

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

Call to Order

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

Now that it is after November 1, your local unit must be in good standing in order to receive a voting card today. If you did not receive one when you signed in, please see Mary Lobello, Betty Marty or Mindy Eisman to find out why.

Attendance

There were **71** members, representing **39** local units, in attendance.

Meditation

Gretchen Lynch gave the meditation and led the pledge of allegiance.

Executive Committee Reports

Minutes

The minutes from the October General Meeting were posted for members to review prior to the meeting. Changes were solicited from the floor. Receiving none, the minutes were approved as written.

Corresponding Secretary

Africa Davis reported:

DCCPTA sent Thank You cards to Honorable Fel Lee, Annmarie Kent-Willette (Mayor Brown's new Education Commissioner), and Chris Buckley.

Treasurer's Report

Mindy Eisman presented the October Treasurer's report as follows:

Starting Balance – October 1, 2013	\$ 55,755.25
Total Receipts	\$ 9,354.58
Total Disbursements	\$ 799.02
Ending Balance – October 31, 2013	\$ 64,310.81

The October Treasurer's report will be filed for audit.

President's Report –

Gretchen Lynch reported:

- a. Please review the resolution and position statements on various issues on the Florida PTA website. Now is the time to think about writing resolutions and submitting them to FLPTA; they do not have to be perfectly written – they can help with research and language.
- b. **Our last President's and Treasurer's training session** for the year will be Wednesday, December 4 at the Westconnett Library from 7-8 pm. You will receive an email if your President and/or Treasurer has not yet attended this REQUIRED training.
- c. The FLPTA website has been updated and now includes access to your bylaws and instructions on how to get a "letter of determination" which is required for local units to open a bank account.
- d. Thank you to Kirby-Smith Middle for today's refreshments.
- e. We have flyers for **PTA Day at the Jaguars** on Sunday, December 15. Tickets are Buy-One-Get-One (2 tickets for \$60).
- f. If you are not receiving email messages from DCCPTA, please confirm your contact information with Cheryl at the Registration desk.
- g. Please forward our messages – especially the Highlights message – to your entire Board each month.
- h. If you don't know how to set up an email distribution list, Local Unit Mentor Richard Godke can help you.

3rd Vice President – Leadership Development

Margaret Godke reported:

- a. She will be passing around a red folder for people to sign up for ad hoc committees set up by DCPS on various issues – textbooks, etc.
- b. The DCPS websites for schools are still under construction. PTAs will have control of the PTA page on each school's website. The Technology department has set up a YouTube video with instructions on how to contact your school to get things started. If your initial contact with your school does not go smoothly, please contact Gretchen Lynch for assistance.
- c. Be sure to put a link to your PTA/PTSA website on the school's website as well.

2nd Vice President – Local Unit Mentors

Mary Lobello reported:

- a. A final push was made to remind units that had not filed to file their 990's.
- b. Thank you to those who stepped up and attended various local unit meetings to assist.
- c. I have begun sending status updates to all local units to either - Thank them for being in good standing or to inform them of what they need to do to be in good standing.
- d. At this time good standing is: Bylaws up-to-date, Council dues paid, and some State & National Dues paid.
- e. As of yesterday, 60 units were in good standing.

- f. Will begin reviewing local units with no activity/ "3 strikes" to determine inactive status.

1st Vice President – Programs

Rowena Nagales reported:

For our service project, we will be collecting travel size toiletries through December 2 to donate to the Sulzbacher Center for the homeless. You can drop off your donations at the TSD or call a Board member for pick-up.

Cultural Arts/Reflections

Rowena Nagales reported for Mandi Welch:

- a. Reminder to all units that the county's final turn-in date for all Reflections school winners is December 6 between 9 am and noon. Make sure your unit is in good standing, your dues are paid, and your bylaws are current. Please e-mail [Mandi Welch](#) if you would like to turn-in your entries before December 6 and she will make arrangements to meet you.
- b. DVDs, CDs and Literature entries will NOT be returned to students. All Visual Arts category entries WILL be returned to students in July 2014.

Resources

Karen Ramirez reported:

Target offers \$2000 grants through their Early Childhood Reading Program and \$2000 grants through their Arts, Culture and Design Program which fund in-school arts programs that enhance students' classroom curriculum by bringing the arts and cultural experiences to schools, such as in-school performances, artist-in-residency programs and workshops in schools. The deadlines to apply for these grants are March 1 - April 30.

Last year these DCPS schools received the Early Childhood Reading Program.

- Bayview Elementary School
- Chaffee Trail Elementary
- John E. Ford K-8 School

Awards

Patricia Beeman presented Right Foot Award certificates to the schools that qualified for the award.

A.I. Dupont Middle School
Abess Park Elementary
Alimacani Elementary
Chimney Lakes Elementary
Crown Point Elementary
Douglas Anderson SOTA
Frank H. Peterson Academies
Jacksonville Beach Elementary

Loretto Elementary
Mayport Elementary Coastal
Paxon SAS
Pine Forest Elementary
Sabal Palm Elementary
San Pablo Elementary
Sandalwood High School
Seabreeze Elementary

James W. Johnson
Julia Landon College Prep
Kirby-Smith Middle

Stanton College Prep
Thomas Jefferson Elementary
Waterleaf Elementary

Brenda Lane, DCPS Safe and Healthy Schools Dept.

