

**General Meeting of the
Duval County Council of PTAs/PTSAs
January 19, 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, January 19, 2010. The Recording Secretary recorded the minutes for the meeting.

Attendance

There were 54 individuals in attendance, which consisted of 5 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 November 2009 General meeting were approved as corrected and will be posted on the website.

Correspondence

Tiffany Reed sent several thank you cards for donations to the Eye Glass fund on behalf of William Mathias. The list of Eye Glass Fund donations is attached. She also sent sympathy cards to Dot Mathis on of the passing of her husband and Chris Buckley on the passing of her mother. A “thinking of you” card was also sent to Chris Guajardo. A card was received from former board member Valerie Taylor.

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 December 1, 2009	\$37,877.66
Ending Balance as of December 31, 2009	\$40,937.21

Checking Account:

Beginning Balance as of December 1, 2009	\$1,133.14
Ending Balance as of December 31, 2009	\$ 956.68

Total of all accounts \$41,893.89

Executive Committee Reports

President

Annette Worthen explained the purpose of the P&P luncheon, including who local units should consider inviting, and they should budget for the cost.

Annette shared that both National PTA and Florida PTA had received several phone calls asking how to make donations to help with the devastation after the earthquake in Haiti. National PTA sent information to the Florida PTA recommending the support of national relief organizations, such as the American Red Cross. Florida PTA recommended the same and asked the district to remind local unit PTAs that if they want to donate money it must be approved by the General membership. If a PTA chooses to “pass the hat” and collect free will donations, they may do so and should send a check/ money order to the American Red Cross marked for Haiti.

Annette showed members the new identification holders that are available at the Teacher Supply Depot if any local units are interested in getting them for their schools.

Finally, Annette reported to the group that the Jacksonville Charter Revision Commission was considering changing the charter so that the Mayor could appoint the district Superintendent and School Board members. The dates of these meeting were listed on the back of the meeting agenda, and members were welcome to attend and learn more or speak during the public comment portion of the meeting. She also encouraged members to go to the www.coj.net website, find the Charter Revision Commission contact information and send e-mails to members encouraging them to maintain our right to elect these public officials.

1st Vice President – No report

2nd Vice President

Gretchen Lynch reminded members about the importance of the nominations process because good leadership means finding someone to follow after you. She recommended that local units begin the process now by reading over their Bylaws to understand the structure of their local unit. If any local unit needs assistance with the process, they should contact their Area Coordinator.

3rd Vice President

Victoria Richmond-Davies asked that members make sure they are working on procedure books for their board positions.

Workshop

Samantha Lowery introduced the presenter for the first session of the Tips for Success 2010 end of year workshop topics. She also announced the topics scheduled for later meetings and announced that the Spring Leadership Workshop will be Monday, May 17, 2010.

Betty Marty presented information on the nomination and election processes. She reminded members that the nomination committee is the most important committee and this process is critical to the success of every local unit. The information presented is also available in the Duval County Council Handbook, which was provided to every local unit, and the handout from the presentation is attached.

Committee Reports

Archivist – No report

Awards – No report

Bylaws – No report

Council/Local Unit Relations

Betty Marty announced that she has planned a workshop on the potential dangers of energy drinks for January 28, 2010 in the Cline Auditorium from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. She encouraged representatives from all local units to attend and learn about this important topic. Betty reminded everyone that if five people from one local unit attend, they will qualify for a Study Discussion award.

Character/Spiritual – No report

Cultural Arts

Reta Russell-Houghton gave a summary of the Reflections program for the 2009-10 school year. A total of 358 entries were received (149 visual arts, 92 literature, 76 photography, 15 dance, 13 film/video and 13 music). This year the district will award students in two different categories. Awards of Excellence will be given to the entries that were sent on to the Florida PTA for the next level of judging. Awards of Merit will be given to five students in each category who received honorable mention.

Environmental

Chris Buckley announced that Earth Day grants for up to \$500.00 are now available. The Earth Day grant application is attached and it is due on March 26, 2010. Also, the Keep Jacksonville Beautiful award application is available. The award application for Keep Jacksonville Beautiful is on the www.coj.net website and is due on February 26, 2010.

Exceptional Student Education – No report

Eyeglass Fund – No report

Health/Safety – No report

History – No report

Hospitality – No report

Legislation

Ted Corley asked everyone to mark their calendars for March 25, 2010 for the Rally in Tally. At least one bus will be reserved again this year to transport those who are interested in attending. Also, FCAT testing this year is scheduled early enough that students should be able to attend. Ted asked those who know they cannot go to the rally to write letters and/or e-mails to legislators, so we can clearly state that they need to stop cutting education funds. Members requested that the county council provide information and/or a sample letter, so they know how to contact legislators. Ted agreed to provide information and conduct training in preparation for the rally.

