

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

Call to Order

The General Meeting was called to order at 10:03 am by President Gretchen Lynch. The meeting was held in the Cline Auditorium of the Duval County School Board Building on Tuesday, February 19, 2013. Recording Secretary Ann Gipalo recorded the minutes.

Attendance

There were **58 members** and **34 schools** represented at the meeting.

Meditation

There was no meditation today; Gretchen led the membership in the pledge of allegiance.

Minutes

The minutes from the January 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 at the January meeting.

Treasurer's Report

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

January 1, 2013 - Starting Balance	\$ 46,495.75
Total Receipts	\$ 5,927.75
Total Disbursements	\$ 1,596.30
Ending Balance - January 31, 2013	\$ 50,827.20

The treasurer's report will be filed for audit.

President's Report

Gretchen Lynch reported:

- a. She attended President's Training at Florida PTA. During the training, she found out that there is **NO ELECTRONIC VOTING** allowed, because:
 - i. it is difficult to establish whether you have a quorum or not;
 - ii. there can't be any discussion of the issue.

- b. Local units must be in good standing to participate in Awards or the Presidents' and Principals' Luncheon.
- c. Look for an electronic survey this week from DCCPTA. Please forward to your members. Your responses will help us serve you and your members better.
- d. The Legislative Session begins in 3 weeks. DCCPTA will send legislative alerts as soon as we can – but often we get little or no notice for committee hearings/votes, etc.
- e. Thank you to Darnell Cookman Middle School for today's refreshments.

Founders' Day Celebration

The PTA History video was shown to the membership.

DCCPTA past presidents in attendance were:

Dot Mathias
 Joann DiGiandomenico
 Betty Marty
 Cheryl Grymes
 Chris Buckley
 Vicki Drake
 Rita Russell-Houghton
 Melissa Kicklighter

Volunteer Heart pins were also distributed to all current local unit presidents in attendance today.

The Honorable Cheryl Grymes, School Board member

Cheryl also served on the School Board from 1992-2000. She was also a PTA President at Hendricks Avenue Elementary. Is very grateful for PTA and the training it gave her – encourages all of us to take advantage of the training offered. The new Board has 4 new members and the other 3 have only served for 2 years each, so they are learning how to work together – and do it in public, which is very challenging. They performed a SWOT analysis (**S**trengths, **W**eaknesses, **O**pportunities, **T**hreats) of the School Board first, and then did one on the district. Is very excited about Dr. Vitti and the pace at which he is making changes.

Dr. Jason Rose, School Facts Jax

The website <http://jaxpef.org/school-facts-jax.aspx> launched a few months ago. It contains school and district performance data. They are eager to include additional relevant information about schools from partner organizations. The Resources page has a sortable list of links for parents; they have a Help button and a Quick-start video to show how the website works. There is also a Glossary of education terms. Please fill out the reaction/feedback cards he has in the back and mail them in.

Dr. Vitti's Remarks

- a. DCPS will be holding three community meetings to outline the Strategic Plan and get parent/community feedback. The community feedback will be presented to the School Board on March 18. The final strategic plan will be approved at the April School Board meeting.
- b. In June/July they will identify targets for measurable outcomes (such as reading, math & science proficiency, graduation rates, etc.); the targets will be approved in August/September.
- c. He is working on developing 3 types of high school diploma (Honors, Regular, Technical) and will be going to Tallahassee to discuss this idea.
- d. DCPS DOES need more money – but it must be used transparently, efficiently and equitably. We need to make decisions based on what is best for **children**, not adults.
- e. We need to improve DCPS communications with the community; make sure they are aware of the successes in DCPS, but also making sure the goals of the community and DCPS are aligned and working in the same direction.
- f. We have at-risk students who are falling through the cracks – and these students aren't all at Title I schools, they can be found throughout the district.
- g. Parent Academy will be designed to:
 - i. Help parents navigate through the school system.
 - ii. Help them develop their capacity to advocate for their children.
 - iii. Develop parents into parent leaders.

Mr. Harry Reagan, Friends of the Library

- a. The Friends of the Library annual book sale begins this Friday night.
- b. Libraries are in trouble – funding has been steadily dropping.
- c. JCCI did a study trying to find out what to do about funding; Gainesville and Orlando have special (Library) tax districts – which provide a stable source of funding.
- d. FOL is running a petition drive to get a Library Tax District proposal on the November 2014 ballot. They need 27,000 signatures. You can take petition forms to your neighbors and PTA meetings. Call him and he will come pick them up.

