

Duval County Council of PTAs/PTSAs General Meeting Minutes March 19, 2013

Call to Order

The General Meeting was called to order at 10:00 am by President Gretchen Lynch. The meeting was held in the Cline Auditorium of the Duval County School Board Building on Tuesday, March 19, 2013. Recording Secretary Ann Gipalo recorded the minutes.

Attendance

There were **61 members** and **39 schools** represented at the meeting.

Meditation

Robert is ill today so Gretchen asked the members to take a look at the PTA mission and meditate on what it says and then led the membership in the pledge of allegiance.

Minutes

The minutes from the February General Meeting were approved as corrected and will be filed.

Corresponding Secretary

Terry Chrisley reported thank you notes were sent to all of the program speakers and the DCCPTA past presidents at the February meeting.

Treasurer's Report

Mindy Eisman presented the February Treasurer's report. The report's overview is as follows:

Starting Balance - February 1, 2013	\$ 50,827.20
Total Receipts	\$ 4,410.33
Total Disbursements	\$ 699.41
Ending Balance - February 28, 2013	\$ 54,538.12

The treasurer's report will be filed for audit.

President's Report

Gretchen Lynch reported:

- a. Thank you to the School Board and DCPS for providing the Town Hall meetings on the Strategic Plan.

- b. National PTA sets standards for Family Engagement programs; please remember it is important to welcome ALL families to the school; we should make a special effort to reach out to the families of children whose parents are non-native English speakers.
- c. There are "Ready, Set, Lead" flyers available on the table out front, please take one.
- d. This is the last week of the **DCCPTA survey**; she has received 60 responses so far. She recommends local units do a similar survey at their school too.
- e. Thank you to Mandarin Oaks Elementary for today's hospitality refreshments.

2nd Vice President – STAR Team

Mary Lobello reminded everyone

- a. **State and national dues are due by March 31.** Remember, you must send back any unused membership cards; this is a financial transaction and you must account for all cards. If you've lost or damaged a number of cards, include a letter stating so, or you will be charged \$3.50 per card.
- b. The application for the **DCCPTA scholarship to Florida PTA Leadership/Convention** in July is available online. Please apply!
- c. Check with her in the back if you have any "strikes" against your local unit.

3rd Vice President - Committees

Margaret Godke reported:

- a. The EDDY Awards were held Thursday, March 14. **Apryl Shackelford**, the lead Reading teacher at **Northwestern Middle School** was named Teacher of the Year. Congratulations!
- b. Thank you to Robert Mitchell, April Caldwell, Amy Barker, Shelley Cain, Africia Davis and Gretchen Lynch for serving on the screening committee.
- c. Thank you to the four high schools that hosted the Student Leadership Academy: Sandalwood, Paxon, Peterson and Wolfson.

Colleen Wood, Save Duval Schools

The **Parent Trigger bill** is back again this year – with a few modifications:

- a. Last year's and this year's Parent Trigger bills only apply at schools with an "F" school grade; however, due to the changes made to the school grading scale last January (2012) there will be MORE "F" schools. The concern is that if Parent Trigger becomes law this year, next year they may expand it to include "D" & "F" schools. (Currently, Louisiana allows opportunity scholarships for C, D & F schools. We are worried that eventually parent trigger might be applied to C, D, and F schools, but that is not in the law currently.)
- b. The good news is, there doesn't seem to be a lot of energy behind the bill in the Senate because Senator Gaetes and Chairman Legg have other priorities this year and don't want the distraction of the parent trigger bill. So even though it may get passed by the full House, (we hope) it won't go anywhere after that.

- c. There is another bill, **SB878 K-20 Data Warehouse Bill**, that would allow the Florida Dept. of Education to share student info it collects with “preferred partners”. The partners can’t be “for-profit” but “non-profit” tutoring companies and others could get access to this data.

