

**General Meeting of the
Duval County Council of PTAs/PTSAs
September 15, 2009**

Call to Order

The General meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by the President, Annette Worthen. The meeting was held in the Cline Auditorium of the Duval County School Board building on Tuesday, September 15, 2009. The recording secretary recorded the minutes for the meeting.

Attendance

There were 101 individuals in attendance, which consisted of 8 guests and represented 64 schools.

Meditation

There was no meditation read, however, Annette Worthen led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Parliamentarian – No report

Minutes

The minutes from the August 2009 General meeting were not available, so they will be posted at the next meeting and voted on along with the September 2009 General meeting minutes.

Correspondence

Tiffany Reed reported that a card was sent to Chris Guajardo who has a sick child.

Treasurer's Report

Shelley Gill-Cain presented the treasurer's report. There were no questions, so the report will be filed for audit. The treasurer's handouts are attached. The report overview is as follows:

Money Market Account:

Beginning Balance as of August 1, 2009	\$27,691.49
Ending Balance as of August 31, 2009	\$27,691.49

Checking Account:

Beginning Balance as of August 1, 2009	\$846.45
Ending Balance as of August 31, 2009	\$ 816.45

Total of all accounts	\$28,740.94
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Annette also introduced a budget amendment explaining that the cost of using the Schultz Center for the Duval County Council Workshops had risen significantly since last year, so the budget had to be adjusted to care for the additional cost. Shelley Gill-Cain made a motion by direction of the Board of Managers "that we move \$100.00 from the Handbook expense line item; we move \$100.00 from the Right Foot Award expense line item; and \$200.00 from the Carryover expense line item" to cover the cost of the Workshop. The motion passed.

Executive Committee Reports

President

Annette reported that she had been asked about the signing of a multi-year contract, and she wanted to make sure that everyone understood why that was not allowed. She explained the one board cannot encumber a future board with financial responsibility. It was further clarified that if a special project was being worked on by a school where funds were being collected for a large project over time, a special account for that purpose would have to be set up for that purpose and it would be up to each board to decide if that was a project that funds were to be designated for from year to year rather than being part of the annual budget.

Annette also shared that by now all local units should have received the county council newsletter electronically. If it has not been received, she asked that members contact Gretchen Lynch, 2nd Vice President, so e-mail address information can be verified. Annette also thanked Sara Murphy, Marketing Director for Chartwells, for pulling the newsletter together for us.

1st Vice President

Frances Soper reported that in addition to the information about the On-Course system parent portal presented by Dr. Terri Stahlman, Chief Technology and Special Services Officer for DCPS, the program speakers are Deborah Gianoulis-Heald to discuss the Save Duval Schools organization and representatives from Sam's Club and Wal-Mart to present information about memberships and available grant money. Martha McManus, Education Programs Director for the Cultural Council of Greater Jacksonville was scheduled to present, but she could not make it so she will be rescheduled.

2nd Vice President

Gretchen Lynch thanked everyone for contacting her and their Area Coordinators. She encouraged everyone to attend the Fall Leadership Workshop for training, and she stated that she and the Area Coordinators would be there and looking forward to meeting them.

3rd Vice President

Victoria Richmond-Davies shared that her favorite part of the handbook is the "What is a Council?" on page 50.

Committee Reports

Archivist – No report

Awards – No report

Bylaws – No report

Council/Local Unit Relations

Betty Marty reminded everyone that in order to earn the "Off on the Right Foot" award PTAs must do the following: PTA Bylaws must be up to date, 2 out of 3 of the County Council meetings must have been attended, Fall Leadership Workshop must be attended, Council dues of \$35.00 must be paid prior to November 1st, and the State and National portion of dues collected must be paid. Betty also shared that her favorite part of the handbook is the "Suggested Procedures for Nominating Committee" on page 42 because this is the most important committee in PTA.

Character/Spiritual – No report

Cultural Arts - No report

Environmental

Chris Buckley encouraged everyone to attend the Coastal Cleanup. She also explained the purpose of the various collection programs that the County Council supports and who benefits from the collections. Flip-tabs from cans benefit the Ronald McDonald House. Cell phones are refurbished by the Police Auxiliary and donated to the Hubbard House. Eye glasses are refurbished by the Lions Club and sent to third world countries. Hygiene products are donated to the Hubbard House and various food banks. The Mister Rogers Sweater Drive is a November program that gathers new and gently used sweaters, jackets and blankets, which are then distributed through local shelters.

Exceptional Student Education – No report

Eyeglass Fund – No report

Health/Safety

Victoria Richmond-Davies reported on behalf of Chris Guajardo that everything is on track for the Health and Community Resources Fair on September 30.

