**Duval County Council of PTAs/PTSAs**

**General Meeting**

**October 15, 2013**

**Call to Order**

The General Meeting of the Duval County Council of PTAs was called to order at 10:00 am by Vice-President Rowena Nagales, presiding in Gretchen Lynch’s absence. The meeting was held at the Teacher Supply Depot on Tuesday, October 15, 2013. Recording Secretary Ann Gipalo recorded the minutes.

**Attendance**

There were **80** members, representing **49** local units, in attendance.

**Meditation**

Robert Mitchell gave the meditation and led the pledge of allegiance*.*

**Honorable Fel Lee, School Board Member**

1. Thank you to the PTA for your leadership, assistance and influence in your schools.
2. Dr. Vitti has been doing roundtables with parents, students, teachers.
3. Please send Mr. Lee an email ([LeeF@duvalschools.org](mailto:LeeF@duvalschools.org)) if you have any thoughts or questions – he answers them all personally.

**Executive Committee Reports**

**Minutes**

The minutes from the September 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**

Ann Gipalo reported for Africia Davis:

DCCPTA sent Thank You cards to the speakers at the September General meeting.

**Treasurer’s Report**

Mindy Eisman presented the September Treasurer’s report as follows:

Starting Balance – September 1, 2013 **$ 51,823.85**

Total Receipts $ 7,136.63

Total Disbursements $ 3,205.23

Ending Balance – September 30, 2013 **$ 55,755.25**

The September report will be filed for audit.

Reminders:

1. Submit your DCCPTA dues ($35) by November 1 (a [**remittance form**](http://iadvocateforkids.org/PTA/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/DCCPTADuesForm2013-14.pdf) is available on our website) and please consider donating to the 3 funds – scholarship, eyeglass and convention.
2. File your taxes by November 15. Forward a copy of the confirmation to Florida PTA and to Mindy at DCCPTA.

**Dr. Vitti’s Remarks**

1. **Class size update**: The class size mandate applies to every classroom for K-5, but only “core subjects” (those that end in an EOC exam or FCAT exam) for grades 6-12.
2. **Course/Grade recovery**: There is no more Compass Odyssey for students to do grade recovery. There will be evening and Saturday schools for students to make up work.
3. There are 3 mandatory **reading assessments** per year – by state law.
4. **Textbooks:** They are working on a new logistics system for textbooks for next year. Goal is to have every student have the textbooks they need on the first day of school.

**Dr. Annmarie Kent-Willette, Education Commissioner to the Mayor**

1. Goal/Focus is to drive the graduation rate up.
2. 6th grade students MUST be able to read ON grade level – or chances of them dropping out of school are 85%.
3. The Mayor’s Mentors program will focus on 6th grade this year. They are looking for 750 more mentors this year. Would like corporations to support their employees who would like to volunteer.
4. [**Learn 2 Earn**](http://www.coj.net/mayor/education/learn2earn.aspx): (click hyperlink for more info on this program on the Mayor’s website) State money for this program has been cut.

**President’s Report –**

Rowena Nagales reported for Gretchen Lynch:

1. Please take a copy of our Calendar brochure if you haven’t already.
2. Last President’s and Treasurers’ Training:

1. October 21 Noon to 1:00

2. October 24 5:30 – 6:30 pm

1. President’s Directory signout: at the Registration table.
2. Common Core information sessions:

1. October 21 at Edward Waters College

2. October 28 at UNF

**2nd Vice President – STAR Team**

Margaret Godke reported for Mary Lobello:

1. There are 2 sessions of Presidents’ and Treasurers training left – see dates and times above.
2. The first President’s Exchange will be October 24 at 7:00 pm at Panera, 13820 Old St Augustine Rd., 32258.

**Cultural Arts/Reflections**

Entries for County-level judging are due December 6 from 9 am – Noon in Room 613 of the DCPS School Board Bldg. If ready before that date, email [**Rowena Nagales**](mailto:wennkids@aol.com) and we can arrange to pick them up from you.

**Health and Safety**

Felita Tutt reported:

1. DCCPTA will be hosting **Healthy Steps with PTA** Sunday, November 3 from 2:00 – 4:00 at Tree Hill Nature Center. We will have a mile walk, healthy snacks and water and several health and safety vendors.
2. We also need High School volunteers that day. Register on our website.
3. Please [**register**](http://iadvocateforkids.org/PTA/healthy-step-with-pta/) for the event on our website. Participation is limited to the first 200 people to register.