Dr. Vitti’s Remarks

- a. The School Board and DCPS held the first budget workshop last Friday and yesterday.
- b. **Magnet Transportation and after-school busses will be restored in the 2013-2014 school year**, and they will resume bussing children to school up to 1.5 miles (down from 2.0 miles) from the school.
- c. The School Board approved the Strategic Plan with a few tweaks.
- d. Staff allocation plans are being reviewed to equalize across the whole district; then federal (Title I) funds will be used to boost staffing where needed.
- e. He wants every school to have an assistant principal and Reading and Math coaches; for every high school to have a Career/Technical vocation specialist, a Dean of students (except magnet high schools) and a Graduation Coach. (These items still need School Board approval.)
- f. There was an article in today’s Times-Union regarding the **K-2 Retention policy**: The previous policy used the FAIR test to help determine who was retained. This is a diagnostic test – never meant to be used to determine retention. He wants to only use FAIR as an input into the decision, which should be made by the parents and teacher.
- g. The construction being done at Douglas Anderson will move forward; it had been included in the previous 5-year capital plan.
- h. We do not see any changes coming from Tallahassee regarding **PECO** (**P**ublic **E**ducation **C**apital **O**utlay) funding. It will probably all go to charter schools again this year.
- i. DCPS’s first priority with its capital dollars will be “safety to life” issues and then maintenance items.
- j. We need to start thinking about a bond issue in the next 1-2 years; but we need to make sure the community has confidence in what we are doing first.

Perrinder Terry, Program Chair, James Weldon Johnson

They held a “Coffee and Chat” program for their 6th grade parents. The principal, assistant principal/grade administrator and guidance counselors were available to take questions from the parents. Parents were very happy with the opportunity according to the surveys they took after the event. They plan to hold additional events for the 7th and 8th grade parents.

Jackie Culver, Executive Director, Shannon Miller Foundation

Jackie started the first Dolphin Running Club at Stockton Elementary in 2007. The first year they served 500 students; it has grown to 7000 students this year at 22 schools. Students earn tokens for the miles they run. They have a Marathon Club

too. They have seen the number of kids who qualify for the President's Fitness medals increase among the kids who are in the club.

There will be a 1-mile Children's Fun Run on April 13 at the Jacksonville Landing for kids ages 5-14. Go to www.shannonmillerlifestyle.com to register for the Fun Run. Jackie can be reached at Jackie@shannonmillerlifestyle.com.

The Honorable Becki Couch, School Board Member

- a. She is going to Tallahassee tomorrow to meet with the Duval delegation.
- b. See the handout she brought with all of the bill numbers they are following this year.
- c. Priorities this year are:
 1. **Capital Funding:** we have asked for more PECO dollars (this is funded by a tax we all pay on our phone bills). PECO funds, by law, are designated for K-20 education.
 - i. One idea she had for a source of stable funding for education is an internet sales tax.
 - ii. Our Senator Bean wants to take capital dollars out of the per student funding amount. Rep. Adkins is sponsoring a similar bill in the House.
 2. **Instructional Materials:** Currently, DCPS can only spend up to 50% of their instructional materials budget on electronic materials. We would like more flexibility in how that money is spent. Bills are SB1388 and HB1031.
 3. **Class Size:** Charter schools pay fines based upon the **school** average class size; regular public schools pay based upon actual class average (which is unfair and more expensive for regular public schools). **Bills to follow are: SB1370 and HB189.**
 4. **End of Course Exams:** Currently, high school students must pass Algebra I, Geometry, and Biology in order to graduate. Algebra II and Physics MAY be added to the graduation requirements. If students don't pass the EOC in these classes, they have to retake the class which causes bottlenecks. **Rep. Janet Adkins** is sponsoring a bill (HB7091) that would have the EOC count for 30% of the final class grade, but Algebra I would remain Pass/Fail. Everyone is in favor of this change – except Jeb Bush's Foundation for Excellence in Education. If this bill doesn't pass, graduation rates in Florida will plummet.
 5. **"Special Diploma" students:** These are students who have IEPs and other special learning arrangements. Currently, they don't count towards the high school's graduation rate – even though they are on special standards and meet the requirements for their standards. SB1076 has language to address this.

Sally Finn and Susan Pitma, Safe and Healthy Duval Coalition

SHDC is a community coalition committed to gathering data so they can understand what substance abuse behaviors are challenging adults and youth in Duval Co. and the related consequences. SHDC helps facilitate solutions by understanding why

people use drugs and focuses on positive change by creating a culture in which great choices are valued for all Duval citizens.

- a. There is a strong correlation between drug or alcohol use and academic failure: 67% of failing students report having used marijuana or alcohol in the past 30 days.
- b. Binge drinking is having 5 or more drinks in an hour.
- c. 75% of high school aged kids who drink – drink at their own home or that of a friend. Count your beers!
- d. The rates of prescription drug use are increasing.
- e. **SB1250** is a **Medical Marijuana bill** currently under consideration. They think this is very dangerous. The active ingredient in marijuana can be put in pill form for legitimate medical uses. Legalizing the smoking of marijuana leads kids to think it isn't dangerous.
- f. **May 14**, the author of *From Binge to Blackout* will be doing a **Lunch and Learn at our Leadership Workshops at the Schultz Center**. That evening, she and her son will be holding an event for parents and teens. Location still TBD. Email Sally at Sally@shdcfl.org for details.

