

**Due to the traffic delays around Jacksonville the day of the October General Meeting, most members were not able to review these minutes, so a vote to approve them could not be held.**

**However, we wanted members to have access to the information they contain.**

**The vote to approve these minutes will be held in November.**

## **General Meeting of the Duval County Council of PTAs/PTSAs September 18, 2012**

### **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, September 18, 2012. The recording secretary Ann Gipalo recorded the minutes.

### **Attendance**

There were **69 people** in attendance and **46 schools** were represented.

Gretchen Lynch played the NEW National PTA video "**Discover Today's PTA...Right Here, Right Now!**" which can be found on our website [HERE](#).

### **Meditation**

Our new **Character/Spiritual Chair Robert Mitchell** read a meditation and led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **Minutes**

**Ann Gipalo** asked if there were any changes to the minutes of the August General Meeting. None were brought forward. The minutes were approved and will be posted on the DCCPTA website.

### **Treasurer's Report**

**Mindy Eisman** presented the treasurer's report for the month of August, 2012. The treasurer's monthly report is attached. The report's overview is as follows:

#### **August 2012**

Beginning Balance 8/1/12	\$ 39,927.97
Total Receipts	\$ 4,285.94
Total Disbursements	<u>\$ 715.60</u>
Ending Balance 8/31/12	\$ 42,614.66

The treasurer's report will be filed for audit.

Mindy also reminded local units to adopt their PTA budget this month. Your audit of last year's books should be complete – please give a copy to your school bookkeeper. Pay DCCPTA dues by November 1<sup>st</sup>, (note the donation opportunities on the remittance form) and to file the appropriate 990 well before November 15<sup>th</sup>.

### **President's Report**

1. **Gretchen Lynch** welcomed all the new attendees to today's meeting.
2. DCCPTA was asked in the Spring to help the Superintendent Search Committee. Melissa Kicklighter attended the meetings; Parent/Community meetings were held over the summer. DCPS has asked for parent and community feedback (submit through their website [HERE](#)) on what we think the community needs in a new superintendent. Gretchen and Melissa will represent Duval County Council of PTAs and attend the external organizations closed door session with the three finalist candidates.
3. Florida PTA has sent out a survey via e-mail, please fill it out if you receive one.
4. If you are not getting our e-mails – please check your contact info at the registration desk.
5. Amendment 3 and Amendment 8 on the November ballot are very important; Florida PTA is recommending parents vote NO on both. They both involve tax and revenue issues so it can be hard to take a stand against them.
6. The High School Roundtable has been moved to Monday, September 24.
7. President's and Treasurer's training will be held October 9 here at the DCPS building in the evening.
7. **The next General Meeting will be held October 16 – NOT October 23 as was printed in the 3-panel brochure we handed out last month.** It will be held at the Teacher Supply Depot.
8. Due to new security procedures here at the DCPS building, you will need to have your PTA badge on when you enter the building. If you don't have your badge you will be asked to sign in at the desk.
9. There are national standards on Family Engagement – see the flyer we have at the sign-in desk or check the National PTA website.

**Legislative Affairs Chair Beth Mixon** spoke about Florida TABOR – which is proposed constitutional amendment #3 on the November ballot and why Florida PTA is recommending a NO vote. We have a flyer with complete information on our website [HERE](#). Florida PTA is also recommending a NO Vote on proposed constitutional amendment #8 – which would eliminate the ban on transfers of public funds to private religious groups (for school vouchers). The School Board Association is also recommending a NO vote on that amendment.

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President – STAR Team**

**Mary Lobello** reported the team is working with approximately 20 schools, fielding calls and e-mails. Please turn in your new officer form if you haven't already done so.

### **3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President - Committees**

**Margaret Godke** reported:

- a. DCPS is asking parents to serve on the **School Health Advisory Committee**. If you are interested in serving, please contact Margaret – or write “SHAC” next to your name on today’s sign-in sheet.
- b. DCCPTA’s **Superintendent’s Leadership Academy** provides an opportunity for high school students to learn and develop Advocacy skills. We need help on the planning committee. Please contact Margaret if you are interested. There are 4 training sessions in January and February, 2013 and then a trip to Tallahassee in March during the legislative session.

**Dawn Elkins** from **Duval Virtual School** then spoke, describing the difference between DVS and Florida Virtual, and how DVS has decided to address meeting the new state requirement for every student who graduates high school to take one online course.

**Jackie Byrd, Chief of Schools, DCPS** addressed the meeting for Ed Pratt-Dannals. She reported:

- a. Volunteer Applications are now good for TWO years.
- b. DCPS has 400 NEW Male volunteers.
- c. There were 10,000 fathers who participated in the Million Father March on the first day of school.
- d. Open House dates for all schools can be found online.
- e. September is Literacy Month.

### **Teacher Supply Depot**

**Chris Buckley** reminded members that the next General Meeting will be held at the Teacher Supply Depot on Tuesday, October 16. **Two people per PTA local unit** may bring tote bags and “shop” **for their PTA or school** after the meeting.

**League of Women Voters, Jacksonville Chapter, President Angela DeMonbreun** addressed the meeting. She can take voter registrations today; the LOWV Voter’s Guide is available online and she has printed copies available on the registration table. The League is partnering with the Jacksonville Ethical Commission to provide Civics education and public forums. They have a website for student education – [www.BeReadytoVote.org](http://www.BeReadytoVote.org)

**Comcast’s Senior Manager of Government Affairs Bill Ferry** described Comcast’s Internet Essentials program to provide discounted internet service to students on the **FREE** lunch program (**Not** reduced lunch this year). Netbook computers at a reduced cost and digital literacy training are also available. This is the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of the 3 year program (of “active promotion” of the availability of the discounted service).

