

# TAMPA BAY AREA COALITION

Of

## School Administrators Associations

Minutes of February 6, 2008

The 35<sup>th</sup> bi-monthly meeting of the Tampa Bay Area Coalition was held on Wednesday, February 5, 2008, at the Gary Adult High School Campus in Tampa Florida. The meeting began at 9:00 AM and concluded at 10:45 AM. Coalition members present were Richard Wells of Seminole County, Peggy Johns of Pinellas, Jim Knight of Hernando, Ed Stickles of Lee, and John Miliziano of Hillsborough County. Bob Clark of Orange, Rob Aguis of Pasco, Neriah Roberts of Polk, Dody Sapp of Volusia, Loraine Colby and Pam Houfek of Sarasota, and Marjorie Ebersbach of Brevard contacted Dr. John Miliziano with regrets for not being able to attend the meeting. David Underhill of Manatee and John Weant of Charlotte Counties were also unable to attend the meeting.

In the absence of Secretary Rob Aguis, Dr. John Miliziano presented the minutes of the December 13, 2007 meeting which were approved with no changes or modifications. Since Treasurer Dr. Neriah Roberts was not present, Dr. Miliziano presented the financial statement which was also approved. As of this date all but the Sarasota District Level Association member group have paid their annual dues making the Coalition's financial balance, being held as a flow through account by HASA, \$5,589.54.

The first order of business was a discussion regarding the Coalition's desire to request to have representation on the FASA Board of Directors. A meeting with Mr. Jim Warford, the Executive Director of FASA, was held in Tampa on January 11, 2008 at Jefferson High School. Present at this meeting were Richard Wells, Peggy Johns, and John Miliziano. Mr. Warford reported that he had several times discussed with his Board the idea of having local associations represented on the FASA Board and that on each occasion his Board did not show any interest in this prospect.

Jim told us that if we wanted him to bring our request to the Board another time we needed to give him a written proposal that would make a case showing how FASA would benefit from allowing representation of local associations on the Board. Jim suggested that the proposal should be specific and include things such as a guarantee of the number of new FASA members the local associations would bring to the table. A proposal requiring all local associations' members to also be members of FASA would be a sure incentive for FASA to honor the request for membership on the FASA Board.

After some discussion the, Coalition Members present at the meeting agreed to table the request for the present time and revisit it later when more Coalition members are present at subsequent meetings.

Dr. Miliziano asked Coalition Members present if their associations were sending representatives to the FASA Legislative Days in Tallahassee on March 4, 5, 6<sup>th</sup>. Pinellas, Seminole and Hillsborough will be sending representatives to Tallahassee. Lee and Hernando Counties will not be sending anyone from their districts. Those persons planning to attend legislative days should register with FASA and make their hotel reservations as soon as possible.

Dr. Miliziano reported that because of the passage of Amendment #1 on property tax reform, the funding of the class size amendment, and the short fall of state revenues, any legislation that hints at financial impact will probably have little prospects of getting favorable hearing. Although the DROP Bill has little or no financial impact, it may also be a casualty of the mood that exists in Tallahassee in this time of financial belt tightening. As of my last inquiry with Juhan Mixon's office, the second legislative priority to allow the performance based pay plans to become a part of FRS compensation, does not have a bill sponsor in either the House or Senate. The third priority, the revision of the class size definition may not be pursued through the normal bill route but may be addressed as a chamber bill initiated by both houses.

During the Round Table discussions the following comments were elicited:

Jim Night from Hernando reported that his district has settled its salary negotiations. Teachers received 7.5% raise while everyone else received 5.5% raise. Jim also reported that Hernando County voters also approved the penny sales tax for school and county infrastructure improvements.

Peggy Johns said that Pinellas County voters approved the extension of the referendum for another additional four years that provides millions dollars for teacher salary raised. 80% of these referendum dollars go to teacher raises while 20% goes to enhancements of the arts curriculum. Peggy also said that her district is closing 3 schools due to dropping enrollments.

Ed Stickles reported that his Superintendent may be leaving the district for either another job or retirement. Ed also said that he has talked with representatives from Collier County's administrators association regarding getting involved with the Coalition. Colliers group is very small at this time and they are planning to grow their membership. For the present time Ed will keep them in the loop and serve as an advisor to them.

**The next Coalition meeting was set for 9:00 AM, Wednesday, April 16, 2008. The meeting will be held in Tampa at the Adult Day School Campus on 40<sup>th</sup> Street just South of Hillsborough Avenue.**