

FSUS PTSA General Assembly Meeting Minutes
January 27, 2009, 6:30 p.m.
Middle School Lecture Hall

- Call to Order** The meeting was called to order by Kasey Chapin, President, at 6:35 p.m. on Tuesday, January 27, 2009. The following board members attended: Kasey Chapin, Trevor Brumbley, Heidi Abernethy, Kim Kimberly, Cathy Jones, Sara Hamon, Julie Lengacher, Alicia Cherry, Amy Hanstein, Bonnie Abellera, Angela Kirkland, Danni Vogt, Cori Blomberg, Kim Slade, Precious Boatwright, Nancy Magnuson, Lori Fitzpatrick, and Susan Brodbeck. Dr. Lynn Wicker, Director, and Mr. Neal Trafford, Elementary Principal, were present as well as 12 other PTSA members.
- Quorum** A quorum was established.
- Approval of Minutes** **A motion was made by Danni Vogt to approve the Minutes of the September 2008 General Assembly Meeting.**
Motion was seconded by Heidi Abernethy.
Motion to approve the Minutes of the September 2008 General Assembly Meeting passes.
- Treasurer's Report** Kim Kimberly, Treasurer, reported a balance of \$17,481.39. Changes to the budget have been made to align with revenue, and a second fundraiser is planned for the Spring.
- Fundraising Update** Trevor Brumbley, 1st VP for Fundraising, reported that we have raised \$1,426.20 in Box Tops through October 31st. The next due date is February 20th. We accumulated 69,989 Campbell's label points, which can be used to order supplies from a catalog. We will start to collect Nestle water bottle labels for products as well. We raised \$149.85 through the "reach out booklets" (magazine sales) in the Fall. The Spring fundraiser "Fun Run" will take place on April 28th, with a kick-off of April 20th for activities leading up to the event. Parents are encouraged to serve as volunteers and to cheer on their students at the event.
- Programs Update** Heidi Abernethy, 3rd VP for Programs, reported that 280 middle and high school students participated in the Cyber Crime program conducted by the Attorney General's Office in October. The recycling initiative is in progress and volunteers are welcome. An update on the issue of safe routes to school will be provided at the next meeting.
- Reflections Chair Report** Bonnie Abellera, Chair of Reflections Committee, reported that there were 34 entries from FSUS middle and high school in the categories of Literature, Photography, and Visual Arts. (We would like to get some

elementary school participation next year.) The theme this year was “Wow!” During the meeting, awards were presented to Reflections participants. The following Florida High students advance to the county level of competition in the Reflections program:

Literature - Senior level

- ✓ Taylor Rossman "The Lake" (9th grade)
- ✓ Kristen Lewis "Princess Madeline" (11th grade)
- ✓ Lindsey Capers "Candle in the Wind" (11th grade)

Photography - Senior level

- ✓ Katelyn Bassett "Inside the Music" (10th grade)
- ✓ Katelyn Bassett "Petals at Dawn" (10th grade)

Visual Arts - Senior Level

- ✓ Tifani James "Ripple Effect" (11th grade)
- ✓ Shelbi Mitchell "Wow!...A bike!" (12th grade)
- ✓ Michelae Adams "What have we done?--Mother Earth" (12th grade)

Visual Arts - Middle/Junior level

- ✓ Richmond Abellera - "An Amazing View" (8th grade)

**Family Fun Nights
Chair Report**

Amy Hanstein, Family Fun Nights Committee Chair, announced that there will be a February 5th Family Fun Night at Skate World from 6:30pm to 8:30pm. Food and beverages will be available for purchase.

**FCAT Snacks
Chair Report**

Kim Slade, Chair of FCAT Snacks, said she will need volunteers to assist in early March with stuffing and delivering. K-Kids have offered to help and to write messages.

**Health & Safety
Chair Report**

Danni Vogt, Health and Safety Committee Chair, made the following announcements:

- ✓ The Bike Rodeo (postponed in Fall) will be held on February 26th at 3pm on the basketball courts behind the gym (bike safety for elementary & middle school students, all ages welcome).
- ✓ The Garden Club had 21 participating elementary students in the Fall. The Spring garden will resume in early March.
- ✓ The Health Fair will take place on March 26 (Thursday before Spring Break).

**Reading Programs
Chair Report**

Cori Blomberg, Reading Programs Chair, reported that the Reading Challenge is underway in the elementary school again this year. If the goal of 10,000 books is reached, Mr. Trafford has promised to dress as Captain Underpants. Collectively, we have reached 1,900 books at this point, so encourage students to read and be sure to submit lists to teachers regularly.

Legislative Chair Report

Precious Boatwright, Chair of the Legislative Committee, encouraged parents to contact their legislators to voice their opinions on budget issues. Additionally, there will be a Florida PTA rally at the Capitol on

March 18th at 11am. More info to come – please join us!

Teacher Appreciation Chair Report

Susan Brodbeck, Chair of Teacher Appreciation Committee, is looking for a co-chair to assist. There is \$2,400 budgeted for this event, which is scheduled for May 4th through May 8th.

Scholarships Chair Report

Bonnie Abellera, Chair of the Scholarships Committee, announced that there are scholarships (\$250 each) available to FSUS students. See PTSA website for categories and criteria.

Nominating Committee

A nominating committee was appointed to establish a slate of candidates for our election at the April 2009 meeting. The nominating committee includes: Heidi Abernethy, Patricia Powell, and Alicia Tilton.

FCAT Preview

Mr. Neal Trafford, Elementary Principal, presented a preview of the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT) for grades 3-11 (science only in grade 11). The FCAT window is March 10-19 (no Monday or Friday except for make-up). Tips for testing days include: adequate sleep, a good breakfast, and on-time arrival at school in the morning. He also mentioned a few changes this year:

- ✓ No FCAT parent portal this year (due to budget cuts).
- ✓ No online retakes for high school graduation purposes.
- ✓ No summer retakes for high school graduation purposes.

Retakes will take place in October and during regular FCAT testing. He anticipates that 3rd grade scores will be back before school is out and hopes to have other results by then too.

Building Update

Mr. Neal Trafford, Elementary Principal, provided a building update. PECO money (\$5 million) was provided by the Legislature 2 years ago, and the school currently owes \$20 million in bond payments over the next 20 years. Facilities needs include an adequate media center, dining space, and classrooms to meet class size requirements. The first phase, currently under construction, includes two new classroom buildings, one for elementary classrooms and one for high school science labs and intermediate classrooms (to replace portables). The 2009 timeline for these buildings is as follows:

- ✓ July 14th – substantial completion
- ✓ August 12th – move-in date
- ✓ August 19th – teachers return.

Director's Update

Dr. Lynn Wicker provided an update on the following topics:

- ✓ Budget cuts – They planned for a 4% reduction this year and only realized a 2% cut. They have identified some cost savings measures (e.g., utilities savings). For next year, they are planning for a 4%-8% reduction hopefully through administrative rather than classroom expenditures. At this time, FSUS is planning to retain all sports programs but cut the

related budgets. In general, the reality is that there will be changes as a result of cuts.

- ✓ Administrative Reorganization – At the December FSUS Board of Directors meeting, Dr. Wicker shared her reorganization plan and job descriptions for K-12 Principal, K-8 Assistant Principal, and 9-12 Assistant Principal.
- ✓ A technology needs assessment has been conducted (free of charge) and indicated that we are 8 years behind. There is a need to update infrastructure, apparently because it has not been addressed in the budget each year. The Board of Directors has allocated \$150,000 out of reserves and there may be some money left over from construction to address these needs.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m. Refreshments followed.