**Jaimi Metz from Stanton High School** described their successful “Courtyard Program”. Issues addressed included NO Texting While Driving, and a Health Fair.

### **Committee Reports**

### **Council Relations**

**Betty Marty** reported 19 PTAs have already filed their taxes online – Yeah! Be sure to check the expiration date of your bylaws – **25 PTAs currently have expired bylaws.**

## **Membership**

**April Caldwell** reminded everyone to review frequently the membership benefits available for members (and remind your members); some benefits are available in specific months, others are available year-round.

## **CCSSI (Common Core State Standards Initiative)**

**Jackie Jones** reported:

- A. There will be a Webinar on Common Core in Spanish on 9/25.
- B. They will have a Teacher Training on Common Core 9/19 at Neptune Beach Elementary.
- C. There will be a Parent Training session at Abess Park Elementary on 9/27.
- D. Contact Jackie if you would like to host a program at your school.
- E. Check out the [iAdvocateforKids.org](http://iAdvocateforKids.org) website – for resources for parents and teachers.
- F. If you have not already picked up your Common Core packet, please see her at the desk outside.

## **Cultural Arts**

**Rowena Nagales** also reminded everyone to check your bylaws for their expiration date: they must be current through 3/31/13 in order to apply for awards. Reflections Theme Search Idea Applications are due November 4 at 4:30. (Yes – this IS a Sunday due date.) to the Florida PTA office. December 3 is the last day to turn in local unit Reflections winners for County level judging.

## **Health & Safety**

**Gretchen Lynch** reported for **Laura Maloney**: Thank you to everyone for visiting the Health Fair at the Workshops on Sept. 7. We had 13 vendors that day. There will be two events on October 22 (in Jacksonville – location TBD) from 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm: Helmet fitting certification and Bike Rodeo Leader training. This training is open to teachers, administrators, PTA volunteers, community organizations, etc. JASMYN will host its 5<sup>th</sup> annual **Teaching Respect for All** on October 26 (the Teacher Planning Day).

## **Workshops**

**Mandi Welch** reported there were 131 people representing 52 schools at the Fall Workshops. They are reviewing the class evaluations and will be using the comments to make improvements to the Spring workshops.

## **Advocacy Training**

**Vickie Hamby** reported for **Juliann Gaus-Graser**: You can sign up for the advocacy training session at Neptune Beach Elementary online at [www.iAdvocateforKids.org](http://www.iAdvocateforKids.org). We need people to become trainers in Spanish. Contact Juliann if you can help.

## **Awards**

**Patricia Beeman** reminded everyone that the "Right Foot Award" application is due November 1 and you can fill it out online. The Local Unit Achievement and Advocacy Award applications are available online. The Early Bird Award applications are due: Golden – October 1; Silver – November 1; Bronze – December 1. The Florida PTA website will have all award applications online in the next 30 days. You can also call and ask them to mail you what you need or we at DCCPTA can help you too (Contact Patricia.)

## **Consultant Reports**

### **Exceptional Education and Student Services (EE/SS)**

**Rosemarie Parsch** reported:

- a. EE/SS participated in the TEACH conference held September 15.
- b. DHA - Disability History Awareness Weeks are October 1 – 14.
- c. All schools were sent a Resolution, acknowledging DHA Weeks and signed by the Honorable Betty Burney and Superintendent, Ed Pratt-Dannals, suitable for framing, and a DHA Resource Guide.
- d. DCCPTA now has a Diversity and Inclusion Award – please apply.
- e. ESE Advisory Committee General Meeting is: Thursday September 20, 2012, at 9:30 a.m. at the DCPS Admin. Bldg., Room 307.
- f. The 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Tools for Success Family Conference will be held Wednesday, February 13, 2013, from 8:00am to 3:00p.m. at the Schultz Center.

### **Florida PTA**

**Melissa Kicklighter** reported:

- a. More alerts will be coming about the proposed Constitutional Amendments next week from the Legislative Committee.
- b. They are less than 30 days away from the launch of their new website which will have applications in the "fillable forms" format.
- c. Local Unit Presidents should have their President's Kit of Materials by now – please SHARE the CD with your Board. Everything BUT the award applications is on the disk –you can call FL PTA at **1-800-373-5782** if you need something urgently or have a question.
- d. PTA Day in the Park: she will have more info on this after her meeting this weekend. You can incorporate Health, Safety, Wellness, etc. into your plans. AND you can partner with other PTAs.

### **Recognition / Celebration:**

At every General Meeting we are going to recognize several schools:

**Congratulations to Abess Park Elementary** - they were the first to schedule a CCSSI Parent Education Night!!

**Congratulations to Jacksonville Beach Elementary, Paxon, Lonestar Elementary and Landon** – they all had 8 people at the Workshops!

**Congratulations to Seabreeze Elementary PTA** – for hosting a Beaches PTA President's Breakfast to support one another.

**Thank you to Paxon School for Advacned Studies PTSA** for the breakfast refreshments this morning!

**Announcements**

Wednesday, October 3 is Walk to School Day.

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 11:34 am.

Signed:

Ann Gipalo

Approved as:

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