

General Meeting of the Duval County Council of PTAs/PTSAs November 20, 2012

Call to Order

The General Meeting was called to order at 10:01 am by President Gretchen Lynch. The meeting was held in the Cline Auditorium of the Duval County School Board Building Tuesday, November 20, 2012. Recording Secretary Ann Gipalo recorded the minutes.

Attendance

There were **50 people** in attendance and **34 local units** were represented.

Meditation

Gretchen Lynch led the meditation, asking everyone to reflect on the upcoming Thanksgiving Holiday; and led the pledge of allegiance.

Minutes

The minutes from the last two General Meetings (September and October) were posted for review. No changes were noted. The minutes for both meetings were approved as posted.

Correspondence:

Terry Chrisley reported that there was no Correspondence in October.

Treasurer's Report

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

October 2012

Beginning Balance	\$ 41,304.33
Total Receipts	\$ 9,459.14
Total Disbursements	\$ 4,013.77
Ending Balance	\$ 46,749.70

The treasurer's report will be filed for audit.

President's Report

Gretchen Lynch:

- a. Gretchen Lynch welcomed all the first time general meeting attendees.
- b. Thank you to all local units – all of the tax filings are done!
- c. There will not be a General Meeting in December.

- d. January's General meeting will focus on how to end the year strong.
- e. Superintendent Vitti will be holding two Town Hall meetings:
 - a. December 3 at Terry Parker High School at 6:00 pm
 - b. December 5 at Fletcher High School at 6:00 pm.

2nd VP – STAR Team

Mary Lobello reported all local units for which we have a President on record should have received an e-mail with their local unit status: in good standing – or how many "strikes".

If anyone present has questions you can see Mary in the back today.

3rd VP - Committees

Margaret Godke reported

- a. There will be a "Conversation on Arts Education" community meeting held at Douglas Anderson School of the Arts, November 28 from 5:00-6:30 pm. The deadline to register has been extended to November 27.
- b. On November 26 there will be a LIVE Town Hall Meeting "First for You: Ask the Superintendent" hosted by First Coast News (Channel 12) with Dr. Nikolai Vitti from 4:30 – 6:30 pm. They need 20 parents/students/teachers to attend. Please see red signup folder being passed around.

School Board Member, the Honorable Becky Couch

School Board member Becky Couch presented some info on how the members of the Duval Legislative committee have decided to narrow the focus of their Legislative Agenda for the next session (March 2013). They are going to focus on 4-5 items only; they REALLY need parents to become engaged.

- a. **Relax the mandate to purchase text books** on a set schedule- especially if the books we have already comply with common core standards.
- b. **Capital funding and millage rates.** DCPS has 158 schools; 89 of them are OVER 50 years old and need improvements to structure, safety and technology. We have a backlog of \$878 million in work to do, but only \$15.9 million in funds is available. Critical life-safety repairs have been deferred. Technology mandates are in jeopardy. Millage revenue decreased from \$117 million in 2007 to \$76 million in 2012-2013. PICO (Capital outlays) have decreased from \$19 million in 2007 to ZERO this year.
 - a. We are asking for a .25 mills increase in 2013-2014
 - b. .25 mills increase in 2014-2015
 - c. For the state to restore PICO funding
 - d. (NOTE) The state has capped our ability to raise millage at 1.5 mills; it used to be 2.0 mills.
- c. **Class size penalties:** Duval has used every dollar we have been given by the state for compliance to comply, but variabilities in enrollment may still cause us to occasionally fall out of compliance. We want them to find NON-monetary ways to penalize the district. State law says the state must fund class size reduction, not the districts.

- d. **Charter schools:** DCPS has sufficient seats to serve the district. We don't need additional schools to be built. We want charter schools to have to compete with DCPS on a level playing field: Charter schools only have to meet class size at the SCHOOL level – not class level like the district. Charter schools do not have to comply with the same building codes as “regular” schools.
- e. **High Stakes Testing Resolution:** we are against punitive testing. Assessments are good for measurement to diagnose problems.

