

**TAMPA BAY AREA COALITION**  
**Of**  
**SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS ASSOCIATIONS**  
**Minutes of April 6, 2005 meeting**

The Tampa Bay Area coalition's 20<sup>th</sup> bi-monthly meeting was held at Tampa's Brewster Technical Center. The meeting began at 9:30 AM and concluded at 11:30 AM.

Coalition representatives present were: Dr. Neriah Roberts from Polk, Sherry Reynolds and Lorraine Colby from Sarasota, Rob Aguis and Terry Aunchman from Pasco, Ed Stickles from Lee, Reid Wallace from Manatee, Peggy Johns from Pinellas, and Dr. Ken Allen and Dr. John Miliziano from Hillsborough. Susan Wilson of Hernando County contacted us with regrets that she was unable to attend the meeting but wanted to be kept informed.

The minutes of February 2, 2005 meeting were presented by Secretary Rob Aguis and approved as written. The treasure's report was presented by Dr. Neriah Roberts and approved with the following observations. All but one of the Coalition member districts has paid their dues for 2004-2005. The balance of the Coalition's account, after all submitted bills being paid, is \$2,542.92. The total expenses for the February 19<sup>th</sup> workshop held in Tampa came to \$1,501.15. Walter Pierce, the Executive director of Palm Beach County, was recognized and thanked for having his district contribute \$500 toward the cost of the workshop. The Coalition picked up the balance of \$ 1,001.15. FASA contributed the cost of the printed materials that was brought and distribution at the workshop.

Discussion ensued that the workshop had been a great success and that the Coalition should do another similar workshop before next year's legislative session. Today, John Miliziano contacted Mike Eader, FASA Executive director, and confirmed that FASA will surely want to participate with the Coalition again next year in co-sponsoring a similar workshop. Mr. Eader also mentioned that FASA will want to replicate this workshop format in other parts of the state.

Motion was made and passed unanimously that the Coalition will join HASA and FASA in cosponsoring the hospitality room at the FASA Summer Conference July 7-10 at the Registry Hotel in Naples. The Coalition will contribute \$400 toward the cost of food and refreshment. Mike Eader affirmed that FASA will surely want to be a cosponsor of this activity if it does not conflict with this year's summer workshop partnership with Dade County's Association of School Administrators. Coalition members also pledged to attend the Summer Conference and encourage members from their local associations to attend.

Members present discussed the possibility of raising the annual dues to \$2 for each association member to help defray the cost of future programs and activities. This proposal will be discussed at the next Coalition bi-monthly meeting.

After some discussion on how Coalition members should respond to grass roots “Call to Action” requests from FASA, it became apparent that there is a need for greater understanding of the process. A better understanding of how Bills become law, how bill assignment to committees work, what to say when contacting legislators, how to track bills through the legislative process, how to build e-mail trees of member private e-mail addresses, etc. were a sampling of areas that need to be learned. A recommendation was made to plan a workshop for Coalition members and interested parties who want to learn how to become more politically astute. The Coalition will consider sponsoring such a workshop in the near future.

Participants at this meeting also recognized the need for a better understanding of how the Florida Retirement System (FRS) and the Health Insurance Supplement (HIS) trust funds work. It was recommended that FASA consider having a breakout session at the Summer Conference that would address this need. It was believed that a workshop on this topic would attract more administrators to register and attend the summer conference. It was further recommended that experts on FRS & HIS from the state, preferably from FRS and HIS departments, be invited to make a presentation at this break out session.

Discussion was held on the FASA’s Legislative Days. Those Coalition members who attended legislative days spoke very favorably of their experience in Tallahassee and encourage those who did not attend that they should make plans to send a delegation next year. It was pointed out that FASA offers a number of opportunities for professional growth and development for administrators and that membership in FASA is necessary to take advantage of these opportunities. Coalition members explored possibilities on how they can encourage membership to FASA. How to best utilize institutional memberships, lowering the cost of individual membership, using internal accounts dollars to pay for dues and other options were discussed.

During Round Table discussion a suggestion was made that the Coalition undertake a comparative study of salary schedules of large and small Florida’s districts. It was agreed that a study of this type would not be conclusive because of the many variables and condition that exist among districts. Consensus was not to undertake this study at this time and to concentrate on other issues that we all agree are important.

It was also recommended that present Coalition Representatives think about asking one or two other members from their associations to become active with the Coalition Board so as to develop continuity.

Comments were expressed by representative present at the meeting that their associations are being encouraged to grow and become more effective. Manatee County’s association members are very appreciative of all the information that they receive from the Coalition

and FASA and are talking of becoming more active and involved. Pinellas County's association is talking about the possibility of hiring an executive director. Pasco and Polk are exploring the possibility of establishing a PAC while Lee County has applied for a PAC. Sarasota County has two separate associations, one for school level administrators and the other for district level administrators. Discussions are under way to unite the two associations into one stronger association.

Dr. John Miliziano distributed and reviewed the status of the three priority bills that are now before the legislature. John noted that Senate Bill 2266 (raises the health insurance supplement to \$7) has already been heard and favorably passed by the Government Oversight Committee and will now go to the Ways and Means Committee. This Bill has a good chance of passing since it has only been assigned to two committees. House Bill 781 (also health subsidy) has been approved by the Governmental Operations Committee and the Local Government Council. This bill has been assigned to four committees making it more difficult to survive all four committees. The other bills on the 1.6% multiplier and the DROP extension have all been assigned to committees but none have been heard as of this date.

**The next regular scheduled bi-monthly meeting of the Coalition will be held on Wednesday, June 1, 2005 at 9:30 AM at Tampa's Brewster Technical Center. Please mark your calendars.**

**NOTE:** These minutes are also being sent to non-members of the Coalition (Interested Parties) so they can see the benefits of regional grass roots collaboration.