

Duval County Council of PTAs/PTSAs General Meeting Minutes April 16, 2013

Call to Order

The General Meeting was called to order at 10:05 am by President Gretchen Lynch. The meeting was held in the Cline Auditorium of the Duval County School Board Building on Tuesday, April 16, 2013. Recording Secretary Ann Gipalo recorded the minutes.

Attendance

There were **72 members** and **36 schools** represented at the meeting.

Meditation

Robert Mitchell asked us all, in light of the bombing in Boston yesterday, to not forget ALL of the victims of senseless killings that have taken place. We had a moment of silence and then Robert lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes

The minutes from the March General Meeting were approved as posted and will be filed.

Corresponding Secretary

Terry Chrisley reported thank you notes were sent to all of the Program speakers at the March General Meeting.

Treasurer's Report

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

Starting Balance – March 1, 2013	\$ 54,538.12
Total Receipts	\$ 8,031.57
Total Disbursements	\$ 2,120.49
Ending Balance – March 31, 2013	\$ 60,449.20

The treasurer's report will be filed for audit.

President's Report

Gretchen Lynch reported:

- a. DCCPTA is participating in the development of the Parent Academies. If you have any thoughts or ideas about them, please email them to Gretchen.
- b. Thank you and Congratulations on the work everyone has done this year. Your work matters! If you had not done it, it would not have gotten done.
- c. DCCPTA Surveys are available on paper today. If you haven't completed one online, please complete a paper one today and turn it in. Your comments and feedback will help DCCPTA plan for next year. Surveys will also be available at the Presidents' & Treasurers' training at the workshops on May 14.
- d. Survey your parents on **your** programming to help guide next year's Board.
- e. If you have any Lifetime Awards for the Presidents' and Principals' Luncheon, please ask Florida PTA to mail them to Gretchen (they have her address). She will let you know that the awards for your school have arrived at her house (she won't tell you the name of the recipients – as it could be you!)
- f. Membership planning should take place over the summer. We're having several schools speak about their membership drives today.
- g. Thank you to Mandarin Middle for today's refreshments.
- h. A copy of the proposed Florida PTA Resolutions and proposed Bylaws changes will be circulated. Please read and be ready to vote later today.

2nd Vice President – STAR Team

Mary Lobello reminded everyone

- a. The **New Officer form** for 2013-2014 is now available. **It is the current/outgoing President's responsibility to make sure DCCPTA receives AT LEAST the president's and treasurer's information – so they can receive information about training over the summer. If that information is NOT received by the fall, the local unit is classified "inactive".**
- b. DCCPTA is going to use the information on this form to start a Presidents' Directory so local unit presidents can network with each other.
- c. The Presidents' and Treasurers' contact information will also be used to deliver next year's Membership cards.

3rd Vice President - Committees

No report today.

Legislation

Melissa Kicklighter reported:

- a. Our legislators DO hear us; we can tell because they are asking good questions. However, you can win the debate and still lose the vote. But you have gone on record with your position and they often come back with more questions.

- b. **SB 862 Parent Trigger bill** passed in the Senate Appropriations Committee on Education by an 8-4 vote WITH an amendment that says the districts will have the final decision over which turnaround option is chosen – NOT the State Dept. of Education. Thank you Senator Simmons for this amendment. The bill still needs a vote in the full Senate Appropriations committee. BUT – FLPTA’s position is still AGAINST the Parent Trigger bill overall. We are receiving thanks from legislators for letting them know what we want.
- c. **SB 52 Ban on Texting While Driving:** Defines what a wireless communication device is and stipulates that they can’t be used in “safety zones” (like near schools). Points will be assessed against your license if it is found you were texting while driving and get into an accident.
- d. **Budget conference committee:** resolves differences between the House and Senate proposed appropriations. Will work to resolve differences between what each house wants for education funding, especially the amount of per student funding. We’re hoping they wind up closer to Senate’s allocation and the structure of the funding as it is more “pro” local control.
- e. **Please contact Melissa if you have any questions about ANY bill** – she will try to answer your question or get more information.
- f. **Gretchen added:**
 - 1. Our Legislative chair Beth Mixson had to resign for personal reasons.
 - 2. All the postcards have been delivered. Lone Star Elementary returned the most cards and will receive the special shopping day at the Teacher Supply Depot.
 - 3. If you want to receive your legislative alerts more quickly, register with Florida PTA’s CapWiz service.

Vendors’ Fair

Kim Sheldon reported:

- a. The Fair will run from 9:00 am – 11:15 am right before the P&P Luncheon May 21.
- b. The event is FREE and outside non-profit organizations (i.e. community sports teams, etc.) are welcome to attend.
- c. There will be door prizes between 9:00 am – 9:45 am.

