

TAMPA BAY AREA COALITION

Of

School Administrator Associations

Minutes of February 3, 2010 Meeting

The 44th bi-meeting of the Tampa Bay Area Coalition was held on Wednesday, February 3, 2010, at the Gary Adult High School Campus located at 5101 North 40th Street, Tampa, Florida 33610. The luncheon meeting began at 12:30 and ended at 2:00 PM.

Ten Coalition member districts were present: Dody Sapp from Volusia County, John Weant from Charlotte, Dr. Neriah Roberts from Polk, Ed Stickles from Lee County, Terry Aunchman from Pasco, Peggy Johns and Dennis Griffin from Pinellas, Marjorie Ebersbach from Brevard, Richard Wells from Seminole, David Underhill from Manatee, and Dr. John Miliziano and Dr. Ken Allen from Hillsborough. Also present as guests were Tempress Solomon, HASA's President, and Jean Leone from Hillsborough; Bob Clark from Orange; Melodie Deeds from Sarasota representing school level administrators; Dough Berger from Sarasota representing district level administrators. Debbie Shaw from Hernando County and Rob Aguis from Pasco were not able to attend.

Terry Aunchman reviewed the minutes of December 2, 2009. Minutes were approved with no corrections. Dr. Neriah Roberts, Coalition Treasurer, presented the treasurer's report dated 1/31/2010 stating that as of this date the Coalition's fund balance was \$7,820.44. Dr. Roberts pointed out that 13 of the Coalition members had paid their annual dues for 2008 – 2009. As of today only one district has not paid their annual dues. Motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved as presented.

Dr. Miliziano distributed the Agenda, the minutes of the last Coalition meeting, and the treasurer's report. Also distributed were survey results of Florida districts that have local administrators associations conducted by FASA sometime before 2006; a map of Florida showing the districts that have associations; and an article from Larry Carmichael on pending legislation that will impact FRS.

A thorough discussion was held regarding a proposal to hold a state-wide workshop to review two items that were advanced during a FASA Legislative Days luncheon intended to organize the state into several regions, similar to the Tampa Bay Area Coalition, and providing representation on the FASA Board for local administrator associations. The original proposal was to hold the workshop in Tampa on April 7, 2010. John Miliziano reported that Walter Pierce and Jim Warford were holding this date on their calendars and that FASA was in the process of conducting a new survey of Florida districts that have local administrator associations. The following recommendations were made:

1. The workshop should be advertised as a FASA function, with the Tampa Bay Area Coalition (TBAC) co-sponsoring the event.

2. TBAC has appropriated \$1,000 to help defray the cost of providing food and beverages and the cost of other incidental expenses for the workshop.
3. The workshop can be held in Tampa at a location near the Tampa Airport so it would be convenient for those flying in to attend the workshop.
4. It was determined that it was not advisable to hold the workshop on April 7 because of conflicts with spring break and FCAT testing. It was recommended that the workshop could be held on one of the following three dates, April 27 – 28 – 29 from 11:30 to 2:30 PM.
5. It was suggested that FASA (Jim Warford) write a letter to all 67 superintendents informing them of what we are trying to do and encourage them to send a representative to the workshop.
6. It was further suggested that FASA contact all FASA members to inform them of the workshop.
7. After the above communications are done, members of the Tampa Bay Area Coalition would volunteer to follow up with contacting as many districts as possible to further encourage their attendance at the workshop.
8. When the FASA Survey is completed, the results need to be shared with everyone that wishes to help contact representatives of other districts to encourage attendance at the workshop.
9. It was recommended that a prepared script be provided to all those who volunteer to contact administrators in targeted districts to encourage their attendance.
10. Members of the TBAC recommend that three additional regions should be proposed: South Florida the Miami/Palm Beach/Broward area; North East Florida Duval area; and the Pan Handle area. The TBAC's 13 existing districts could remain intact as the Central Florida Region.
11. The end result of the workshop would be to come up with two recommendations that can be proposed to the FASA Board at the Summer Conference: The number and structure of the proposed regions and the method of selecting representatives from the local associations on the FASA Board.

