

Duval County Council of PTAs/PTSAs General Meeting Minutes January 15, 2013

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, January 15, 2013. The recording secretary Ann Gipalo recorded the minutes.

Attendance

There were **62** members and **33** schools represented at the meeting.

Meditation

Robert Mitchell read a meditation and led the pledge of allegiance.

Minutes

The minutes from the November General Meeting were approved as presented with one correction to the name of the PTSA president from Frank Peterson Academy: his name is Gary Kimball – not Frank Kimball.

Corresponding Secretary

Terry Chrisley reported that Congratulation notes were sent to all of the newly elected school board members and Florida state legislators.

Treasurer's Report

Mindy Eisman presented the November and December Treasurer's reports. The report's overview is as follows:

November - Starting Balance	\$ 46,749.70
Total Receipts	\$ 1,883.52
Total Disbursements	\$ 1,172.39
Ending Balance – November 30, 2012	\$ 47,460.83
December - Starting Balance	\$ 47,460.83
Total Receipts	\$ 1,047.87
Total Disbursements	\$ 2,012.95
Ending Balance – December 31, 2012	\$ 46,495.75

The treasurer's report will be filed for audit.

The Board of Managers reviewed the budget at our Board meeting last week. After some discussion, a vote was taken and the Board approved making no adjustments to this year's budget.

President's Report

Gretchen Lynch reported:

- a. "Welcome" to any new attendees at today's meeting.
- b. Our "End the Year Strong" review will be included in this meeting. It will also be offered tonight from 6:30 – 7:30 pm.
- c. Tonight is another Town Hall Meeting with Dr. Vitti. Please attend if you can and be sure to advertise and promote these sessions with your membership. Our attendance at these meetings shows that we are engaged as parents.
- d. If you have any questions about anything mentioned during the workshop, we will be available after the meeting to answer questions.
- e. Thank you Fishweir Elementary for today's breakfast refreshments.
- f. Get ready for the legislative issues coming up this session and our postcard campaign. You can take the postcard packets today.

2nd Vice President – STAR Team

Mary Lobello reported:

1. 90 local units are in good standing!
2. 14 units have 1 strike
3. 34 units have 2 strikes
4. 15 have 3 strikes
5. She will be available at the back if you want to see what your unit's strikes are.
6. The STAR team will be contacting several units to see if they need any help.

3rd Vice President - Committees

Margaret Godke reported:

- a. Laura Malone's report (Health & Safety) –
 1. SHAC meeting January 22; topic: \$30 billion spent on advertising for tobacco, alcohol and prescription drugs. Will be a Lunch and Learn located at Nova Southeastern University.
- b. The delegates from the following schools were asked to stand so we could thank them for hosting the four sessions of the Student Leadership Academy: Frank Peterson, Sandalwood, Paxson SAS, Wolfson.

Legislation

Beth Mixson reported:

- a. Packets of postcards are available at the table outside. Each packet has 25 cards in it.
- b. Please take these packets back to your Board and ask them to fill it out.
- c. Florida PTA has a brochure with their legislative priorities for this year. You can use these as suggested talking points. It is very user friendly and easy to understand.

- d. Be sure to tell your Board members to use their own HOME address to figure out who their state representative and senator are, NOT the school's address (e.g. if your school is a magnet school).
- e. Go to myflorida.gov and enter your address to verify who your representatives are.
- f. Bring the completed cards back to the February General Meeting. Each local unit that returns at least 25 postcards will receive a certificate of Advocacy at the President's & Principals' Luncheon in May, The school with the MOST cards returned will receive a "shopping trip" for their Board at the Teacher Supply Depot.
- g. You can use the certificate of advocacy when you fill out other award applications as a parent advocacy program.
- h. We need to teach parents to use their voice!

Scholarships

Shelley Cain reported:

- a. The application packets were mailed to the guidance counselors yesterday.
- b. Applications must be postmarked by March 29, 2013.
- c. The application has been revised this year to add the evaluation rubric.
- d. Please encourage students to apply – we usually only receive 30 applications per year.

Student Leadership

Karen Nuland reported:

- a. All 21 high schools have submitted the names of at least 3 students for this year's program.
- b. She is in the process of getting parent approvals.
- c. The first session is January 26 at Sandalwood.