Scholarships

Shelley Cain reported:

- a. We received **53 applications** this year! (Double what we have received in the past.)
- b. Applications will be reviewed today and winners will be announced at the next DCCPTA Board of Managers meeting. Winners and one parent will also be invited to the Presidents’ & Principals’ Luncheon where they will receive their checks.

Presidents’ & Principals’ Luncheon

- a. 39 tables have been sold so far.
- b. If you have any pictures for the slideshow, please send them to Gretchen this week.

- c. If you need more than 1 table, additional tickets will be available for sale May 1st on first come first served basis. Contact DCCPTA Treasurer [Mindy Eisman](#) to order.

Awards

Margaret Godke reported for Trish Beeman: Today is the last day to turn in award applications for DCCPTA awards! Florida state PTA award applications are due May 1.

Cultural Arts

Rowena Nagales reported:

- a. The Reflections Reception will be held May 10, starting at 5:30 pm and invitations will be mailed tomorrow to the students and Reflections chairs.

Health and Safety

- a. We have more copies of the "From Binge to Blackout" books available on the table outside.
- b. The author will be our featured speaker at the Lunch 'n' Learn on May 14 from Noon to 1:30 after our workshops.
- c. You can receive a Study/Discussion award if 5 of your PTA members attend this luncheon.
- d. Chris Volkmann will also be speaking with her son that evening from 6:00 – 8:00 pm at FSCJ Downtown campus. Send an email to info@DrugFreeDuval to register. **NOTE:** Some material may be inappropriate for children younger than middle school.

Workshops

- a. DCCPTA Spring Workshops will be held May 14 At the Schultz Center. Schedule and course descriptions will be posted on our website
- b. Presidents and Treasurers classes will be offered TWICE.
- c. We will have a special presenter from a non-profit organization for 2nd year presidents.

Member Benefits

- a. PTA Night at the Jacksonville Suns will be Tuesday June 4.
- b. **50 Hour Volunteer Certificates** are available in the back today – or by email request by presidents to [Gretchen Lynch](#).

Brenda Lane, DCPS, Safe and Healthy Schools

- a. State law mandates that each district formulate a policy against bullying.
- b. **The DCPS Bullying hotline is 390-2043.**
- c. They have "Bully Free" lesson plans in PDF format ready for teachers to use.
- d. Other useful websites include:
 1. www.cfchildren.com has information about "Second Step" programs.
 2. www.bullyfree.com

3. www.stopbullying.gov

4. Healthteacher.com

- e. Her department also has speakers (Denise Marezello, Kelvin Lewis, Sylvia Chandler) that can come out to schools.
- f. **Cyberbullying.us/Top_Ten_Tips_Parents** is a PDF for parents.
- g. ZIP nighttime program is an alternative to juvenile detention.
- h. Brenda's email address is LaneB2@DuvalSchools.org

Jeff Smith, Assoc. Director, Cathedral Arts Project

- a. This year is the CAP's 20th year! Twice weekly after school arts program to over 15,000 students in those 20 years.
- b. Jeff spoke about the results of their Community Conversations on Art.
- c. Their vision is: "Arts education for every child." Very happy DCPS is focusing on the "whole child".
- d. He brought 20 purple folders with information – see table outside. And summary report of their Conversations for Education.
- e. Arts education engages kids and teaches them critical thinking, and collaboration skills.
- f. Last year they performed an Arts Audit of 13 of their schools. Included parents, students, teachers and administrators. Received 1300 responses: parents, teachers and administrators overwhelmingly see impact the arts has on education. Parents want to know the connection between state and federal budgets and arts programs in their schools.
- g. They have 20 schools on their Wait List for funding.
- h. They did a survey of CEOs and Human Resources professionals in the Jacksonville area: Do you see value in arts education for your workforce? HR managers said yes; CEOs weren't quite sure – but when they saw the list of traits and skills the arts build, they then said YES – we can see the connection.
- i. Under No Child Left Behind (NCLB), arts education IS considered a "core" academic subject – but it they are NOT considered core subjects by the state of Florida.
- j. **SB 428** (sponsored by Senator Detert) would include high school arts participation in a school's letter grade.
- k. GRIT: "stick-to-it-iveness": 30 minutes a day practice (in anything) builds self-discipline.
- l. They polled high school students (1-1/2 hour conversations), teachers and parents. Parents see their kids are more engaged and happy when they have access to arts programs and training. Need to start early or by the time kids get to middle and high school they are too afraid to start an instrument or art program because they're afraid they won't be as good as other kids who have received training before.
- m. Website: www.capkids.org
- n. April 27-28 is their annual "Viva Arts" program at the Lazzara Theater at UNF; Tickets are \$5.00 and there are two shows Saturday and Sunday.

Membership Programs

Dawn Gay from Sabal Palm Elementary:

1. Have faculty and administrators on your Board
2. Survey teachers and ask what they do/don't like
3. At the Teacher Breakfast – get teachers to sign up for PTA Membership that day; tell them what PTA will be doing that year.
4. At mid-year, survey grade level reps on how to spend (any) excess funds; take those requests to the principal.