Judy Cotton and Jill Leslie, Program Specialist, MADD

Judy.Cotton@madd.org

Mothers Against Drunk Driving (**MADD**)'s **mission** is to eliminate drunk driving, support the victims of drunk driving and prevent underage drinking. They work to prevent underage drinking through **FREE programs** available to schools, community groups, churches, etc. They have programs for Pre-K through college age kids. Power of Youth program is for middle school students.

Power of Parents is a 30 minute program that teaches parents how to talk to kids about alcohol.

Power Talk 21 will be held April 21. This is a day for all parents to talk to their kids about alcohol.

Awards

Patricia Beeman reminded the members that the deadline for DCCPTA awards is April 16 at Noon – right after the next General Meeting.

Scholarships

Shelley Cain reported:

- a. **DCCPTA's high school senior college scholarship applications must be postmarked by March 29, 2013.**
- b. Please encourage students to apply – we have received 5 applications so far this year.

Vendors' Fair

Kim Sheldon reported:

- a. The Fair will run from 9:00 am – 11:15 am right before the P&P Luncheon.
- b. The event is FREE and outside organizations (i.e. community sports teams, etc.) are welcome to attend.
- c. There will be door prizes between 9:00 am – 9:45 am.

- d. Remember, this year's Board cannot sign any contracts that obligate next year's Board.

Reflections

Rowena Nagales reported:

- a. State level winners are posted on the wall.
- b. The reception will be held May 10 and invitations will be mailed.

Presidents' & Principals' Luncheon

Please continue to send your PTA event pictures to Gretchen.

(President@DCCPTA.org)

Half of the tables are sold, order tickets soon, they are going fast.

If you are hosting a School Board member, please let Amy or Gretchen know.

New Business

Parliamentarian

Betty Marty read the DCCPTA bylaws section regarding Elections.

Nominating Committee Report and Election of Officers

Shelley Cain reported:

The Nominating Committee's slate of proposed Executive Officers for next year are:

- a. President: Gretchen Lynch
- b. Treasurer: Mindy Eisman
- c. Recording Secretary: Ann Gipalo
- d. Corresponding Secretary: Africia Davis
- e. 1st VP – STAR Committee: Mary Lobello
- f. 2nd VP – Programs: Rowena Nagales
- g. 3rd VP – Committees: Margaret Godke

Additional nominations were solicited from the floor for each office – but none were made.

Voice vote with voting cards raised was held and the slate was approved.

Teacher Supply Depot:

Chris Buckley reported:

- a. TSD will need help during Spring Break if you have a high school student that needs service hours.
- b. They have a big selection of Teacher Appreciation goodies available.
- c. The **Earth Day Ecology Fair** will be held April 20 from 10:00 am – 4:00 pm with a Downtown Cleanup before.
- d. She will have Earth Day Ecology Fair T-shirts for sale at the April General Meeting for \$8.00.
- e. **Rain barrels** are still available from the TSD.

Vicki Drake, Family and Community Engagement

- a. They will have Recycling grant applications available in a few weeks. There is money available for schools and PTAs/parents. Applications will be available by end of March.
- b. Be sure to recycle your cartons- milk, soup/broth, cereal boxes, etc.

EESS

Rosemarie Parsch reported:

- a. The annual ESE Survey is now available online (<http://www.esesurvey.com/Login.php>). NOTE: 15% of Duval County students (17,000 kids) have EESS status. This survey is confidential. Only the school number is reported. They have only had 29 responses so far.
- b. McKay Scholarships are available.
- c. The Family Café will be held in Orlando in June. The event is FREE for families and there are scholarships available for the hotel stay. Flyers are available on the table outside.

Florida PTA

Melissa Kicklighter reported:

- a. Congratulations to Lake Lucina and Fishweir for winning \$100 gift cards in the January membership challenge.
- b. The March membership challenge is ongoing – see www.FLPTA.org for details.

Announcements

- a. Spring Workshops will be held Tuesday, May 14 at the Schultz Center
- b. The next General Meeting of DCCPTA will be Tuesday, April 16.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:40 am.

Signed:
Ann Gipalo

Approved as:

Date _____ Written _____ Corrected _____

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