

Duval County Council of PTAs/PTSAs General Meeting April 25, 2017

Call to Order

The General Meeting of the Duval County Council of PTAs was called to order at 9:32 am by President Karen Nuland. The meeting was held in the Cline Auditorium of the DCPS School Board Building on Tuesday, April 25, 2017. Recording Secretary Ann Gipalo recorded the minutes.

Attendance

There were **48 members** representing **26 local units** in attendance.

Meditation

Judith Pratt gave the meditation and led the pledge of allegiance:

William Goldman, in The Princess Bride:

Buttercup: "We'll never survive!"

Westley: "You're only saying that because no one ever has."

Anne Frank: "How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world."

Teddy Roosevelt: "When you are asked if you can do a job, say yes, then find out how to do it!"

School Board Member Honorable Becky Couch

- a. Thank you to everyone involved in PTA for helping fill in the gaps for our children.
- b. Gifted Meetings: There will be changes to gifted programming – but the pilot programs in several schools won't necessarily be implemented district-wide. She will be working with SB Member Lori Hershey to use the ACE process (?) to engage the community.
- c. House Bill 5105: "Schools of Hope" Bill: shortens the school turn-around process so that schools can be closed after only 2 years; district is REQUIRED to turn over the school to a charter school company; charter schools will have access to \$200 million in local effort funds to build or open a charter school.
- d. Gilbert Middle, Northwest Middle and Ribault Middle are in immediate danger of being closed with this bill. Their students could be reassigned to a charter school, and transportation is not required to be provided. Students that do not choose the charter school will have to be absorbed by the district, assign them to new district schools – which may exceed their capacity – and transport them.
- e. NO Charter school companies WANT to do turnaround work required in Title I schools.
- f. Senator Simmons bill in the Senate proposes to allow districts more time than the two years in the House bill to turn around problem schools.
- g. SB326: will require districts to share capital outlay dollars with charters. See the presentation on the DCPS School Board's page about local property taxes. This bill keeps the millage rate capped at 1.5 mills AND forces the district to share the revenue raised locally with charters. DCPS has a \$120 million backlog of maintenance and repairs. Duval raise \$86 million; bill requires debt service to be paid off first – which is \$32 million – leaving \$57-58 million divided between public and charter – Duval could only net \$28 million next year.

- h. We would also have to have new construction approved by the Legislature; will have to prove a NEED for it, but charters do not have to prove a need, they can open anywhere they want.
- i. If a charter builds a new school, they do not have to comply with the covered walkways and sidewalks, bus loop designs, parking lot design standards public school do. So if the charter fails, DCPS would find it hard to use that property because it doesn't meet the standards of public schools.
- j. Public schools also have to meet "Joint Use Planning" design standards – to be available as shelters during hurricanes.
- k. Lease agreements by charters: they can use capital fund dollars to pay their lease on private property. If the charter closes, we don't get those capital dollars back. The money stays in private hands.
- l. Charters can also hire ANYONE to be a teacher – they don't have to be certified.
- m. Please VISIT, call or email your local Representative and Senator's office and tell them how you feel about this bill!
- n. Fewer/Better Test bills: The House bill is NOT what the SB wants – the Senate bill is good. The Senate bill eliminates EOCs for High School students in Algebra, Geometry and Civics, and removes the Value Added Model (VAM) for teacher performance. Also allows paper and pencil assessments so FSAs don't have to be done on a computer.
- o. If you have any questions, contact her at CouchR@duvalschools.org. She has talking points and a PowerPoint you can see.

Executive Committee Reports

Minutes

The minutes from the March 2017 General Meeting were approved as written.

Corresponding Secretary

Melissa Daniels reported:

1. Wrote thank you notes for the March General Meeting Speakers
 - a. Honorable Scott Shine
 - b. Melissa Kicklighter
 - c. Lille Vereen
2. Thank you notes written to and received for the SLA trip from the following (as reported by Mindy Eisman):
 - a. Austin Nicklas – Senator Arron Bean Legislative Aide
 - b. Clay Yarborough – in reference to visit with Jennifer Contreras
 - c. Carol Beck – Governor's Manson curator
 - d. Thank you note sent to Honorable Jay Fant (no response received at time of report)

Treasurer's Report

Cathy Guiler gave the March Treasurer's report as follows:

Starting Balance – March 1, 2017	\$ 50,609.77
Total Receipts	\$ 6,518.30
Total Disbursements	\$ 4,409.36
Ending Balance – March 31, 2017	\$ 52,718.71

Ending Balance for Operating Budget:	\$ 23,530.57
Eyeglass Fund	\$ 13,144.93
Scholarship Fund:	\$ 4,041.58

Convention Fund:	\$ 4,689.97
Teacher Supply Depot	\$ 890.63
Inactive Local Units Escrow Fund	\$ 6,421.03

The March report will be filed for audit.

