

**General Meeting of the
Duval County Council of PTAs/PTSAs
January 17, 2012**

Call to Order

The General Meeting was called to order at 10:03 am by the President, Melissa Kicklighter. The meeting was held at the Cline Auditorium of the Duval County School Board Building on Tuesday, January 17, 2012. The recording secretary recorded the minutes.

Attendance

There were 51 people in attendance and 39 schools were represented.

Meditation

Sharon Hodges read the meditation and led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes

The minutes from the November General Meeting were approved and will be filed.

Correspondence

Terry Chrisley reported that a holiday card was received from JPEF. We also received thank you cards for the wallets donated during the holiday.

Treasurer's Report

Mary Lobello presented the treasurer's report for the months of November and December. The treasurer's handouts are attached. The report's overview is as follows:

November 2011 report overview:

Total Receipts	\$ 10,277.73
Total Disbursements	\$ 8,999.21
Ending Bank Balance	\$ 49,688.03
Ending Checkbook Balance	\$ 44,050.45

December 2011 report overview:

Total Receipts	\$ 4,545.72
Total Disbursements	\$ 3,181.81
Ending Bank Balance	\$ 47,516.00
Ending Checkbook Balance	\$ 45,414.36

Mary Lobello announced that they are working on providing scholarships for the Florida PTA Convention at Innisbrook. The application will be posted as soon as it is ready.

Executive Committee Reports

President

Melissa Kicklighter announced that the save the date for the Leadership/Convention at Innisbrook came out from the Florida PTA. She also reminded everyone that legislative session has started and information on proposed legislation will be sent out soon. Melissa asked everyone to be aware of the news media regarding legislative issues and their impact to our schools. She also reminded everyone of the Lunch and Learn workshop this afternoon.

Melissa announced that on January 21st, JPEF is hosting an event at the RITZ Theater from 1-4 pm. She stated that this is an opportunity to share and provide feedback on how you feel about public education. Anyone can come. There will be lunch, performances and giveaways.

Melissa encouraged everyone to check out the website www.nefl211.org. This is about the mentoring program organized through the Mayor's Office and the United Way.

Melissa announced that the speaker for March general meeting will be Tim Ballentine from research and evaluation. He will talk about FCAT 2.0 testing.

1st Vice President – Programs

Kim Sheldon announced that February 17 is PTA Founders Day. She stated that National PTA highly encourages everyone to celebrate founders' day in their schools. She also asked that if they do celebrate it, to send and share picture to the county and she will have a surprise for them. If anyone needs ideas on how to celebrate Founders day, email Kim. She added that at February 21 general meeting, we will celebrate Founders Day.

Kim also reminded everyone to send in applications for the Program Award.

2nd Vice President – STAR Team

Melissa Kicklighter reported for Mitzi Cavin and announced that they will email a status update of every local unit. They are doing it electronically instead of going through school mail. They are also sending a copy to the Principals. She asked that they look at the status update and email Melissa with any questions.

3rd Vice President – Committees

Committee Reports

Advocacy/Legislative

Gretchen Lynch reported for Vickie Hamby and stated that they finished the holiday postcard campaign. They sent the postcards to the respective State Legislators before Christmas. She stated that there was significant increase in participation from last year.

She also reported that advocacy training has had 110 people in attendance so far and this represented 34 schools. She encouraged those who have participated in all 4 modules of training to volunteer to train other schools.

Gretchen also announced that they are preparing for a practice webinar, and they will offer it to the local units when it is ready.

She added that iadvocateforkids.org website has been launched. She announced that the trip to Tallahassee is on January 25th, Wednesday. They will leave from school board building at 6 am, and the parents and students will be spending about 10 minutes with each legislator. This trip is open to any parent. She encouraged everyone to go to the website for more information.

She added that January 23rd is also a Region 3 week in Tallahassee. There will be other people from Florida PTA in Tallahassee that day.

Awards

Mandi Welch gave out awards for advocacy. She also announced that Hendricks Avenue Elementary PTA received a 100% faculty and grandparent membership award.

Cultural Arts

Rowena Nagales announced that the Reflections county winners are posted on the wall and will be posted on the website soon. All reflections entries that did not advance to the State level of competition are ready for pick up. Rowena also announced that one of the 5 winners of the Reflection Theme Contest for the State is from Fletcher High school. He will go on to compete at the National level.

Hospitality

Thank you to Pine Forest Elementary for providing refreshments at the general meeting.

P&P Luncheon

Gretchen Lynch reported that the luncheon will be held on Tuesday, May 22 at the UNF University Center and tickets are now on sale. Tickets are \$25.00 and each PTA is limited to one table until the April deadline then additional tables and seats will be sold if available.

Scholarship

Shelley Gill-Cain reported that information about the Florida PTA scholarship application was delivered to the high schools guidance counselors. She announced that it is also posted on the DCCPTA website. She reminded everyone that the DCC scholarship application deadline is on March 30th. The scholarship is for \$599.00. She encouraged all high school students to apply.

Workshops

Margaret Godke was excited to announce that there were 62 responses for the lunch and learn workshop today. She reported that she is working on the Spring workshop in May and encouraged everyone to provide ideas or input on what they would like to see included in the training.

Consultants

Exceptional Education Student Services

Rosemarie Parsch announced the next ESEAC - Exceptional Student Education Advisory Committee meeting is Thursday, January 19, 2012. Topic: A Grassroots Advocacy Training for Parents on "Strategic Planning", funded by a PTA grant and presented by Juliann Gaus-Graeser.

She also announced the ESE Parent Survey issued by the Florida Department of Education, Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services would be available online at www.ESEsurvey.com from February 1 to June 30, 2012. She asked that all parents of children with disabilities in grades preschool to 12th grade and having a current IEP- Individual Education Plan, please complete this survey. The survey results are reported as part of Florida's Annual Performance Report. Special recognition was given to Kirby-Smith Middle School for having the highest percentage of completed surveys in Duval County last year. They were chosen to participate in a parent focus study and were visited by a research team from the University of Miami in December 2011.

Teacher Supply Depot

Melissa Kicklighter reported for Chris Buckley and announced that Earth Day grant applications are available. She also asked everyone to help volunteer at the Teacher Supply Depot. They are receiving tons of donations and need volunteers to help. Chris' contact information at the depot is 381-7480.

Program

DCPS Exceptional Education Student Services

Ken Sutton

Ken Sutton gave out information and contact information to everyone about Exceptional Education Student Services. He further discussed the program to the general membership. Ken Sutton also announced that the Family Tools for Success Conference is on February 29 at the Schultz Center. He asked everyone to share the information with other families at their schools.

Superintendent's Remarks

Deputy Superintendent Patricia Willis reported for Superintendent Ed Pratt-Dannals and announced that nine (9) high schools grades had gone up. She asked everyone to continue to support and encourage our high schools to strive more. She stated that students are now focusing on the FCAT writes on February 28. FCAT Math, Reading and Science are scheduled for April 16-24 and they are working with schools to get the students ready for the FCAT. She asked that everyone continue to support and encourage students, as they get ready for FCAT.

New Business

Election of Nominating Committee

Mary Lobello, Mandi Welch and Ann Gipalo were nominated from the board of managers.

Stacie Hollandsworth, Sharon Hodges and Margaret Godke were nominated from the floor. Everyone accepted their nominations.
Melissa Kicklighter appointed Mary Lobello as chair pro tem.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:37 am.

Signed:
Rowena Nagales