

TAMPA BAY AREA COALITION

Of

School Administrators Associations

Minutes of August 1, 2007, Meeting

The 32nd bi-monthly meeting of the Tampa Bay Area Coalition was held on August 1, 2007, at Brewster Technical Center in Tampa, Florida. The meeting commenced at 9:00 AM and concluded at 11:30 AM. Coalition members present at the meeting were: Ed Stickles from Lee County; Robert Clark, from Orange; Dr. Neriah Roberts from Polk; Richard Wells from Seminole; Peggy Johns from Pinellas; Jim Knight from Hernando; and Dr. John Miliziano from Hillsborough County. Rob Aguis, Terry Aunchman, and Summer Robertson from Pasco; Marjorie Ebersbach from Brevard; Karyn Gary from Charlotte; Denver Raney from Manatee; Dody Sapp from Volusia; and Loraine Colby, Jack Turgen, and Pam Houfer from Sarasota County were not able to attend this meeting. Deborah Henry, the Director of Hillsborough County's Office of Benefits and Retirement was a special guest.

In the Absence of Rob Aguis, Secretary, Dr. Miliziano presented the minutes of May 10, 2007, meeting. Minutes were approved as written with no changes or corrections. Dr. Roberts presented the Treasure's repost noting that all bills are paid and as of this date the balance on the Coalition account is \$2,844.87. The treasure's report was also approved as submitted. All Coalition members have paid their dues for 2006 – 2007 except Charlotte County.

Dr. Miliziano reminded the Coalition members present that dues for 2007 – 2008 are now due. Members are asked to calculate their dues by using the number of members they had in their association as of July 1, 2007 and multiply by one dollar per member. As an example, Hillsborough Association of School Administrators (HASA) dues will be \$745, one dollar for each HASA member. Please make your check payable to HASA for the Coalition, and mail it to Dr. John Miliziano at 5308 Redfield Lane Tampa, Florida 33624.

Coalition members at the meeting were asked about their district's salary raises for the 2007 – 2008 school year. The following information was reported:

- Hillsborough County is proposing an 8% raise for teachers and 5.5% for administrators.
- Lee County has settled with 6% across the board for everyone Seminole County settled with a 6% raise for everyone. This increase includes the higher cost of insurance, benefits, bonuses etc.
- Orange County will give 5% to teachers and less to administrators (yet to be determined)
- Polk County will give 5.5% to teachers and 2.6% for administrators
- Hernando County will give teachers 3.6% and administrators not yet determined

Our guest, Deborah Henry spoke on two issues: The extension of the DROP and FRS's policy to pay no retirement benefits for employees who die with no living spouse. On the DROP issue, Miss Henry proposed that instead of trying to get the DROP extended for administrators the Coalition should recommend the elimination of the rule that administrators must drop at a date certain or lose one year of DROP for each year that they delay entering the DROP. She believes that this change is more easily passable by the Legislature and would in essence eliminate the need for extending the drop for administrators.

After some discussion the general consensus was that it is difficult to understand how Miss Henry's proposal would benefit administrators. Explaining it to members who are committed to getting the DROP extended would be difficult. The Coalition will convey to FASA that its recommendation is to try to get the Legislature to Amend the DROP law so that all educators are treated the same. The Coalition wants FASA to try to fix all three aspects of the DROP Law: Extend the Drop for administrators similar to what the teachers have; eliminate the rule that administrators must DROP on a date certain not like teachers that can DROP when they want; and eliminate the rule that administrators can return to work after one month but sustain the penalty of giving up 11 months of their retirement benefits for the first year of their re-employment. The Coalition will recommend only one issue, the DROP issue, for the 2008 Legislative Session.

Bob Clark's updated Survey of April 2007 of 7 employment benefits was distributed. Dr. Miliziano announced that HASA will be hiring a Salary Consultant to help his association advocate for salary increases for Hillsborough County administrators. The Coalition will consider hiring on as needed basis this consultant to conduct future surveys that the Coalition want to commission.

The Coalition is interested in joining any efforts by the Central Florida Coalition of School Boards to explain how the Florida Tax Reform Law and the upcoming Constitutional Amendment on the Super Exemption will affect local school districts. Dr. Miliziano will inquire with, Connie Milito, Hillsborough's Lobbyist, to see how this can be accomplished.

Dr. Miliziano shared the results of a Strategic Planning Session that HASA conducted in June. A number of strategic goals were enumerated that will help his association move forward in the next five years.

The election of Officers for the Coalition was conducted and the results were as follows: Dr. Miliziano from Hillsborough will continue serving as President; Peggy Johns from Pinellas replaces Reed Wallace from Manatee County as Vice President; Rob Aguis from Pasco will continue as Secretary; and Dr. Neriah Roberts from Polk will continue as Treasurer.

Dr. Roberts has drafted an evaluation form for his board to evaluate him and his performance as Executive Director. He requested that the evaluation be sent to all Coalition members that have executive directors so they can give him some feedback on how it can be improved.

The next Coalition meeting was set for Wednesday, October 3, 2007, to be held in Tampa's Brewster Technical Center at 9:00 AM.