

**General Meeting of the
Duval County Council of PTAs/PTSAs
November 17, 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, November 17, 2009. The corresponding secretary recorded the minutes for the meeting.

Attendance

There were 72 individuals in attendance, which consisted of 11 guests and represented 45 schools.

Meditation

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

Parliamentarian – No report

Minutes

The minutes from the October 2009 General meeting were approved as corrected and will be posted on the website.

Correspondence

Tiffany Reed reported that a get well card was sent to Melissa Kicklighter.

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 October 1, 2009	\$34,554.71
Ending Balance as of October 31, 2009	\$38,592.66

Checking Account:

Beginning Balance as of October 1, 2009	\$660.39
Ending Balance as of October 31, 2009	\$649.68

Total of all accounts	\$39,242.34
-----------------------	-------------

Executive Committee Reports

President

DCC needs two or three middle schools to volunteer for a one-time committee to evaluate if DCPS is preparing students for college. The dates are December 1-2, 2009. Annette also reminded everyone that Title I/Parent Involvement posts a parents workshop calendar of events on the DCPS website. She spoke about the recent passing of Bill Mathias. Mr. Mathias was a past Duval County School Board member and a Life member of PTA. His family has requested that in lieu of flowers, donations be made to the DCC Eyeglass fund. To date we have collected \$2000. DCC also won a \$1000 grant, which will go to the eyeglass fund. Pine Forest also won a \$1000 grant. No Duval county middle or high schools applied for any available grants. Annette also gave a few reminders about PTA budgets/funding. PTAs cannot help fund any portion of a teacher's salary. A PTA board must approve any money that is given to a principal. Each PTA needs a receipt for however the funds were used. The receipt is for auditing purposes. Annette

concluded by stating there will be an upcoming workshop on “The Dangers of Energy Drinks”. Betty Marty will be the facilitator.

1st Vice President

Frances Soper reported that the speakers for the meeting would be Jackie Cornelius, Executive Director of the Fine Arts DCPS and Principal of Douglas Anderson School of the Arts; Jack Matthews, Specialist of Visual Arts, Dance and Theatre; Martha McManus, Cultural Council of Greater Jacksonville; Stephanie Toelle, UF/IFAS-Duval County Extension Service; and Emily Heeg, Souper Bowl of Caring.

2nd Vice President

Victoria reported on behalf of Gretchen Lynch that taxes were due on November 15th and local units should watch for emails and newsletters for current ‘Good Standing’ reports. If local units have any questions about their current standing, they should contact their area coordinator or Gretchen at tlynch@comcast.net

3rd Vice President

Victoria Richmond-Davies shared that Lashantah Holliday, Vice Principal of Douglas Anderson School of the Arts, will serve as Student Leadership Chairperson.

Committee Reports

Archivist – No report

Awards – No report

Bylaws – No report

Council/Local Unit Relations

Betty Marty announced that there were 31 PTA’s that earned the Right Foot Award for 2009, including the following: Beauclerc Elementary, Biscayne Elementary, Chaffee Trail Elementary, Crown Point Elementary, Crystal Springs Elementary, Douglas Anderson School of the Arts, Duncan Fletcher Middle, Hyde Park Elementary, Jacksonville Beach Elementary, James Weldon Johnson Middle, Jefferson Davis Middle, John E. Ford K-8, Joseph Stilwell Middle, Julia Landon Middle, Kernan Trail Elementary, Kirby Smith Middle, Lake Forest Elementary, Landmark Middle, Loretto Elementary, Mandarin Middle, Mandarin Oaks Elementary, N.B Forrest High School, New Berlin Elementary, Ortega Elementary, Paxon School for Advanced Studies, Pine Forest Elementary, Sabal Palm Elementary, San Jose Elementary, San Pablo Elementary, Sandalwood High School, Stanton College Preparatory. These PTAs represent 13,000 members. In addition, another 34 PTA’s are in good standing.

Character/Spiritual – No report

Cultural Arts

Reta Russell-Houghton reported that reflections are due Wednesday, December 2, 2009. Entries will be accepted from 9:00am-12:00 Noon. No entries will be accepted after 12:00 Noon. To participate, a PTA must be in good standing and their Bylaws must be current until the end of March 2010.

Environmental

Chris Buckley shared that the Mister Rogers’ Sweater Drive will be held from November 2 – 27, 2009. All collections will be due by November 27, 2009. This year they would like to encourage schools to collect

pants, shirts, socks, scarves and gloves in addition to the sweaters and coats. They need both children and adult sizes. After the collection is over, the district mail drivers will pick it up and deliver it for you. It just needs to be boxed up and addressed to the Teacher Supply Depot, School #10. Earth Day grant applications will be available in December.

Exceptional Student Education

Stacy Leach reported that this committee is trying to let ESE parents know about all the resources available to them by providing free workshops. Stacy reported that parents in Duval County are not taking advantage of available programs. A flyer with information was handed out.

Eyeglass Fund – No report

Health/Safety – No report

History – No report

Hospitality - No report

Legislation – No report

Marketing/Communications – No report

Membership – No report

Newsletter – No report

Parent Education – No report

P&P Luncheon – No report

Publications – No report

Registration

Mary Lobello reminded everyone that Magnet Mania will be held January 9, 2009.