Presidents' & Principals' Luncheon

Amy Barker reported:

1. The Luncheon will be on Tuesday, May 21 at the UNF Center.
2. Ticket order forms and tickets are ready and are available for sale starting with this General Meeting. They will be on sale through April 30 with maximum of 8 tickets (1 table). After April 30, remaining tickets will be sold on a first come first served basis.
3. If you know you want more than 8 seats – note that on your ticket order form and you will be contacted after April 30. We cannot guarantee that your additional tickets will be near your first table. Tables are assigned on a first come first served basis from the front of the room to the back.
4. Please forward photos of your PTA "in action" for a slideshow we are putting together for the luncheon. Email them to President@DCCPTA.org.
5. Question was asked: Do local units need to make sure any students in the pictures have signed parent media release forms? Gretchen said NO – the slideshow will be used for a one-time "internal use" event and will not be put on the internet, so no release is needed.

Cultural Arts

Rowena Nagales introduced our first guest speaker, Robert White from the Cultural Arts Council of Greater Jacksonville:

- a. The CACGJ has a list on their website of all of the arts organizations in Jacksonville that have programs schools can use during the day (for field trips) or parents can use after school.
- b. The arts encourage kids to think differently!
- c. Jacksonville's budget for the arts is \$2.85 million. That is \$3.25 per citizen per year. (very low)
- d. He has a brand new brochure (purple) with the list of arts organizations that receive city funding. That money creates an environment for arts organizations to flourish.
- e. Another organization: Arts for a Complete Education (ACE). The CACGJ works with them.
- f. Website for CACGJ is www.culturalcouncil.org.

Dr. Connie Hall, School Board Member

Dr. Hall says she knows the value of PTA, and the struggles of PTA: her father was a PTA president when she was a student; she was a PTA President when her son was in school and she was a principal at James Weldon Johnson when Gretchen was the PTA President. She asked the PTAs that are doing well to please partner with a struggling PTA. **Inform, Organize and Support.**

Dr Vitti's remarks:

Dr. Vitti took several questions from the membership:

- a. Melissa Kicklighter asked him to outline the changes he is making with the district staff – at "Cabinet" level:
 1. He's appointed a new chief of staff.
 2. Chief of Accountability and Assessment.
 3. Chief Academic Officer
 4. Chief of Strategic Planning and Partnerships
 5. New Chief Financial officer
 6. A new position –Intergovernment Affairs and Community Outreach.
- b. He is going to streamline resources at the district level and send more resources back to the schools. He'll have more flexibility to do this when administrative contracts expire in June.
- c. Parent Academies – when will they start? He's going to have a task force develop the "menu" of classes that will be offered by the end of January.
- d. Nutrition: Are any changes planned to the school menus? There have been changes at our Title I schools.... He wants to have one person in charge of "Wellness". That person will address this issue.
- e. Will he look into equalizing the resources across all schools? This member's son had a class set of books and a book he could keep and use at home. He's now at a different school and couldn't complete a major assignment over the winter break because they would not let him take the book home. Dr. Vitti said they are hoping to change the textbook purchase policy – buy more electronic resources students can access at home.

- f. School Security – what changes have been or will be made? All DCPS middle and high schools have a School Resource Officer (SRO). The SROs are going to be patrolling the elementary schools near their assigned school as well.
- g. Please email him or call his office with any questions or concerns.

Rodney Brown, State’s Attorney’s office:

- a. He’s currently in charge of Project Safe Child, a Justice Department program.
- b. Jacksonville has ranked 1st, 2nd or 3rd in each of the last 5 years for the number of convictions of pedophiles, and traffickers in child pornography.
- c. They do a lot of undercover work trying to track down predators online.
- d. He has a presentation appropriate for 9th – 12th graders and parents.

FBI Special Agent Lawrence Meyer

- a. There are 5 FBI agents and one FDLE agent working full-time in the Jacksonville FBI office on internet predators.
- b. He has a program that is appropriate for elementary/middle students
- c. When we were growing up a child was most at risk when not at home or school. Children today are MOST at risk at HOME due to how freely they share personal information about themselves online.
- d. Check out this website: netsmartz.org It is run by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. It has areas geared toward parents and children at several levels and lesson plans for teachers.

