

TAMPA BAY AREA COALITION

OF

School Administrator Associations

Minutes of October 8, 2008

The 37th Bi-Monthly meeting of the Tampa Bay area Coalition was held on Wednesday, October 8, 2008, at the Gary Adult High School Campus in Tampa Florida. The meeting began at 9:08 AM and concluded at 11:10 AM. Coalition Members present were: Peggy Johns from Pinellas; Ed Stickles from Lee; Neriah Roberts from Polk; David Underhill from Manatee; Marjorie Ebersbach from Brevard; Richard Wells from Seminole; and John Miliziano & Ken Allen from Hillsborough. Guest speaker was Connie Milito. The following Coalition Representatives were unable to attend this meeting: Rob Aguis from Pasco; Barbara Kitter from Hernando; Loraine Colby and Jody Dumas from Sarasota; and John Weant from Charlotte.

In the absence of Coalition Secretary, Rob Aguis, John Miliziano presented the minutes of the August 27, 2008, meeting which were approved as written. Dr. Neriah Roberts, treasurer, provided a copy of the financial report dated 10/6/08 that showed a balance as of 10/5/08 of \$6,600.08. It was reported that three dues checks were received today from Manatee \$200, Broward \$252, and Pinellas \$238, bringing the total balance in the Coalition's account to \$7,290. All Coalition member districts with the exception of Sarasota's District Based Association have paid their annual dues for 2008 – 2009. Dr. Miliziano reported that HASA is in the process of opening a separate checking account for the Coalition so funds from the Coalition will no longer be commingled with HASA funds.

Amendments 5 – 7 - 9 that were removed from the November ballot were discussed. A copy of Jim Warford's October 3, 2008, FASA Friday Facts was distributed and discussed. It appears that the PAC that was established for the "Protect Our Public Schools" issue will continue to exist to be used for other future purposes. Coalition representatives at this meeting considered making a contribution to this PAC but deferred doing so until they learn more about how this PAC will be used. Jim Warford will be invited to attend the Coalition's next meeting on January 14, 2009, so he can inform the group about this PAC.

Larry Carmichael's advisory, dated September 27, 2008, was also discussed. It was noted that the two issues that Larry talks about in this document are very important. It is important that we track how the FRS Trust Fund is invested and how the legislature's recent intrusion into the Trust Fund may be of great concern to all of us. We will try to contact Mr. Carmichael and see if we can get him to come to Tampa for our next meeting.

Richard Wells opened a discussion on the 2009 legislative priorities. Connie Milito, Hillsborough's legislative Lobbyist, was a guest speaker on this topic. She told the group that since this coming year will be difficult to propose legislation that involves funding, the Coalition may want to consider pursuing a bill that would allow an "open ended entry into the DROP", the same provision that is allowed for teachers. This would not be a money item and Connie thinks it may have a chance to receive a favorable hearing. Miss Milito believes that the extension portion of the DROP may some day be eliminated by the Legislature especially since the scarcity of teachers is no longer an issue. Coalition members were asked to discuss this matter with their respective members and report back at the January 14, 2009, Coalition meeting. John Miliziano will contact Jim Warford, FASA's Executive Director, to consult with him about this proposal.

Ed Stickles proposed, for discussion only, the possibility of having 4 quarterly Coalition Meetings per year rather than the present bimonthly meetings. The reason for this proposition was that about half of the Coalition's Representatives are not Executive Directors and hence must work during the day when meetings are held, making it difficult to get away from their jobs to attend the meetings. After some discussion it was agreed that we go to 5 meetings per year, eliminating the December meeting, and holding the meetings in the early afternoon. This would give the Coalition Representatives that are working a chance to clear their calendars in the morning, getting their schools or offices started, and then being able to leave to attend the meetings. It was decided to accept this proposal and see how it works. There will not be a meeting in December and the next meeting in January 14, 2009, will be held at 2:00 PM.

Dr. Ken Allen reported that he participated in a telephone conference call with the FASA/PAC Committee where decisions were made as to which legislative candidates would be endorsed and given financial assistance. Peggy John also participated in this conference call. Ken and Peggy said that the committee spent most of the \$10,000 dollars available in the PAC but kept \$2,000 as reserve for future activities.

Since everyone had a chance to cover most of their concerns during the regular meeting, the normal round table discussion held at the end of the meeting was dispensed with. John Miliziano, however, shared a copy of HASA's Five-year Strategic Goals and reasons to join HASA. David Underhill explained that his Administrators Association in Manatee needs to be strengthened. John Miliziano told David that he and other Coalition members are prepared to lend any assistance that is requested.

The October 8, 2008, meeting Agenda and related documents and handouts will be sent by US Mail to Coalition Members that were unable to attend the meeting. If there are any questions please contact Dr. John Miliziano at 813 265-0001 or 857-8893 or jmilizia@verizon.net. HASA's Web Site www.hasaonline.com is a good source of information. All past Coalition meeting minutes are posted and archived in this site. The Coalition's Constitution and By-Laws are also posted on the HASA Web Site.

The next Coalition meeting will be held in Tampa at the same location on *Wednesday, January 14, 2009 from 2:00 to 4:00 PM*. Please note this change and mark your calendars.