Please purchase or pick up your President's and Principals tickets today. We sell out every year, and after April 30 will open back up for local units to purchase additional tickets beyond the one table limit we have right now.

President's Report

Karen Nuland reported:

- a. Attended Florida PTA's RealTalk event.
- b. Met with UNF staff about the Presidents' and Principals' Luncheon.
- c. Participated in Principal interviews.
- d. Attended a Black Commission on Education meeting,
- e. Ordered the ribbons we will give to our Duval delegation to use at FLPTA Convention.

1st Vice President – Programs

Felita Tutt reported:

- a. She attended the April School Board meeting and was introduced as the new DCCPTA President.
- b. Attended the Black Commission on Education meeting.
- c. Sent out the invitations to the P&P to the Teacher of the Year, Dr. Vitti and the School Board.
- d. Taught the President's class at our Workshops.
- e. Attended the FLPTA RealTalk event.

Cynthia Dennis, Safe Kids Northeast Florida

Safe Kids Northeast Florida is a coalition, one of 5,000 world-wide, formed in 1988, to educate parents on ways to prevent injuries that can lead to death. Since its founding, preventable deaths have been reduced by 60%. The local office is located at Wolfson Hospital in the Players Center for Child Health.

Cynthia.Dennis@bmc.org

Pool Safety Checklist – see flyer on table outside.

www.WolfsonChildrens.org/water

Pool safety requires Visual Supervision at all times, and multiple barriers to home pools: on the door, and a 4-sided gate with a lock around the pool.

After swimming, change out of swimsuits, put all the swim toys away, empty kiddie pools, put a tarp over an inground pool.

Non-swimmers must wear a US Coast Guard approved life vest.

Beach, Lake and Pond Safety:

Beware of rip currents; don't swim alone – even adults.

McDonald's is printing tray liners again this year, the 12th year in a row, so kids can read about water safety all summer long.

Free Swim Lessons:

1. At summer camp programs.
2. At the 32 city pools in Duval County. Announced on Channel 4 news.
3. Through the Hospital: sponsored by the Florida Swimming Pool Association. Call or email soon as it is on a first come first served basis.

Contact her if you would like them to come for a Health & Safety event at your school.

2nd Vice President – Local Units

Jenifer Morgan reported:

Good Standing Report: of 137 active local units

- a. 107 units are in good standing.
- b. 9 units have either 1 or 2 strikes.
- c. 15 local units have 3 or more strikes, or may move to Inactive status.
- d. This year we have had 8 units re-chartered and 5 were reorganized.
- e. Continue to pay state and national dues through May 1, then notify FLPTA of how many cards you have left over and destroy them.
- f. TO DO Items:
 - a. Register your new officers with FLPTA on their website.
 - b. Form an audit committee for your books
 - c. Form a budget committee to develop your budget for next year.
 - d. Remember: Only the NEW officers can sign a contract with a fundraising company.
- g. Celebrate Teacher Appreciation Week.
- h. Celebrate yourselves and all of your hard work this year!!

3rd Vice-President - Leadership

Celita Wilson reported:

- a. Teacher Supply Depot Giveaway is May 11. Please – DO NOT bring kids to the Depot.
- b. There are two Gifted meetings coming up: Tonight at R.L. Brown at 6pm and Thursday night at Alimicani Elementary at 6pm. Parents of Academically Talented students who have been moved into the Gifted program are NOT getting these meeting notices. Please pass the word. There are lots of proposed changes.
- c. See Celita if you would like more information about the Black Commission for Education meeting.
- d. Thank you to everyone who attended our Workshops last week. She has received a lot of questions via the Officers blog. You may also email her or PN her in Facebook.
- e. The Presidents & principals luncheon is coming up – be sure to buy your tickets.
- f. FLPTA Conventions and Leadership: July 13-16. DCCPTA has a Grant for local units with budgets less than \$6000. Application is due May 26. APPLY!!
- g. FLPTA State Award applications are due May 1.
- h. There is a flyer on the table outside for the Jacksonville Public Education Fund's One x One conference at the OMNI hotel

Dr. Vitti

Dr. Vitti was asked to expand on the details of the letter he wrote to the entire Legislature on the Schools of Hope bills:

