

**General Meeting of the
Duval County Council of PTAs/PTSAs
February 17, 2010**

Call to Order

The General meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by President Annette Worthen. The meeting was held in Cline Auditorium of the Duval County School Board Building on Tuesday, February 17, 2010. The Recording Secretary recorded the minutes for the meeting.

Attendance

There were 48 individuals in attendance, which consisted of 1 guest and represented 39 schools.

Meditation

George Marsh read the meditation and led group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Parliamentarian – No report

Minutes

The minutes from the January 2010 General meeting were approved as corrected and will be posted on the website.

Correspondence

Tiffany Reed announced that she sent one thank you note to the Kinevan family for their donation to the Eye Glass fund.

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 January 1, 2010		\$40,937.21
Ending Balance as of January 31, 2010		\$42,268.41
Checking Account:		
Beginning Balance as of January 1, 2010		\$956.68
Ending Balance as of January 31, 2010		\$765.35
Total of all accounts		\$43,033.76

Executive Committee Reports

President

Annette announced that the Be There essay contest deadline has been moved. When the date was set, we did not take into consideration the FCAT testing timeline. Please make sure your schools know that there is still time to participate.

Annette shared that she had received the Budget Talking Points flyer (see attached) from the Superintendent, and she encouraged everyone to pick up a copy from the registration table. She also stated that the Superintendent will be holding Community Budget Meetings next month, and she encouraged everyone to attend one of the meetings. A flyer with the dates, times and locations is available at the registration table (see attached).

Annette announced that there would be a Legislative Awareness Workshop featuring Deborah Gianoulis-Heald, spokesperson for Saveduvalschools.org held at Pine Forest Elementary tonight, February 16 at 7:00 p.m.

Annette will be attending the Youth Risk Behavior meeting at the Schultz Center on February 22, 2010. She stated that a flyer was sent to local unit Presidents with information about the meeting.

Finally, Annette shared that the Jacksonville Charter Revision Commission passed a resolution to support appointed Superintendent and School Board members. The next meeting will be held on February 18 at 9:00 a.m. She encouraged members to attend the meeting and speak during the public comment portion of the meeting. Annette will prepare talking points on this issue for distribution to the membership.

1st Vice President

Victoria Richmond-Davies reported on behalf of Frances Soper that the program speaker was Harry Reagan from Tobacco Free Jacksonville. She also announced that the Tips for Success topics were History Books and Awards. Also, Ted Corley and Julie Delegal would be presenting Legislative information.

2nd Vice President

Gretchen Lynch stated the importance of the nomination process at this point in the year. She introduced the various Area Coordinators in attendance at the meeting and encouraged local unit leaders to contact them for help.

3rd Vice President

Victoria Richmond-Davies announced that the Gary and Sherry Resch had to step down from their Membership and Hospitality board positions. Kim Sheldon assumed responsibility for Hospitality and Vilma Morgan for Membership.

Committee Reports

Archivist – No report

Awards – No report

Bylaws – No report

Council/Local Unit Relations – No report

Character/Spiritual – No report

Cultural Arts

Reta Russell-Houghton apologized for the Reflections artwork not being ready to be returned. She will have it done in the next two weeks. Reflections has a new logo to celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the Reflections program, and it can be downloaded from the website at www.PTArelections.org (see attached).

Environmental

Betty Marty reported on behalf of Chris Buckley to remember to apply for the clean campus award through Keep Jacksonville Beautiful. The application form is located on the coj.net website. Search under litter pick ups and click on Keep Jacksonville Beautiful. The applications are a link on the bottom of that page. Currently there are no school applications. You have a great shot at being recognized for your environmental efforts at the Mayors Environmental luncheon! Application is due by February 26. I know you have done plantings, recycling programs, litter pick ups, etc. in and around your school. Also, Earth Day grants are available on the jea.com/earthday website. You have one more month to get that application in. Volunteer applications are available for Earth Day on April 17th held at the Landing. Volunteer shifts are 2 ½ hours. All volunteers get a free Earth Day shirt. Sign up early. Earth Day shirts will be available for sale next month for those who love the shirts, but cannot volunteer that day.

Exceptional Student Education – No report

Eyeglass Fund – No report

Health/Safety – No report

History – No report

Hospitality – No report

Legislation – see report under Programs

Marketing/Communications – see report under President's report

Membership

Vilma Morgan announced that several schools are close to receiving the Superintendent's award for 100 more members than the previous year. The award will be given at a DCPS Board meeting later in the year. Also, information about the Jacksonville Suns Night will be coming soon.