Mr. Donnie Horner, Mayor Brown's Education Commissioner

Mr. Horner asked that PTA members please sign up to attend the Mayor's Education Summit which will be held February 28 and March 1. Bill Cosby will be in town, visiting 5 schools (First Coast HS, Raines HS, a luncheon with S.P. Livingston and Rutledge Pearson Elem. students, and LaVilla) and speaking at a fundraiser at the Florida Theater (6:00 – 8:00 pm) which is open to the public (\$25 per person). That event will also have a drum line competition between 5 high schools. March 1, the luncheon keynote speaker will be Tony Miller, Deputy Secretary of Education.

Mr. Victor Malone, PTA President, Seabreeze Elementary

Seabreeze Elementary holds a 5k Fun Run at Jacksonville Beach, which is open to the entire community. They partnered with other area schools to promote the event. \$5 per entrant went back to the schools.

Health and Safety

See details on the back of today's agenda.

2nd Vice President – STAR Team

Mary Lobello reported the standings report for all units is posted on the wall:

- a. 95 local units are in good standing!
- b. 14 units have 1 strike
- c. 27 units have 2 strikes
- d. 17 have 3 strikes
- e. She will be available at the back if you want to see what your unit's strikes are.
- f. The application for the DCCPTA scholarship to Florida PTA Leadership/Convention in July is available. Please apply!

3rd Vice President - Committees

Margaret Godke reported:

- a. The EDDY Awards will be held Thursday, March 14. See the signup sheet if you would like to attend.
- b. Checkout the FL PTA brochure about their legislative priorities for this year's session on our website. Click [HERE](#).
 - i. Capital Funding
 - ii. Instructional materials
 - iii. Flexibility on the Class Size Amendment
- c. Try to clean up your email contact lists and find a technique to quickly communicate with your membership about important votes in the legislature. Let your SAC chairs know you are putting them on your email contact list.
- d. DCCPTA will be taking a group of parents/volunteers to Tallahassee on March 21 to meet with Duval legislators. We have room for 7 people to ride along – see Gretchen if you are interested in going.

Scholarships

Amy Barker reported for Shelley Cain:

- a. Applications must be postmarked by March 29, 2013.
- b. Please encourage students to apply – we have only received 2 applications so far this year.

Presidents' & Principals' Luncheon

Amy Barker reported:

- a. Tickets are on sale at the table out front today. The Luncheon will be on Tuesday, May 21 at 11:15 am at the UNF Center.
- b. There will be a Vendors Fair open before the Luncheon.

Advocacy

Juliann Gaus-Graeser reported:

- a. DCCPTA will be hosting an Advocacy Training session this Saturday on Strategy Formation at Paxon from 10:00 am – Noon.

EESS

Juliann reported for Rosemarie Parsch:

- a. There were over 400 attendees at the Tools for Success event! 200 of them were parents.
- b. Next event is Family Café in Orlando June 7-9. This event is FREE for families!
- c. The annual ESE Survey is now available online (<http://www.esesurvey.com/Login.php>). NOTE: 15% of Duval County students have EESS status.

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.

Teacher Supply Depot:

Chris Buckley reported:

- a. Thank you to Friends of the Library for the 13 rolling bins full of books they recently donated to the TSD.
- b. TSD will need help during Spring Break if you have a high school student that needs service hours.
- c. Thank you to the schools that have scheduled a PTA Work Day at the TSD.
- d. March 16 is the St. Johns River Cleanup Day.
- e. April 20 is the Earth Day Ecology Fair. T-shirts are available for \$8.00.
- f. The National Wildlife Federation has kits available to help you make your school a wildlife habitat. See NWF.org/community website for details.

Florida PTA

Melissa Kicklighter reported:

- a. She attended the Florida PTA Winter Board Meeting.
- b. Florida PTA will be recognized next month by National PTA with a Grassroots Advocacy Award for its work to defeat the Parent Trigger bill last year. Florida has earned the name "The Advocacy State"!
- c. **The Parent Trigger Bill is BACK this year!** There are a few changes; the petition from parents who want a charter school must be approved by the local School Board; but if the School Board rejects the petition, the decision may be appealed to the state, which could then turn over the school to for-profit charter management companies.
- d. Florida PTA is hosting a "MEN" Conference April 5-6. It is FREE and the first 50 people to register will get their hotel stay for FREE.

- e. Florida PTA will have someone in Tallahassee EVERY DAY this legislative session.

Awards

- a. Patricia Beeman reported that DCCPTA award applications are due April 16 at Noon (right after the General Meeting).
- b. State award applications are due May 1st.
- c. Membership award applications are due March 31.

Announcements

- a. Spring Workshops will be held Tuesday, May 14 at the Schultz Center
- b. The next General Meeting of DCCPTA will be Tuesday, March 19.
- c. If you still have legislative postcards to turn in - the last day to turn them in (at the TSD) is next Friday.
- d. Reflections artwork is at the back for pickup.
- e. Have a piece of the Founders' Day cake!

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:55 am.

Signed:
Ann Gipalo

Approved as:

Date _____ Written _____ Corrected _____