1. There is no balance between supply and demand for charter schools.
2. The high performing charters (KIPP and GreenDot) see too much risk in Florida to come here because:
 - a. The accountability standards are too high
 - b. The per pupil funding is too low
3. Title I Charter schools do NOT outperform public Title I schools. In Duval, we have more F grade Title I charters than traditional schools with an F.
4. High performing charters are not interested in doing Turnarounds; they prefer to do “start-ups” with a few grades first and then add grades every year.
5. Charter schools don’t have boundaries, they are more like magnet schools. And they don’t operate their schools at capacity.
6. Charter schools promote DIS-investment in public schools.
7. Dr Vitti thinks the legislature should:
 - a. Invest in and provide incentives to public schools and teachers;
 - b. invest in developing a pipeline of good teachers and administrators;
 - c. Invest in full-service schools – with counselors, arts, athletics, mental health and after-school programs.
 - d. Have to address POVERTY.
8. When he started in DCPS there were 14 schools rated as “failing”; now there are only 3 (Gilbert, Ribault and Northwest Middle.) DCPS has the highest percentage of schools that have EXITED turnaround status in the state.

On other issues/questions:

9. Autistic screening is available, but it is a slow process to document and evaluate the behavior of very small children, and communicate with parents. Before a child is removed from a class, the student must go through the Intervention process and get an IEP. FDLRS is also a resource for parents. Gayle Roberts leads ESE in DCPS and she has information about warning signs of possible autism for parents.
10. Using seat belts on school buses: Why isn’t this mandatory? There is a difference between state statute and school board policy. Dr. Vitti asked this parent to email him and the Board members to ask that this section of school board policy be reviewed soon.
11. What happens to Academically Talented students who are participating in the Gifted program, and may have been put in those classes in order to fill the gifted classes to the minimum required size? Will they be pushed out or allowed to stay? Dr. Vitti said if they (Academically Talented) are doing well in the gifted class, they should be allowed to stay. But if they are struggling, there should be a consultation with the parents to see if they should be taken out of gifted classes. If a gifted student is struggling in the class, they can’t be taken out as they MUST receive gifted services.

Committee Reports

Awards

Mandi Welch reported: **ALL DCCPTA Award applications are due TODAY by Noon.**

Life Memberships

Vicki Drake reported:

- a. These awards can be presented at the Presidents’ and Principals’ Luncheon.
- b. Certificates and pins cost \$75 each; Bricks and brick pins are \$100.
- c. You have a choice of a certificate and pin OR a brick on the brick pathway at the state office and a brick pin.

- d. National PTA also has National Life Memberships.
- e. **** Ask FLPTA to have the certificate and pin sent to Vicki Drake, 17305 Eagle Bend Blvd. Jacksonville FL 32226 **** if you would like the membership presented at the P&P.

Scholarships

Anthea Hicks-Brown reported:

- a. We had 25 applications this year!!
- b. Peachjar flyers helped bring in more applications.
- c. The review committee will meet today. Winners will be announced May 1.
- d. Students selected for the scholarships will also be invited to our Presidents & Principals Luncheon.

Workshops

Priscilla Maas reported:

- a. Our Spring workshops were held last Thursday.
- b. 22 local units were represented by 43 attendees.
- c. 8 attended from Jacksonville Beach Elementary!
- d. Thank you for coming!

Legislation

Ann Gipalo reported on the Florida Constitution Revision Commission, which will hold public meetings around the state over the next year, taking comments from the public on possible changes and amendments to the Florida Constitution. Their first meeting in Jacksonville will be this Thursday, April 27 at 11:00 am at FSCJ Kent Campus. Flyers about the meeting and an information flyer about the Commission in general are on the table outside.

New Business

Installation of Executive Board Officers

President:	Felita Tutt
1 st Vice-President – Programs:	Theresa Rogers
2 nd Vice-President – Local Units:	--- open ---
3 rd Vice-President – Leadership:	Anna Maria Charles
Recording Secretary:	Ann Gipalo
Corresponding Secretary:	Kim Alvarez
Treasurer:	Cathy Guiler

Announcements:

Handouts:

- a. Pool Safety Checklist and Water Watcher Lanyards.
- b. Constitutional Revision Commission information flyer.
- c. JPEF One x One Conference.

Giveaways

Celita Wilson handed out door prizes.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:43 am.

Signed:
Ann Gipalo

Approved as:

Date _____ Written _____ Corrected _____