Newsletter – No report

Parent Education – No report

P&P Luncheon – No report

Publications – No report

Registration – No report

Resources – No report

Scholarship

Shelley Gill-Cain announced that scholarship applications went via school mail to local area school guidance counselors on Thursday, February 11th. Duval County Council will award three (3) \$599.00 scholarships to deserving high school seniors to assist with their future education endeavors. These scholarship awards will be presented at the P&P Luncheon on May 27, 2010.

School Education - No report

Student Leadership – No report

Technology – No report

Volunteers – No report

Special Committee Reports

Nominating

Shelley Gill-Cain reported that the committee has been actively working to recruit members to the Executive Committee for the 2010/2011 school year. The slate of officers will be e-mailed to the local unit PTA President and Delegate no later than five (5) days prior to the next General meeting which will be held on March 16, 2010. If you have not been receiving monthly e-mail correspondence from Gretchen Lynch, please speak with her after the meeting to update your contact information.

Unfinished Business – There was no unfinished business.

New Business – There was no new business.

Program

Harry Reagan from the Tobacco Free Jacksonville Coalition explained that the organization was created in 1988 to try to keep young people from smoking. Today he is here to ask for help with their campaign to educate people about the impact of second hand smoke in cars. He stated that they want people to think about what they are doing and how they are hurting others, especially children. It was agreed that information would be prepared by the coalition and distributed through the schools to help spread the word. Mr. Reagan also works with the Jacksonville Public Library Friends of the Library organization, so he announced that the next book sale will be held March 5-7, 2010.

Tips for Success were presented by Victoria Richmond-Davies and Mandi Welch. Victoria presented information about the requirements for history books. She shared that the award application is located in both the DCC Handbook and on the website, and that application must be the first page of the history book. She also announced that the history books must be submitted for judging by April 16, 2010. Mandi Welch gave a summary of the requirements for all DCC awards and FPTA awards and the respective due dates. She also reminded members that to receive any award the local unit must be in good standing with current bylaws, DCC dues paid and FPTA dues paid. Mandi welcomed members to contact her with any questions by phone at 908-9753 or via e-mail at mandiwelch@bellsouth.net.

Legislation information was presented by Ted Corley, DCC Legislative Chair and Julie Delegal, DCC Consultant Saveduvalschools.org. Ted Corley presented information about how to talk to legislators. He shared a detailed handout (see attached) and highlighted important points. Ted emphasized that one personal note from a constituent is equal to them receiving 100 pages of petitions. Julie Delegal presented a ten minute writer's workshop on how to write a letter to the editor, lawmakers, etc. She shared that there have been no new budget dollars put toward education in the State of Florida in 13 years because of inflation. Julie provided a detailed handout that included contact information for legislators (see attached).

Superintendent's Remarks

Deputy Superintendent Patricia Willis visited and shared that the FCAT Writing test is done. Schools shared that students were attentive and focused. Resources for the remaining sections of the FCAT test include Compass Odyssey, FCAT Explorer and Riverdeep websites.

Ms. Willis shared that Black History Month activities are going on around the district.

Ms. Willis announced that all schools will have model classrooms with technology, and every school that applied for technology grants will receive something.

Ms. Willis stated that the State of Florida is facing a \$2 billion deficit, which will equal approximately a \$125-130 million shortfall for Duval County for the 2010-11 school year. She stated that there has been a steady decrease in funding since 2006-07. District leaders need help in emphasizing the gains that have been made in Duval County to legislators. Some of the items district leaders plan to ask for include: flexibility in meeting the class size amendment, flexibility on text book purchasing, and the ability to move revenue from capital millage to operational.

Ex-officio Reports

District Advisory Council - No report

State Board Members – No report

Consultants

Teacher Supply Depot

Betty Marty reported on behalf of Chris Buckley that the next giveaway will be held on March 11, 2010. The First Book distribution is going on this week. If your school is Title I and did not request books, the Teacher Supply Depot has received an allotment and will be dispersing the books after the giveaway. These books are meant to go to kids who have few or no books at home. Huge donations are coming in and help is needed. If you are willing to help pack up business donations at the business location or sort the donations coming in at the depot, please call Chris at 381-7480 or on her cell 612-5339. Disney volunteer days are still available. Visit Disney Parks website and look for Give a Day Get a Day to register for a free Disney ticket by volunteering.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 12:05 p.m.

Signed: _____

