources for Florida schools.

FASA Featuring Keynotes by:

- * Opening Keynote John Draper - Waltzing Home from Work and Other Tales
- * Frank Brogan, President Florida Atlantic University
- * Dr. Bill Daggett, President, International Center for Leadership, ICLE
- * Donald D. Deshler, Ph.D., Director, Center. For Research on Learning, University. Of Kansas
- * Anthony J. Schembri, Secretary, FL Department of Juvenile Justice