Kim Sheldon, Landon Middle:

1. Solicit local businesses for donations for door prizes.
2. Use the Teacher breakfast as an opportunity for the teachers and the Board to get to know one another.
3. Put stars (or another school symbol) on the teachers' doors when they join PTA. This symbol stays on their door all year.
4. Give students a discount at school events; put a sticker on their ID card to identify them as PTA members.
5. Orientation: Most people join right then; show them the member benefits page on the DCCPTA website so they can see all the things they can get discounts on.

Judith Pratt, Hendricks Avenue Elementary:

1. They have had 41 years of 100% Membership!!
2. Such a record becomes an expectation in the community – also an expectation to volunteer
3. Keep good procedure books so people have a history of what was done before.

Nanette Quaintance, Pine Forest Elementary:

1. Have a GOAL!! And a PLAN!
2. Take advantage of the momentum at the beginning of the year: Orientation and Open House.
3. Motivate students and parents with small prizes with membership.
4. Reward classes that achieve 100% membership with ice cream parties, or massages for the teacher.
5. Catch teachers at the back to school breakfast with mini-grants of \$50 if they join PTA that day.
6. Her school lowered their membership fee from \$10 to \$5.
7. Put (cash) donation amount suggestions right on your Membership envelopes.
8. Get Room Parents involved; have them put the number of memberships still needed on each teacher's door for Open House.

New Business

Florida PTA resolutions

- a. Motion to approve the Resolution for Health and Wellness to Reduce Childhood Obesity carried.
- b. Motion to approve the Resolution for Florida PTA representation on the Florida Board of Education and related advisory groups carried.
- c. Motion to approve resolution regarding changes to Florida PTA's bylaws carried.

Teacher Supply Depot:

Chris Buckley reported:

- a. The TSD will need student volunteers all summer. Hours are Monday –Friday 7:30 am – 4:00 pm Students will receive community service hours.
- b. Earth Day is this weekend from 10 – 4.
- c. There will be a downtown cleanup from 8-10 am at the Landing before the Earth day event.
- d. Please remind teachers to turn in a project made ONLY with supplies from the Depot; they will receive a special invite to shop at the TSD on May 9.

Installation of Officers

Shelley Gill-Cain called each of the newly elected/re-elected DCCPTA Executive Board officers to the podium and presented them with a flower representative of their office's responsibilities. President Gretchen Lynch received a full bouquet of flowers.

Treasurer	Mindy Eisman
Corresponding Secretary	Africa Davis
Recording Secretary	Ann Gipalo
1 st Vice President- Programs	Rowena Nagales
2 nd Vice President – STAR Team	Mary Lobello
3 rd Vice President – Committees	Margaret Godke
President	Gretchen Lynch

If you would like to use the "Flower Installation" Ceremony at your local unit, you can get a copy [HERE](#).

Dr. Vitti's Remarks

- a. The Multiple Pathways Bill passed the House and Senate. **The diplomas will be the same**, but there will be different **pathways** to that diploma. We are keeping standards high – but putting in a nuanced approach to a student's high school career.
- b. Only Algebra I will be Pass/Fail.
- c. End of Course (EOC) exams will be 30% of course grade (which stops the bottlenecks around some courses).
- d. There will be an increase in student funding – but we don't know the amount yet.
- e. He is reviewing next year's testing schedule this Thursday.
- f. School Schedules and Bussing: there will be an 8 period day in all middle and high schools; all students will get to take at least 2 electives (or more) if they are not in remediation.
- g. They may extend the high school day by 30 minutes to 2:30 pm.
- h. PE in elementary schools: Every school will have a PE teacher and **students will get the required amount of PE**.
- i. Students will NOT be pulled out of PE for remediation. There will be before and after school tutoring and Saturday schools for remediation work regardless of whether the school is a Title I school or not.
- j. They are removing the "skinny" hour; however, Magnet schools will have more flexibility: Most plan to use (4) 90-minute classes per day with A/B days.

- k. Terry Brady, president of the teachers' union, has been very cooperative on the PE issue and many other changes they are making.
- l. FAIR Test & Retention Policy: School Board agreed we need to change how this test is used. We need more kids to go to summer school. In order to retain a student:
 - 1. They will look at national normed Reading and Math tests;
 - 2. The maturity of the student;
 - 3. Assessments throughout the year;
 - 4. Work done throughout the year and the grades achieved.
 - 5. **No student will be retained unless the parent(s) approve.**

Florida PTA

Melissa Kicklighter reported: Please go online and send people to Leadership Training and Convention.

Announcements

- a. Please turn in surveys to Margaret.
- b. Please contact DCCPTA if you are interested in joining our Board next year.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:58 am.

Signed:
Ann Gipalo

Approved as:

Date _____ Written _____ Corrected _____