DCPS Superintendent, Dr. Nikolai Vitti

Dr. Vitti was welcomed by DCCPTA with a copy of the hardback PTA History book recently published, “Jacksonville A-Z” for his kids, and a copy of last year's DCCPTA Annual Report (written by Melissa Kicklighter).

His remarks included: One of his favorite sayings is: “Without struggle, there is no greatness.” Frederick Douglas

We need to build on the things that are working – we're on the cusp of greatness!

If we don't have a robust public education system, our democracy is in jeopardy.

We need demanding, engaged parents. Parents are “customers” that have options: choice and competition.

Dot Mathias: Vision Screening Program

The DCPS Vision Screening program was started in 1971 at San Mateo Elementary. DCCPTA adopted the program and developed a fund to provide money for exams and glasses for needy students. DCPS is the ONLY system wide coordinated vision screening program. Last year:

- a. 68,000 were screened;
- b. 6,000 were referred
- c. 22 students were served.
- d. 331 students were found to be legally blind;
- e. 115 had ambiopia (lazy eye) – which if not caught by 3rd grade can lead to permanent visual impairment.
- f. Glaucoma and cataracts have also been found.
- g. 7 students were referred to the visually impaired program when their sight could only be corrected to 20/70.

Legislation

Legislative Rep Beth Mixon reported on “sequestration”. National PTA has info about it online. We need Congress and the President to reach an agreement that meets educational priorities without impacting the most needy students.

Reflections:

Rowena Nagales reminded local units that they have to enter the artwork online; for literature submissions, please bring 3 copies of each entry; CDs/DVDs for music and dance entries must be in a 9x12 envelope.

Common Core:

Jackie Jones reported that Neptune Beach Elementary received a \$100 gift card for hosting Beaches Advocacy Day.

Stanton received a \$25 gift card for hosting a Common Core Presentation

Lonestar Elementary will be hosting a Common Core Presentation November 28 from 1:00 – 2:30 pm.

There will be no presentations in December.

Contact Jackie if you would like to host a Common Core presentation at your school in January.

Student Leadership:

Karen Nuland reported about the schedule for this school year's Student Leadership Academy.

Awards:

Patricia Beeman presented the certificates for the Right Foot award. The next county level award applications are due **April 16**. Gold and Silver Early Bird awards were also presented.

Parent & Family Engagement

Vicki Drake reported that DCPS is looking for 10 schools to develop parent engagement team pilot programs. Goal is to draw the community into the schools.

Teacher Supply Depot:

- a) Saturday December 1 from 9:00 am – 3:00 pm high school students can get volunteer hours by working at the Depot. Next teacher giveaway is December 6: President or ONE designee can go.
- b) The Mr. Rogers Sweater drive ends next week. If you can't get your donations to the depot on time, Chris can be found every morning in front of Crown Point Elementary in a silver Toyota Prius.
- c) Don't Trash Jacksonville curriculum and coloring books for grades K-3 are FREE from the Depot.
- d) If you belong to another civic organization in Jacksonville, please ask them to also think about contributing to the Vision Screening program.

Local Unit Program Presentations:

Frank Kimball, Frank H. Peterson

Mr. Kimball presented information about how their PTSA set up a Teach Supply Closet at their local unit – as an extension of the Teacher Supply Depot. It's open one day a week and is a room right at the front of the school.

Ola Jackson, Hyde Grove Elementary

Ms. Jackson presented information about their PTA’s program “Growing Young Ladies” for 5th grade girls.

Florida PTA:

- a) Melissa Kicklighter reported National PTA grant applications are due November 30.
- b) “Take Your Family to School Week” is February 18-22.
- c) Congratulations to the following PTA Connect Day schools:
 - 1. Atlantic Coast HS won a giftcard.
 - 2. Sallye B. Mathis and Mayport Middle School each won one free registration to Florida PTA Convention and Leadership training next summer.
- d) Sequestration toolkit is available online at www.pta.org. 17,000 jobs could be lost in Jacksonville alone if the budget cuts go into effect.

Announcements

There were no announcements.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:40 am.

Signed:
Ann Gipalo

Approved as:

Date _____ Written _____ Corrected _____