

**Tampa Bay Area Coalition
of
Florida District Associations of School Administrators**

Minutes of December 3, 2003

The Coalition's bi-monthly meeting of its Board of Directors met at Lincoln Middle School in Manatee County. The meeting began at 9:00 AM and concluded at 10:45 AM. Board members present at this meeting: Peggy Johns of Pinellas County; Reid Wallace of Manatee County; Neriah Roberts of Polk County; Rob Aguis and Terry Aunchman of Pasco County; Steve Largo of Sarasota County, and John Miliziano and Ken Allen from Hillsborough County. Also present were interested parties and potential future members: Greg Adkins from Lee County and Ken Marsh from Sarasota County (district level administrators). We were pleased to have Terry Golden, representing the Florida Association of School Administrators (FASA).

A special thanks to Reid Wallace, Principal of Lincoln Middle School, for hosting this meeting.

The minutes (Report of the Issues Conference) of the September 11, 2003, were approved as written. These minutes are posted on the HASA Web Site www.hasaonline.com as are minutes of all past meetings.

The treasure's report was reviewed and it showed that as of this date, 12/3/2004, the balance on the account is \$2,027.60. Hillsborough, Pinellas, and Pasco have paid the annual dues for 2003 – 2004. Remaining three association members will be sending their dues in the next several days.

A discussion of the FAIR Amendment Initiative lead to the following actions and recommendations. The Coalition unanimously endorsed this initiative and promises to do all that it can to promote its passage. The Coalition members will encourage their respective School Boards to endorse the initiative. Hillsborough announced that HASA has committed to a general US Mail correspondence, after the holidays, to all its members. HASA's goal is to secure 6,000 signed petitions before the end of March... All participants at this meeting were provided with a large packet of information about the FAIR Amendment Initiative. Everyone was encouraged to log on to HASA's Web Site www.hasaonline.com, the FASA Web Site, and the FAIR Amendment Web Site www.fairamendment.com for additional information and up-to-date news.

A draft copy of Hillsborough's 2004 Legislative Issues was distributed for discussion. It was resolved that all Coalition Representatives consult with their respective associations to determine what issues they would like to include on a unified Coalition Legislative Agenda. This Unified Coalition Legislative Agenda will be the primary item for discussion at the next Coalition meeting to be held January 4, 2004.

A salary study report of Florida's ten largest school districts, including all six Coalition member districts, conducted by HASA was distributed. Coalition Representatives were asked to please review for accuracy the data on this report for their respective districts and provide input to JOHN MILIZIANO.

Information on Political Action Committees was distributed to all meeting participants. A discussion ensued that outlined the value and benefits of having a PAC. It was strongly recommended that Coalition Association Members who are thinking of establishing a PAC to consider affiliating with the FASA PAC. John Miliziano and Terry Golden are available to provide any assistance needed in this matter.

The value of having a lobbyist on retainer by the Coalition was discussed and pro and con views were expressed. The general consensus was that this idea should be tabled for now and re-addressed sometime in the future. Members were encouraged to bring all ideas to the table for consideration.

An idea for a future Coalition Function was to possibly invite those Florida Legislators who have supported Coalition issues in the past and who may commit to support these issues in the upcoming 2004 Legislative Session. Coalition members were asked to bring ideas for a future function that could be sponsored or hosted by the Coalition.

During the Round Table Remarks, members were informed that the dates for the next FASA legislative days in Tallahassee were March 15, 16, and 17. It was pointed out that it is very important for districts to send representatives to FASA sponsored function. It was also suggested that the Coalition may want to visit legislators in Tallahassee and share with them the Coalition's unified legislative agenda. It was also mentioned that the Coalition should have a strong presence at the FASA Summer Conference. We may want to consider having the Coalition sponsor a hospitality room at this conference and promote the idea on regional coalitions being formed throughout Florida.

The next meeting of the Coalition will be held on February 4, 2004. The time will be **9:00 AM** and the place **Pinellas County**. Peggy Johns has graciously volunteered to host this meeting. Please mark your calendars and you will be informed of the exact location of the meeting. Members were encouraged to bring an Alternate Representative to all future meetings.