- a. DCPS has always had an anti-bullying policy, but the Jeffrey Johnston Stand Up for All Students law defined exactly what bullying is. This past summer, the law was amended to add cyber bullying.
- b. In order to be legally considered bullying, a behavior must meet the following criteria:
 - R** – Repeated – or potentially could be repeated.
 - I** – Intent to harm
 - P** – there must be an imbalance of **power** – real or perceived.
- c. So leaving someone out of being invited to a party may not meet the definition.
- d. World Health Organization (WHO) definition is “the intentional use of physical force or power that can result in injury, death, psychological harm, maldevelopment or deprivation.”
- e. Cyber bullying includes the transfer of words or pictures, and impersonating another person.
- f. **YRBS** – Youth Risk Behavior Survey – conducted nationally every 2 years (odd numbered years) by the CDC. We get our data back sorted by “health zone” (roughly by zipcode).
- g. Last survey in Duval, 37% of students reported that they had been bullied on school property; 21% said they had experienced cyberbullying.
- h. **To report bullying in DCPS:** 904-390-2827 (390-CALL) is the hotline number.
Or 3902255@duvalschools.org by text or email.
- i. **Other resources:**
www.stopbullying.gov
<http://vetoviolence.cdc.gov/pop/prevention-intro.html>
fldoe.org/safeschools/bullying.asp
- j. DCCPTA will also put Ms. Lane’s PowerPoint presentation on our website under the Resources tab.

Dr. Vitti -- Q & A

Dr. Vitti took questions regarding changes to curriculum due to Common Core standards; whether there would be any changes to gifted programs due to CC; school websites; and school guidance counselors. School principals will participate in a study to survey mental health issues.

Lorin Thiess, Tree Hill Nature Center

- a. Tree Hill is partnering with JEA to provide FREE programming on electricity and water at school science nights. (Electricity Detective and Water Detective)
- b. They also have a game appropriate for middle schools called "You Can't Beat That".
- c. Vicki Drake pointed out that these programs – in which students and parents learn together – is one of the requirements for schools to earn the 5-star school award.

Dierdre Conner, JPEF, PowerUpJax.org

- a. PowerUpJax is a special crowd sourcing feature launched by JPEF on October 23.
- b. 100% of the donated funds go to the teacher and are fully tax deductible.
- c. The Community First Foundation is providing matching funds for all donations.

Health & Safety

Felita Tutt distributed Health and Safety grants in the amount of \$100 to four schools: Pine Forest Elementary, Sabal Palm Elementary, Kernan Middle and Atlantic Coast HS.

Teacher Supply Depot

Gary Kimball reported:

- a. Thursday, December 5, 2013 is our next giveaway from 3:00 - 6:00 P.M.
- b. The holiday days/hours for volunteers are December 19, 20, 23, 26, 27 and 30 from 8:00 am – 3:00 pm each day.
- c. Please have only middle school and older students participating at the Depot during the holidays.
- d. Just a friendly reminder, no children are supposed to be at the Depot on giveaway days.

Advocacy

Juliann Gaus-Graser reported:

- a. She will be presenting "Working Collaboratively" this Saturday at a Parent Academy in Mandarin at Christian Family Chapel on Old St. Augustine, Bldg. D.
- b. She will be teaching our standard Advocacy training at the Student Leadership Academy meetings starting February 15 with Coalitions and March 1 with Decision Makers.

EESS

- a. **First Friday's with FIN** (Florida Inclusion Network) – FREE telephone conference every month (except December) from 10:00 am – 11:00 am. They want to know what's happening in schools. See flyer on our website for details or call (850)863-6580 for more information.
- b. **Dyslexia Seminar** on January 21 from 6:00 – 9:00 pm at Lee HS. FREE. See our website for details. Register at www.LeeHS.Eventbrite.com.
- c. **Tools for Success Conference** will be at UNF this year on January 30, 2014. She has posters you can use to publicize these events at your school. This year there will be 30 FREE workshops.
- d. The next **Exceptional Student Education Advisory Committee** (ESEAC) Meeting will be held Tuesday, February 25 at the DCPS Administration Bldg, Room 307, 9:30am to 11:30am.

Common Core State Standards

Jackie Jones reported:

- a. She and three other members of DCCPTA attended the comment session in Tallahassee held by the FL Dept of Ed. Their report on the comments they received is due today – and we will post it on the DCCPTA website as soon as we receive it.
- b. A Video explaining what Common Core is and is NOT was shown to the membership. This video is posted on the www.dccpta.org homepage and we can make copies available for you to show at meetings at your school.
- c. Another website with information is www.commoncoreworks.org

Legislation

Melissa Daniel showed her PowerPoint presentation on How a Bill Becomes a Law, and quizzed the membership on "Who is the Decision Maker" in various scenarios, in preparation for our General Meeting in January at which we expect several of our state legislators to come and answer questions.

She has been able to get an after school book club started at San Pablo Elementary. Her action Plans are available on their website.

Announcements:

- a. Gretchen drew entry slips to give away 8 tickets to a Jaguars game. Winners were San Pablo Elementary, Frank H. Peterson Academy, Chimney Lakes Elementary and Fletcher HS.
- b. **There will NOT be a General Meeting in December.**
- c. **Next General Meeting is Tuesday, January 21.** Please bring your questions for our legislators; leave them at the door to the auditorium where they will be sorted and grouped for efficiency.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at **11:50 am**.

Signed:
Ann Gipalo

Approved as:

Date _____ Written _____ Corrected _____