History – No report

Hospitality - No report

Legislation

Ted Corley shared that enjoyed talking about PTA and recruiting PTA members at schools that he visited. He also encouraged schools to utilize the SES tutoring that is available to students on free and reduced lunch at Title I schools. He reported that he is offering a session at the Fall Leadership workshop on how to use your voice, and he reminded everyone that today was an election day. Ted shared the information that he had with regard to the platform items that will be presented at the Florida PTA Convention in November, but stated that the official convention packet had not been sent out yet. He shared that the committee would be meeting before the Platform workshop to discuss the platform items, and the Platform Workshop is being held in conjunction with the Fall Leadership Workshop on September 30 during the last two scheduled sessions.

Marketing/Communications – No report

Membership

Gary Resch asked if anyone had earned the Membership early bird award and reminded everyone that the deadline was quickly approaching. He stated that his favorite part of the handbook was “Membership: An Investment in Children” on page 52 because it explains the benefits of membership. Gary also shared that he is working to do training sessions on the OMDR system and still trying to plan a webinar on how to use the system.

Newsletter – No report

Parent Education – No report

P&P Luncheon – No report

Publications

Kathy Daber stated that the handbook is ready and asked that everyone pick it up from her before they leave the meeting today.

Registration – No report

Resources – No report

Scholarship – No report

School Education - No report

Student Leadership – No report

Technology

Annette shared the history of the county council website development. She explained that Peggy Houdeshell started the website on www.schoolnotes.com and it has evolved into the new website at www.dccpta.org through the work of Vickie Hamby. Annette pointed out some of the highlights of the new website while Vickie navigated through it on the overhead screens. Members requested that additional items be made available on the website including the handbook, awards applications and General meeting minutes.

Volunteers – No report

Workshops

Samantha Lowry shared that her favorite part of the handbook as the first page because it lists the “Duval County Council PTA Workshops” and the scheduled dates, times and locations. She also reminded everyone that the upcoming Fall Leadership Workshop on September 30 is free and there is no pre-registration required. Samantha also announced the addition of the Platform Workshop during the last two scheduled session of the day from approximately 12 Noon to 1:30 p.m.

Unfinished Business – There was no unfinished business.

New Business

The next General meeting will be held on October 20, 2009 at the Teacher Supply Depot for business and shopping. Hospitality will begin at 9:30 a.m., the business portion of the meeting will be from 10:00 a.m. to 12 Noon, and shopping time will follow. The Teacher Supply Depot is located at 3108 Lenox Avenue.

Program

Dr. Terri Stahlman, Chief Technology and Special Services Officer, presented the parent portal of the On-Course system. She stated that the site is currently available at 17 district schools and is scheduled to be available to all schools after the first nine weeks of the school year. The website address is www.dcps.mygradeportal.com, but it will also have a point of entry from the DCPS website. Schools will be providing usernames and passwords along with instructions for the system. Dr. Stahlman discussed the power of the system with regard to tracking student grades and attendance, and she answered questions.

Representatives from Sam's Club and Wal-Mart shared information about the benefits of Sam's Club memberships, programs that can be planned as fundraisers, and how to submit requests for donations and/or apply for grant funds. The representatives answered questions from the members. They also had a table set up in the lobby with information.

Deborah Gianoulis-Heald from Save Duval Schools shared information about the purpose in starting the organization and plans that are being formulated to address the budget problems facing education. She shared that the group is beginning to work with other similar organizations around the State of Florida, so they can collectively encourage the legislature to provide dedicated and sustainable funding for education that is on par with the national average and give local control to school districts. They are working to create grassroots efforts within the community and have started with high school students to plan a showcase that will allow the students from all of the district high schools to tell the legislators why it is so important to fund education.

Superintendent's Remarks

Patricia Willis, Deputy Superintendent, reported on behalf of Superintendent Ed Pratt-Dannals. She stated that school openings were almost flawless, which was exciting considering the schedule and start time changes, transportation changes, and the food service vendor change. She shared that she enjoyed her visit to the Teacher Supply Depot for the first giveaway and has enjoyed being at schools and speaking with PTA members and concerned parents. She shared that FTE is down, and they have started the budget process based on opening counts. She explained that the FAIR assessment has replaced the DIBELS and Reading benchmark this year, and the district is working to provide focused support for turnarounds school which included early return for teachers at those schools so the teachers would have extra time to prepare for the school year and receive training. She announced that there was a special board meeting that would be held tonight and the election today included the open DCPS School Board seat that was previously held by the Honorable Stan Jordan.

Ex-officio Reports

District Advisory Council – No report

State Board Members – No report

Consultants

Teacher Supply Depot

Chris Buckley reported that the next giveaway is scheduled for September 17, 2009. She reminded all local units Presidents that they are welcome to come. They can even pick up items for teachers who may not be able to make it and three shopping bags is the limit. Chris explained that Presidents may also send a designee as long as they contact her, so she knows they are coming. She announced that they just received 63 pallets of envelopes and Books-A-Go-Go is offering bags of books for students at Title I schools again this year. Chris also stated that she is always looking for volunteers to help, so please consider having members of the local units schedule a time to help.

Chartwells – No report

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 12:05 p.m.

Signed: _____
Melissa Kicklighter