

# TAMPA BAY AREA COALITION

## Of

### School Administrators Associations

#### Minutes of December 13, 2007

The 34<sup>th</sup> bi-monthly meeting of the Tampa Bay Area Coalition was held on Thursday, December 13, 2007, at Gary Adult High School in Tampa Florida. The meeting commenced at 9:00 AM and concluded at 11:15 AM. Coalition member present were: Rob Aguis of Pasco, Richard Wells of Seminole, Peggy Johns of Pinellas, Jim Knight of Hernando, Ed Stickle of Lee, David Underhill of Manatee, Marjorie Ebersbach of Brevard, Bob Clark of Orange, and John Miliziano of Hillsborough. Loraine Colby and Pam Houfek of Sarasota, Neriah Roberts of Polk, John Weant of Charlotte, and Dody Sapp of Volusia were unable to attend this meeting. Coalition members send their best wishes to Dody Sapp and Neriah Roberts for their recent hospital stay and their road to recovery.

Secretary Rob Aguis walked everyone through the October 3, 2007 meeting minutes as they were unanimously approved. In the absence of Treasurer Dr. Neriah Roberts, Dr. Miliziano presented the treasure's report. As of this date the Coalition has \$5,589.54 in its account that is held by HASA. All Coalition members' districts have paid their dues with the exception of Sarasota's District Level Administrators Association. Treasurer's report was also unanimously approved.

A discussion was held regarding the proposal to seek representation on FASA's Board of Directors. Coalition members present at this meeting unanimously agreed to request FASA to propose an amendment to the constitution that would authorize the establishment of an additional Department; "The Department of District Associations". All Coalition members present at this meeting had polled their respective associations and reported that they favored making this request. It was stated that to pass this amendment would require an affirmative vote by two-thirds of FASA members present at FASA's Business Meeting at the Summer Conference on July 17 – 20, 2008.

The purpose of the proposed amendment to FASA's Constitution is to provide a formal way of further unifying administrators throughout the state through greater participation of local district associations on issues of statewide concern. With representation on the FASA Board, there would be greater interest for local associations to promote membership in FASA. Creating a stronger state association while maintaining the autonomy of local associations is a win/win situation for all concerned.

Dr. John Miliziano was instructed to pursue this matter and report back to the Coalition at the next meeting to be held on Wednesday, February 6, 2008. It was further agreed that if this amendment request is favorably entertained by FASA's leadership, all 12 Coalition members and all other Florida School Districts with Administrator Associations would be invited to a meeting in Tallassee on March 5<sup>th</sup> during FASA's Legislative Days. The

purpose of this meeting would be discuss how representation on this new additional FASA Department would be chosen.

Miliziano encouraged Coalition members present to contact FASA's Cindy Casavant, who handles membership for FASA, and request a list of FASA members from their respective districts. Cindy can be reached at 1-850-224-3626 or [Casavant@fasa.net](mailto:Casavant@fasa.net). The purpose of making this request is to see which local association members are also members of FASA. With this information local districts can engage in helping to recruit additional members for FASA. In Hillsborough's case, as of 12/6/07, there were 141 FASA members of which only 6 of these members were not members of HASA. Since HASA has over 800 members and only 135 are members of FASA, this means that the potential for recruiting additional members for FASA in Hillsborough is great. If local district associations want representation on the FASA Board then a greater effort needs to be made by local associations to encourage administrators to join FASA.

It was also decided at this meeting that the joint FASA/Coalition Annual State Wide Drive-in Workshop would not be held this year. Rather than requesting Florida Districts to send representatives to this annual meeting, held in Orlando last year, the Coalition would invite districts to attend FASA's legislative Days.

John Miliziano distributed a packet of information on legislative priorities that are being proposed by FASA, the Hillsborough School Board, Central Florida Public School Boards Coalition (CFPSB), and the Florida Retired Teachers Association (FRTA). Also distributed were the talking points of all of CFPSB priorities and two of FASA's priorities: the DROP and 2 Mill Flexibility Bills. John summarized all the above priorities being proposed by the various groups into a one summery sheet entitled **2008 Legislative priorities**. It was unanimously agreed that the Coalition would support two main priorities for the 2008 Legislative Session: Revision of Class Size Definition and the DROP.

Coalition members were given the dates of the FASA's Legislative days as March 4, 5, & 6, 2008 and the Summer Conference as July 17, 18, 19, & 20. FASA's summer conference will be held at Naples Grand Resort Hotel. Everyone was encouraged to attend these two very important events. There was some discussion about the possibility of the Coalition helping to defray the cost of sending members to legislative days and the Summer Conference.

As always, at the conclusion of each Coalition meeting, a Round Table discussion was provided. The following comments were elicited:

1. News is that Representative Bill Posey will not be refilling his Bill to stop the rehiring of all FRS members once they retire.
2. One District is experiencing difficulty with Virtual Schools because students can drop out in mass from a class they do not like or think is too difficult and enroll in a class offered by the Virtual School. This leaves a school with a teacher and no students.

Others expressed that they have not experienced this problem. Some positive comments were made about Virtual Schools.

3. Most of those present said that their districts are experiencing dropping student enrollments and one district has to close 5 schools.

4. One district is working in conjunction with PTA to get the state to reinstate Health Education as part of the curriculum.

5. Coalition members have started lobbying their Legislative Delegations and will continue to do so until the 2008 Legislative Session.

6. The Collier County administrators are experiencing some serious concerns that may want to lead them to establishing a local administrators association. Ed Stickles the Executive Director of the Lee County administrators association will be assisting Colliers if they choose to go in this direction.

7. Bob Clark, Orange County Executive Director, announced that his association is conducting a survey of their members regarding support for a proposal to have the district pay for vacation time for spring and winter brakes in lieu of a pay raise. Those interested in viewing the total survey that covers many other issues can log on to OCASA's Web Site at [www.myocasa.net](http://www.myocasa.net). Bob also motioned to compensate the Coalition President, John Miliziano, and a \$100 per month stipend to cover some of his expenses for directing the Coalition. This stipend would help pay for his long distance telephone and his computer internet expenses that he uses for Coalition work. The motion passed unanimously.

8. Rob Aguis reported that Pasco County gave administrators a 4.1% raise which is commensurate to what the district gave teachers.

9. David Underhill of Manatee County informed the group that his district is under a special law that affects only his district which requires students to remain in school until the age of 18. This law is posing a hardship on the district's high schools because a number of students are staying in school when they should not be there.

**The next Coalition meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, February 6, 2008. Please mark your calendars and make every effort to attend.**