**Resources**

Karen Ramirez reported:

1. Walmart and Sam's Club believe in giving back to the community and there are several ways they do this.

1. You can request a donation in writing **30 days prior to an event** (but no later than December 1 for this school year) at the nearest Walmart or Sam's club near your local unit. If approved, you will receive the donation in the form of a giftcard that can be used at Walmart or Sam's Club.
2. Through the **Local Giving Program**, Walmart Stores/Sam's Club awards grants of $250-$2,500 through each Walmart/Sam's Club Stores. The deadline to apply for the 2013 cycle is December 1, 2013. To apply applications must be completed in full and submitted online to be considered. To apply please visit <http://foundation.walmart.com/apply-for-grants/local-giving>.
3. Through the **Volunteerism Always Pays (VAP) program (available all year round)**, the Walmart Foundation awards $250 to eligible organizations where associates volunteer. For example, if you have a parent or someone on your board that volunteers for your local unit and works at Walmart or Sam's Club that employee can put a request in for the Volunteerism Always Pay award.

**Awards**

Patricia Beeman reported:

1. Right Foot Award: see [application](http://iadvocateforkids.org/PTA/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/Right-Foot-Award-for-2013-2013.pdf) on our website. Due November 1 – to **Tricia’s home address** (see application for address).

**PTA Training Note:** If you are a new or restarting local unit and don’t have a year-end audit or still have an internal account, get financial reports from your school bookkeeper.

1. Florida PTA Awards were handed out for Sunny Days Membership awards and Golden Early Bird awards.

**Common Core State Standards**

Jackie Jones reported:

1. CCSS will be in full implementation for the 2014-2015 school year.
2. Governor Scott has stepped back from the PARCC assessments; assessment process has been put out for bid.
3. CCSS – are STANDARDS – NOT curriculum. Curriculum is still set at the local level.
4. Please go to [www.iAdvocateforkids.org](http://www.iAdvocateforkids.org) and familiarize yourself with the standards.
5. There is a public meeting in Tallahasssee this Thursday (October 17) to take public comments on CCSSI. If you can’t make it to the meeting, please submit any comments you have to the website:  <http://flstandards.org/> by October 31.
6. We have postcards available today for you to take and fill out and send to the state Board of Education with your CCSSI comments.
7. Please identify 1-2 people from your local unit to submit comments to the website by October 31.

#### Please attend one of the two local information events:

#### Edward Waters College, Milne Auditorium, 1658 Kings Rd., Jacksonville on October 21 from 5:30-7:30 pm. Register [HERE](http://jaxpef.nonprofitsoapbox.com/commoncoremeeting1).

#### University of North Florida, University Center, 12000 Alumni Drive Jacksonville. October 28, 5:30-7:30 pm. Register [HERE](http://jaxpef.nonprofitsoapbox.com/commoncoremeeting2).

1. We will post the [**brochure**](http://iadvocateforkids.org/PTA/common-core-in-florida/) we handed out today on our website.
2. We have lots of Parent Guides to the CCSSI available as well – take some today or [**email Jackie**](mailto:jacquelinecjones@yahoo.com) if you would like some more.

**Student Leadership**

Karen Nuland reported:

1. Nomination packets have been delivered to the high school principals. Each principal gets to nominate 3 students, and the local unit PTA will get to nominate one student. Nominations are due October 28.
2. There will be a total of 60 students from around the district.
3. All of the weekend sessions for the students will be at Darnell-Cookman.

**Workshops**

Sharon Hodges distributed 10 gift certificates/gift cards to 10 workshop attendees.

**Vendors**

Kim Sheldon reported:

1. Kim distributed **Office Depot copy discount ID cards**. You can use these cards at ANY location to get black copies on white paper for 2 cents per copy, and black copies on colored paper for 3 cents per copy. If you have any problems using the cards – call Kim (716-9105) or the Office Depot School Accounts manager Celeste Ayers at 238-5942.
2. This card will also get you discounts at the register on hundreds of other unadvertised items.
3. If you have a special item you are shopping for, call Celeste and she will see if she can get you a discount.
4. You can get a card for every Board member on your PTA AND every teacher – call Celeste.

**Teacher Supply Depot**

Chris Buckley reported:

1. The local unit participation form for this year’s **Mr. Roger’s Sweater drive** is posted on our website. Collect sweaters, blankets and coats at your local unit from November 1 – November 30; then drop off the sorted items at the TSD (or send through school mail – but allow enough time) Monday - Friday from 7:30 am – 4:30 pm and one Saturday a month (call **381-7480** for date).
2. Regular TSD give-aways – each local unit can send ONE person to each giveaway.
3. The TSD has over 1400 different die-cuts to use on two different systems.

**Announcements:**

1. Thank you to the TSD for hosting today’s meeting.
2. Thank you to Abess Park for today’s hospitality.

**Adjournment**

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

Signed:

Ann Gipalo

Approved as:

Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Written \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Corrected \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_