John Miliziano reported that he had contacted Jim Warford, Juhan Mixon and Connie Milito to find out the latest on what is happening to our legislative priorities. The following is what was reported:

1. The Class Size Amendment initiative to “Right Size the Class Size” is picking up steam. On Thursday this week, a press conference was held in Tallahassee where a joint resolution by both Houses was announced to put the question on the November ballot. It appears from all indications that this initiative could be successful. Meantime discussions are being held on how the Legislature could freeze the implementation of class by class implementation until the amendment is approved by the voters in November.
2. Delaying additional high school graduation requirements is another priority that is being considered by legislators. FASA has reported that it has had a great deal of input in framing forthcoming legislation on this issue. FASA is being allowed to make recommendations on improving how the bill may be finally filed.

3. Allowing flexibility for entry into the DROP by administrators and providing for monies paid to beneficiaries of FRS employees who die with no qualified dependents are two issues that require an actuarial study. On January 29, 2010, Jeff Atwater, President of the Senate and Mike Fasano, President Pro Tempore wrote a letter to Sarabeth Snuggs, Director of the Division of Retirement, requesting that she conduct an actuarial study of the two above issues. No Bill can be drafted until the results of this study are completed.
4. Increasing and stabilizing revenue and school district budgets is an ongoing struggle that FASA is following on an ongoing basis.
5. Return control of school start date to locally elected school boards is not getting much traction because the entertainment industry that want things to remain as they are, are still much in control of this issue.

FASA's Legislative Days was discussed by Coalition members who attended in Tallahassee. Everyone was in agreement that the days were well organized and well attended. FASA presented some very good speakers who imparted very valuable information. The only criticism was that when they went to speak to the legislators and made a pitch for the 5 legislative priorities, they were able to provide some talking points but could not stipulate which Bills had been filed in support of these priorities. Legislators asked for the names of sponsors and the numbers of the Bills and they were embarrassed that they could not provide this information. It was pointed out that this year the legislative days were held much earlier than past years and that Bills do not get filed until later when the session opens on March first. Coalition members are asking that FASA provide more detailed talking points on all five legislative priorities and once filed, the names of legislators filing the Bills and the Bill numbers.

The following items were discussed during Round Table:

1. Ed Stickles (Lee County) asked what programs do others use to send emails to large numbers of their members. In his case he can only send batches of less than 50 emails at a time without them being rejected. Members with helpful information are asked to contact Ed.
2. John Weant (Charlotte County) reported that because of information that he learned from attending a previous Coalition meeting, he was able to pass this information on to his district that was able to apply and receive a \$60 million dollar school construction grant from the Federal Government's Stimulus Program.
3. Peggy Johns reported that her district's association has hired Dennis Griffin as their Executive Director. Dennis was introduced and welcomed to the Coalition.
4. John Miliziano pointed out that Jim Warford is making the rounds in visiting school districts with administrator associations. In the last several days Jim has visited Seminole and Volusia Counties. John encouraged all Coalition members to invite Jim to their counties.
5. Margie Ebersbach gave out an email update that she periodically sends to all her members. Margie also shared a number of activities that her association is involved in to create interest and involvement.
6. Dr. Neriah Roberts (Polk County) reported that by adopting Hillsborough's initiative to have teachers teach 6 class periods, his district was able to use part of the money saved to give teachers a 1 ½ percent raise.

7. Dody Sapp (Volusia County) informed the group that her association is supporting a candidate in her district that is running to replace someone who had not been very friendly to education. John Miliziano said that Coalition members that have a CCE can provide financial support to this candidate if he gets FASA's endorsement.

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 Luncheon meeting normally scheduled for Wednesday, April 7, 2010, has been canceled and substituted by the state workshop that is being planned.