

TAMPA BAY AREA COALITION

Of

School Administrators Associations

Minutes of October 3, 2007 Meeting

The 33rd bi-monthly meeting of the Tampa Bay Area Coalition was held on October 3, 2007, at Gary Adult High School in Tampa, Florida. The meeting commenced at 9:00 AM and concluded at 11:15 AM. Coalition members present at the meeting were: Ed Stickles from Lee County; Loraine Colby from Sarasota's School Level Association, Marjorie Ebersbach from Brevard; Dr. Neriah Roberts from Polk; Richard Wells from Seminole; Peggy Johns from Pinellas; Jim Knight from Hernando; John Went from Charlotte; and Dr. John Miliziano from Hillsborough County. Robert Clark from Orange; Rob Aguis, Terry Aunchman, and Summer Robertson from Pasco; Denver Raney from Manatee; and Pam Houfer from Sarasota's District Level Association were not able to attend this meeting. Ashley Smith, Retired school principal from Hillsborough County Schools and past president of FASA was a special guest.

In the Absence of Rob Aguis Secretary, Dr. John Miliziano presented the minutes of August 1, 2007 meeting. Minutes were approved as written with no changes or corrections. Dr. Neriah Roberts presented the Treasure's report noting that all bills are paid and as of this date the balance on the Coalition account is \$4,897.68. The treasure's report was also approved as submitted. All Coalition members have paid their dues for 2007 – 2008 except Sarasota District Level Association, and Manatee County.

Dr. John Miliziano reminds Coalition members that dues for 2007 – 2008 are now due. Member districts that have not yet paid their annual dues are asked to calculate their dues by using the number of members they had in their association as of July 1, 2007 and multiply by one dollar per member. As an example, Hillsborough Association of School Administrators (HASA) dues will be \$745, one dollar for each HASA member. Please make your check payable to HASA for the Coalition, and mail it to Dr. John Miliziano at 5308 Redfield Lane Tampa, Florida 33624. For questions contact Dr. John Miliziano at (813) 265-0001 or 875-8893 or Email jmilizia@verizon.net.

Our guest, Ashley Smith, spoke about an amendment to FASA's constitution that he had proposed during his tenure as president of FASA in 2001. The proposed amendment would have authorized the FASA's Board of Directors to establish a sixth Department, the Department of District Associations. The proposed amendment requires an affirmative two-thirds vote of FASA members present at the June 27, 2001, annual FASA Summer Conference. The proposed amendment failed by one vote. A copy of the 2001 proposed amendment was distributed by Mr. Smith

Mr. Smith believed then as he still believes today, that Florida's local school administrators associations should have representation on the FASA Board of Directors. This representation on the Board would strengthen FASA because local associations would have a greater incentive in promoting membership to FASA from their local districts. Mr. Smith believes that the time is right for this amendment proposal to be re-introduced. Local associations are too important to be left out of the loop of FASA's governance.

Mr. Smith encouraged everyone at this meeting to support FASA our state association. FASA needs membership and support from the local associations. FASA is the only voice that administrators have at the state level. With strong local membership support, FASA can be a stronger advocate for Florida's administrators. Coalition representatives at the meeting wanted to know how they could find out which administrators from their respective districts are members of FASA so they could spearhead a membership drives for FASA. Dr. John Miliziano suggested that they telephone Cindy Casavant at the FASA Tallahassee Office and request that she sent them a printout of FASA members from their respective districts. Cindy can be reached by calling 1-850-224-3626.

Coalition members raised the question as to how the three persons representation to the FASA Board would be decided if this proposed amendment were to be passed. Consensus was that should this amendment be proposed for passage at the FASA 2008 Summer Conference, the Coalition could sponsor a Summit Meeting sometime in January or February 2008 where all districts with local administrator associations would be invited for the purpose of addressing this issue.

After some discussion, it was the consensus opinion of the Coalition members present at this meeting that they should go back to their respective

local associations governing bodies and get approval for this amendment proposal. When the Coalition members reconvene at the next meeting on December 13, 2007, this matter will be on the agenda for further discussion and approval.

The Coalition representatives also discussed the proposal that Walter Pierce had recommended for FASA to divide the state into 10 regions for the purpose of effectuating better communications between the local associations and FASA. Coalition members wanted to know if this proposal was moving forward. Dr. John Miliziano said that he would contact Dr. Walter Pierce and Jim Warford, get additional information, and report back at the next Coalition meeting in December.

The Coalition reaffirmed the previous position taken at the last meeting that the single most important legislative priority for 2008 should be the passage of the DROP extension for administrators. Dr. John Miliziano will communicate with Jim Warford regarding this position by the Coalition.

At the August Coalition meeting representatives in attendance expressed interest in joining any efforts by the Central Florida Coalition of School Boards to explain how the Florida Tax Reform Law and the upcoming Constitutional Amendment on the Property Tax Super Exemption will effect local school districts. Dr. John Miliziano was to inquire with, Connie Milito, Hillsborough's Lobbyist, to see how this can be accomplished. Dr. Miliziano reported that he has contacted Miss Connie Milito and was told that when information on this issue is developed she would share it with the Coalition. Now that the constitutional amendment was thrown out by the Florida Courts the matter may be mute.

Dr. John Miliziano share two items of interest with the Coalition representative present at this meeting. 1. A packet of HASA's Annual Membership Drive and all supporting information. 2. A packet of HASA's Business Partners Program and all supporting information.

Richard Wells, the Executive Director of Seminole County, also shared, "Changes in School Level Administrators Salary Ranges for 2007-2008 and 2006-2007. Richard shares this information with potential members when he visits them as part of his membership drive.

One of the greatest assets that the Coalition offers its members is the opportunity to network and share information.

The next Coalition meeting was set for **Thursday, December 13, 2007**, to be held in **Tampa's Gary Adult School** at **9:00 AM**. *PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE IN date, day, and place.*