

TAMPA BAY AREA COALITION

Of

School Administrator Associations

Minutes of August 19, 2009 Meeting

The 41st. Bi-Monthly meeting of the Tampa Bay Area Coalition was held on Wednesday, August 19, 2009 at the **Gary Adult Day High School Campus located at 5101 North 40th Street, Tampa, Florida 33610**. The meeting began at 12:30 PM and ended at 2:15 PM.

Coalition members present were: Dody Sapp from Volusia County, Bob Clark from Orange, Richard Wells from Seminole, John Weant from Charlotte, Dr. Neriah Roberts from Polk, Ed Stickles from Lee County, Marjorie Ebersbach from Brevard, Terry Aunchman from Pasco, Peggy Johns from Pinellas, and Dr. John Miliziano and Dr. Ken Allen from Hillsborough. Jody Dumas from Sarasota representing district level administrators, David Underhill from Manatee, Melodie Deeds from Sarasota representing school level administrators, and Debbie Shaw from Hernando County were not able to attend.

Dr. John Miliziano introduced two guests: Connie Milito, Hillsborough County School District Lobbyist, and Mrs. Tee Solomon, President of the Hillsborough Association of School Administrators (HASA).

In the Absence of Coalition Secretary Rob Aguis, alternate Terry Aunchman reviewed the minutes of May 6, 2009. Minutes were approved with one correction **“Brevard County has appointed a crisis committee to look at classroom sizes”**. This sentence should have read **“Brevard County has a crisis committee to look at funding issues”**. Dr. Neriah Roberts, Coalition Treasurer, presented the financial report dated 8/19/2009 stating that as of this date the Coalition’s fund balance was \$7,932.92. On this day, Seminole submitted its dues of \$170 raising the fund balance by this amount. Dr. Roberts pointed out that all 14 Coalition Associations had paid their annual dues for 2008 – 2009. As of today 7 (including Orange who has recently mailed their check) of the 14

Coalition Member Districts have paid their annual membership dues for 2009 – 2010. This report was also approved.

Annual Coalition membership dues for 2009 – 2010 are due July 1, 2009. Coalition members are asked to send one dollar for each member in their respective associations. The check should be made out to **HASA** for the **Tampa Bay Area Coalition 2009 – 2010 Dues**. Please mail your checks to **John Miliziano at 5308 Redfield lane, Tampa Florida 33624**. **Please Note the INVOICE included at the bottom of these minutes.**

Dr. Miliziano distributed the Agenda Packet, minutes of the last Coalition meeting and the treasurer's report. Also distributed were the following: An article written by Mr. Larry Carmichael, Legislative Liaison for the Florida Retired Educators Association (FREA) entitled "Florida Retired Educators Association Disagrees With Times Article"; and an email from Coalition member, Jim Knight from Hernando county, requesting information about the "GED Exit Option Program". After some discussion John Miliziano was asked to contact Jim and give him the names and contact information of two persons who are very knowledgeable about this topic: Connie Milito 813 624-5000 Cmilito@sdhc.k12.fl.us and Dr. Ken Allen 813 493-4007 or 813 872-0671 Kallen1721@tampabay.rr.com.

Also distributed by Marjorie Ebersbach was a one page list of "BASA Activities since last Coalition meeting". Marjorie wanted the Coalition members to see her association's program of activities in the past several months. These and all the above referenced information will be mailed to the four Coalition Representatives that were unable to attend the meeting.

Miss Connie Milito reported on the legislative actions that came out of the 2009 session on "Double Dipping". Connie said that the major change was that starting the 2009 – 2010 school year, no employee in FRS will be allowed to return to work after retirement/separation for a minimum of six months. This means everyone, police, firemen, state and county employees, everyone. Connie said that retired educators coming from other states do not have to wait six months before being hired by a Florida School District. There are many uncertain interpretations on how this new legislation will be implemented. Miss Milito also suggested that DROP will probably not go away any time soon but we should work to get the time certain for dropping modified so the rules as to when one can or must DROP apply the same for everyone. A question was asked if there was any chance of

passage of the initiative to change the Florida Retirement System from the existing Defined Benefits Plan (where the state manages your retirement) to the Defined Contribution Plan (where you manage your own account). Connie said that presently the Defined Contribution Plan is optional. If those who want to change the system get their way, the Defined Contribution Plan would be required by all new employees. Connie did not think there was enough support for this change to occur. It was requested that Mr. Larry Carmichael be invited to our Coalition's next meeting to talk with us about this and other FRS issues. The Coalition will pay for Mr. Carmichael's travel expenses to Tampa from his home in Tallahassee.

John Miliziano reiterated the need for Coalition member districts to encourage membership in FASA. If administrators in Florida are ever going to have any influence in what goes on in Tallahassee we need a strong state level association to look after our interest. Although this may not be a good time to ask people to pay FASA membership dues it may be the best time, for now is the time we need a strong association in Tallahassee.

Jim Warford, FASA Executive Director and Marie Wright President of FASA were invited to today's Coalition meeting to discuss the 2010 Florida Legislative Session and the future role of FASA with the Coalition. They could not attend this meeting but will try to come to our next meeting scheduled for Wednesday, October 14, 2009.

John Miliziano and other Coalition Members who attended the FASA Summer Conference reported that at a meeting of District Association Representatives identified five legislative priorities for the 2010 legislative session:

1. FRS benefits to single employees.
2. DROP rules the same for all FRS employees.
3. School start time should be a local decision.
4. Class Size Amendment should be modified.
5. No additional graduation requirement until those already mandated are implemented.

Discussion on these five priorities reached consensus on numbers 2-3-4. Number 1 and 5 need further discussion. It was agreed that Coalition Representatives would discuss these priorities with their respective district associations and come prepared at the next Coalition meeting to discuss the matter further. It was requested that Jim Warford and Juhan Mixon be invited to the next Coalition meeting to give input.

A second topic discussed at the FASA Conference was ways that that FASA and the local associations can develop stronger relationships. Bob Clark gave a brief report on several ways that this could occur. Better communications. Better training of local association members on how to lobby at the local level (Dividing the state into clusters or regions of local associations somewhat like the existing Tampa Bay Area Coalition, possibly having a slot for the Local Associations on the FASA Board of Directors. Marie Wright will attend the Coalition's next meeting to further discuss this matter.

Please NOTE that all past minutes of the Tampa Bay Area Coalition meetings, Coalition's Constitution and Bylaws, and much more, are archived in HASA's Web Site www.hasaonline.com.

The next Coalition meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 14, 2009 at 12:30 PM at Gary Adult High School Campus in Tampa. This will be a working luncheon meeting. Food & drinks will be served.

INVOICE

Coalition Membership Dues for 2009 – 2010

Due July 1, 2009

Name of district: _____

Number of members in your association # _____

Remit \$ 1.00 for each of your members \$ _____

Please make checks out to HASA for Coalition Annual dues.

Mail to John Miliziano, 5308 Redfield Lane, Tampa Florida 33624.

Any questions contact John Miliziano at (813) 265-0001 or 857-8893 or jmilizia@verizon.net .