Resources – No report

Scholarship – No report

School Education - No report

Student Leadership – No report

Technology – No report

Volunteers – No report

Workshops

Annette Worthen reported for Samantha Lowery. For the months of January, February, and March, instead of having Hot Topics before our general meetings we will have brief topic reviews during the

meetings. This change was made because of expressed concern about later school start times conflicting with the original “Hot Topics” schedule.

Unfinished Business – There was no unfinished business

New Business

State Convention Report

Ted Corley reported that the platform item entitled “Teen Driving” received a vote to send it back to work on the language after much discussion regarding the importance of driver preparation. The platform item to combine the FPTA Leadership and Convention as submitted by the streamlining committee passed. However, Ted report that this decision was based on the survey sent out and responded on by about 400 people. There are 341,000 members but less than one percent of those surveyed agreed with the item as written. Ted is working on asking that the survey portion be done over. Duval County never received a survey. Ted shared that the Duval delegation was one of the largest in attendance. He felt that our delegation was well informed and educated about each platform item which proved helpful when the debates became feisty.

Ted also announced that there will be a Legislative Rally in Tallahassee on March 25, 2009. There will be information workshops/sessions to give members pointers on how to speak with legislators effectively.

Program

Jackie Cornelius, Executive Director of Fine Arts DCPS spoke on efforts to increase collaboration among secondary schools (middle/high school) in the areas of band and chorus. She described the ‘Music after Dark’ program where teachers go to different schools and then conduct a social afterwards to discuss best practices. This parallels the small learning communities concept. She also mentioned efforts to continue professional development in order to ensure academic rigor in all arts programs. DCPS is actively involved in maintaining music programs at all secondary schools. Currently there are 21 new elementary band teachers, 1 middle school, 9 new secondary bands and 12 high school marching bands. Six schools currently have no music program at all. The arts initiative, started two years ago, to get top notch arts teachers in our K-12 arts programs now has a video that is being shown in other states. Jackie can be reached at Corneliusj@duvalschools.org

Jack Matthews, incoming President of the Florida Arts Education Association (FAEA) spoke on submitting entries from arts programs at the state level. He states that of the 25 exhibits Duval County submitted, 19 won awards. In order for a student to submit an entry, their art teacher must be a member of the FAEA. The membership fees for new teachers are \$35 and \$45 for teachers wishing to renew. He expressed concern that scheduling arts events at schools is difficult due to scheduling conflicts along with the new curriculum demands teachers are required to complete each year. He states that this is causing arts programs/events to get pushed aside. Jack can be reached at Matthewsj@duvalschools.org

Martha McManus with the Cultural Council of Greater Jacksonville shared how her organization is the umbrella for all arts organizations in Jacksonville. All funding from the city comes through this council. Her group does professional development for teachers. It also serves as an information bank for the community.

Stephanie Toelle from UF/IFAS-Duval County Extension services briefly spoke on conducting free programs for parents and families. The purpose of this organization is to help strengthen communities

and families in Duval County. Much of the information available through Extension Services can be used to help local units improve parent involvement. This organization is connected with the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Emily Heeg spoke discussed the Souper Bowl of Caring. This program takes place during the weeks surrounding the NFL Super Bowl. Different groups can sign up to collect food donations to help fight hunger. To find out more about this program visit www.souperbowl.org

Superintendent's Remarks

Superintendent Ed Pratt-Dannals was in a workshop and unable to attend the meeting. Deputy Superintendent, Pat Willis, stated that the end of the first nine weeks grading period was successful. Some teachers are still having a few problems with the "Oncourse" grade book system, but all report cards were printed at the individual school level. If anyone is still having problems with access or their password please call (904)390-2522. DCPS is preparing for the second phase of reading assessments. Baseline data is starting to trickle in and this will be a great tool for teachers. Visits to schools along with intense state oversight are ongoing. Saturday school will continue and winter break sessions have been scheduled.

A partnership with DCPS, The City of Jacksonville, JSO, and the new Florida State College is underway to win a "CLIP" grant. The goal is to encourage lower income residents to attain degrees and credentials to enter the job market. Jacksonville is one of nine cities applying for the grant. Funding for the grant comes from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation

Ms. Leroy gave an update on the adoption of new math materials for the 2010-2011 school year. DCPS is looking at adopting a new math program to replace the current Math Investigations. 'Next Generation' is the name of the math standards our district now has to follow. These standards more resemble those of other countries with high math achievement scores. The review committees will be looking for a system with a foundation component along with a conceptual component and each committee member will receive three days on training on the new standards. Six or seven publishers originally submitted presentations. This group was narrowed down to three. If parents are interested in hearing more, there are sites around the district that have the full displays of materials. These materials will be available for public viewing until December 4, 2009.

Ex-officio Reports

District Advisory Council

Rachel Raneri gave an update on the decreased funds for School Improvement Plans. She reported that there is one pot of dollars for all schools for School Improvement Plans and School Recognition. After the School Recognition funds were distributed, there was no money left for School Improvement Plan implementation.

State Board Members – No report

Consultants

Teacher Supply Depot

Chris Buckley reminded everyone that the next Depot opening is December 3, 2009 from 3:00-6:00 p.m.

Chartwell – No report

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 12:17 p.m.

Signed: _____
Tiffany Reed