Marketing/Communications

Kim Sheldon reported that the “Be There” campaign to promote parent involvement with their children was kicked off by Superintendent Pratt-Dannals and other Superintendents for surrounding counties in November 2009. Information about the campaign is on the DCPS website. In support of this campaign, the Duval County Council is sponsoring an essay contest. Student winners will be awarded a pizza party for the class of their choice, and they will be invited to read their essays on Channel 4 television.

Membership – No report

Newsletter – No report

Parent Education – No report

P&P Luncheon

Lisa Page introduced herself to the members and shared that the P&P luncheon will be held on May 27, 2010 at the stadium. She stated that the price will remain at \$25.00 per person. If there are enough sponsors for the event, the price will be reduced.

Publications – No report

Registration – No report

Resources – No report

Scholarship

Shelley Gill-Cain announced that the Duval County Council will award three scholarships for \$599.00 each this year. Applications will be sent to guidance counselors the first or second week in February and will be due on April 1, 2010. Shelley thanked local units for their contributions to the scholarship fund so far this year, so these awards can be made available to deserving students.

School Education - No report

Student Leadership – No report

Technology – No report

Volunteers – No report

Workshops

Samantha Lowery shared the draft of the End of Year workshops information sheet. The topic information is complete, and she is confirming speakers. She also reported potential dates for the Spring Leadership Workshop and it was decided to set the date for Monday, May 17, 2010. Samantha plans to include that information on the End of Year workshop information sheet so that everyone can save the date. Board members also decided to change the May board meeting date to May 4, 2010.

Unfinished Business – There was no unfinished business.

New Business

Nominating committee

Parliamentarian Betty Marty read the rules of the nomination process. Annette announced that two members of the board and one alternate were elected to serve on the nominating committee. These board members were Shelley Gill-Cain, Reta Russell-Houghton, and Rachel Raneri as alternate. Annette asked the membership for nominations for the three remaining committee members. The nominees who accepted and elected were the following: Chris Buckley, Gretchen Lynch and Veronica Josey. Annette appointed Shelley Gill-Cain as Chair Pro-Tem.

Program

Victoria Richmond-Davies introduced John Allen, Donor Resource Consultant, from the Blood Alliance. He shared that blood drives at schools have been very successful. Donors must be at least 17 years old with parent consent, so some high school students can donate. Parents and faculty can always donate, so the drives that are organized by PTAs at elementary, middle and high schools are always successful. Mr. Allen recommended going to the www.igiveblood.com website for eligibility requirements. He asked that local unit PTAs contact him to schedule a blood drive, but he also offered to conduct programs and participate in health/safety fairs. He stated that donors must wait 56 days between donations, and a donation of one unit of blood can save up to three lives.

Military School Liaison Officer (SLO) Judy Cromartie introduced December James from Operation Military Kids. She explained that the program started with the Army and now includes the National Guard and Reserves. There are many more children out there that are classified as military kids, so there is a higher need than ever for support. Operation Military Kids partners with other organizations to offer programs for military kids to connect with each other. Civilian kids can also get involved to help and learn more about the impact of war. Hero packs are one of the programs that groups can get involved in supporting by putting the backpacks together for the kids. All the supplies are provided, the organizing group is asked to provide one "special" item that identifies them and then have one child write a note to the child who will receive the backpack. To get involved with this or another Operation Military Kids program, contact Ms. James at (785) 313-3296 or December.james@us.army.mil.

Superintendent's Remarks

Annette reminded everyone to keep questions general so the topics can benefit all district schools.

Ms. Patricia Willis, Deputy Superintendent, shared that schools are getting back to work after a long Winter Break. She stated that benchmark tests are complete, and results are being evaluated. Packets were provided over the break for students to continue their work, and now final preparations are being made for FCAT testing. The writing portion of the FCAT will be conducted February 9-11, 2010.

Ms. Willis briefly discussed the Race to the Top grant. She federal funds total \$4.4 billion, and Florida could receive up to \$70 million of those funds. Duval County could qualify for up to \$30 million. At this point, the district has signed a letter of understanding that the Duval Teachers Union has also signed off. As the process progresses, the Duval County Council will be informed.

Ex-officio Reports

District Advisory Council

Rachel Raneri reported the good news that \$2.85 per FTE would be made available for the implementation of School Improvement Plans throughout the district. Once this money is made available it can be allocated by School Advisory Councils.

State Board Members – No report

Consultants

Teacher Supply Depot

Chris Buckley showed a sample of the volunteer lanyards that are available at the depot for schools that are interested. She also reported that the next giveaway is scheduled for Thursday, February 11 from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. Chris shared that the depot is a participating organization in Disney's new program that provides volunteers a day park ticket for a day of service. To sign up, volunteers must register at the

www.disneyparks.com website. She asked that children who volunteer be at least 8 years old and supervised.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:58 a.m.

Signed: _____

Melissa Kicklighter