Mr. Co’Relous Bryant, Jacksonville Public Education Fund

Mr. Bryant is the Community Mobilization Manager for JPEF.

- a. Their One by One Campaign conducted 169 community meetings all over Duval county.
- b. These meetings with business leaders, non-profit organizations, and parents resulted in the development of the following priorities:
 - 1. Educate the whole Child
 - 2. Great Teachers and Leaders
 - 3. Policy and Political Reform
 - 4. Family and Caregiver Involvement
- c. They are now conducting a ratification campaign of these priorities. Goal is to collect 2,000 signatures.
- d. Then they want these priorities incorporated into the District’s new Strategic Plan which is currently under development.
- e. They are finalizing the date and plans for a community rally in May.
- f. All community conversations have been archived and are available online on their website.

Nominating Committee

Parliamentarian Betty Marty read the DCCPTA bylaws regarding Nominating Committees.

We nominated 2 people and 1 alternate from the current Board of Managers.

Today we need to nominate an additional three members from the General Membership to serve on the committee.
The slate of nominees for the executive board positions must be sent to the General Membership at least 5 days before the March General Meeting.
Shelley Cain will be president pro tem of the committee; they may elect a different chairman at their first meeting if they want to. Robert Mitchell and Mindy Eisman (alternate) are the other two members from the current Board of Managers.
Tina O'Brien, Amy Barker and Patricia Beeman were nominated from the floor. A ballot-raised vote was taken and the Nominating Committee has been finalized.

Teacher Supply Depot:

Chris Buckley reported:

- a. TSD will be open the two days school is closed this weekend. Teens are welcome to come and earn service hours.
- b. She has **rain barrel kits** ready to go. Schools can request as many as they want. Instructions are included.

How to End the Year Strong!

All of the information presented today will be available on our website under the Tools tab. Hardcopies are on the table outside.

Cultural Arts

Rowena Nagales reported:

- a. Reflections entries that are not advancing to state are available for pickup in the back of the room.
- b. The winners list is posted on the wall and will be on the website this afternoon.
- c. The Reception is May 10. Invitations will be mailed to all of the winners.

Florida PTA

Melissa Kicklighter reported:

- a. Florida PTA will be reviewing the Reflections entries this weekend!
- b. National PTA just updated their membership data, which shows that **Florida has the highest percentage increase in membership** of all the large PTA states at **over 3% (3.43%)**. **Keep taking memberships through March 31 and making your monthly payments.**
- c. They are gearing up for the legislative session, making connections with the members of the K-12 subcommittee. They are writing the bills right now! PLEASE participate in the postcard campaign.
- d. When you receive a legislative alert from Florida PTA, Please take action right away! Bills move VERY fast in the Florida Legislature
- e. Florida PTA scholarships are also available. The applications are due February 1.

EESS

Juliann Gaus-Graser reported for Rosemarie Parsch:

- a. The ESE Advisory Committee meeting will be Thursday, January 17 from 9:30 am – 12:30 pm in Room 307. Drew Andrews will be speaking on the topic "Transition Planning for Secondary Students".
- b. February 13 is the annual Tools for Success Family Conference at the Schultz Center. There will be 30 vendors and 30 classes offered. Teachers can earn up to 6 Continuing Education credits for attending.
- c. There are posters in the back for everyone to take back and display at their schools.

Celebrations / Awards

- a. Frank Peterson for their work day at the Teacher Supply Depot
- b. Paxson SAS – they received a grant from National PTA for their Take Your Family to School Week program.

Membership Awards from Florida PTA:

Hendricks Avenue Elementary	Our Founders Cared
Kirby Smith	Silver early Bird Award
Hendricks Avenue Elementary	Gold Grandparent Award
	And 100% Faculty award
	And 100% Membership
Stockton Elementary	
Landon	100% Faculty Award
Jacksonville Beach Elementary	100% Membership
Landon	100% Membership
Pine Forest Elementary	100% Membership

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:50 am.

Signed:
Ann Gipalo

Approved as:

Date _____ Written _____ Corrected _____