



CENTRAL FLORIDA PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARDS COALITION

Purpose: To address public educational issues impacting Central Florida.

MINUTES

September 8, 2014

Educational Leadership Center – Conference Room A
445 West Amelia Street – Orlando, Florida 32801



- Welcome / Call to Order: Tina Calderone, Vice Chairman called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m. Ms. Calderone noted with heavy heart that Rosanne Brandenburg’s husband passed away on Sunday. A moment of silence was observed in remembrance of John Brandenburg.
- Pledge of Allegiance: Dave Miner, Manatee County
- Approval of Minutes: The motion to approve the minutes of June 12, 2014 was made by Jay Wheeler, Osceola County, and seconded by Bobby James, Marion County. The motion carried unanimously.
- Guest Speaker: Thomas L. Baptiste, Lt. General, USAF (Retired), President and CEO, National Center for Simulation reviewed a PowerPoint presentation and information on Orlando/Central Florida – the World’s Epicenter Modeling, Simulation and Training (MS&T). (See minutes supplement file). The PowerPoint presentation will be emailed to all Districts for review. Each District will appoint a representative to serve on a sub-committee to work in conjunction with The National Center for Simulation’s Workforce Committee. The sub-committee will meet and provide information to the Coalition at the meeting on October 13, 2014.
- Legislative Update: Scott Howat, Senior Executive Director, Legislative and Congressional Relations, Orange County; Connie Milito, Chief Government Relations Officer, Hillsborough County; and Wendy Dodge, Director of Government Affairs, Polk County, provided an update and information on Charter School issues with a focus on the standard charter school contract.

The State Board of Education will meet on September 29 in Tampa. If schedules permit, Coalition members are encouraged to attend the meeting. The State Board will be asked to adopt the standard charter school contract and the rule. The rule allows districts to redline the contract, but if the charter does not accept the changes, the contract defaults back to the standard contract. The standard contract does not allow for the type of negotiations expected by School Boards. There are many provisions, i.e. Administrative Fees, which are beyond what Statute requires and what is currently done by districts. The standard contract is expected to be challenged in the courts. When the original language passed it stated that the contract must be developed in collaboration with school districts and charter school organizations/representation. The Department of Education contacted FADSS, to request Joy Frank, General Counsel, organize a group of attorneys to work on the contract. The Department of Education considers this process collaboration with the school districts. School districts disagree with this decision. (Connie Milito will provide, to the Coalition, a list of the attorneys who served on the committee.) There was no direct contact with Superintendents, school district personnel or School Board Members. A public records request (through FSBA) is being coordinated requesting all emails, comments and information on what was provided in the development of the standard contract. Wendy Dodge will provide talking points to the Coalition to assist in conversations with the Department of Education.

Jay Wheeler, Osceola County, requested information on the waiver from the Federal Government for English Learners and Florida Schools. Scott Howat stated that the issue is between the Commissioner and the Governor and the United States Department of Education. The Governor sent a letter to Secretary Arne Duncan (see minutes supplement file/attached) requesting that the test scores of the ELL students not be included in determining the grade of a school. If the waiver is not secured, it is possible that District's federal funds could be at risk.

Wendy Dodge noted that Legislative Committee meetings will not begin until mid-January 2015. She also stated that the 2016 Session will start in January instead of March.

6. Old Business: None

7. New Business:

Proposed Bylaw Change: Joie Cadle, Orange County, presented the proposed Bylaw change to Article II – Purpose, adding the following: As such this Coalition does not endorse any programs or products. The focus shall be advocacy and best practice sharing. The motion to approve the Bylaw change as submitted was made by Jay Wheeler, Osceola County, and seconded by Dave Miner, Manatee County. The motion carried unanimously.

End of Course Exams: Dave Miner, Manatee County, introduced Dr. Diana Greene, Deputy Superintendent of Instruction. Dr. Greene provided information on what Manatee County is doing with End of Course Exams that are not tied to a state assessment.

Discussion ensued regarding End of Course Exams and Opt-Out and the following concerns, issues and suggestions were discussed:

- Concern for Kindergarten students and the number of tests.
- Students will take tests that have not been normed.
- Learning gains and the crosswalk from FCAT 2.0 to FSA
- Impact on students in grade 3 and students graduating
- Tests (this year) should create a baseline
- Keyboarding vs. writing (need for headphones)
- Do not want it to appear districts are trying to avoid accountability
- DOE is not moving from their decision on EOCs
- Need smarter way to assess with meaningful feedback
- Place on FSBA December Agenda to discuss with all districts
- Create a reasonable timeframe to implement accountability system with validity (quality implementation)
- Be solution-driven
- What is a realistic goal
- Communication/PR Campaign needs to be developed
 - Districts Public Information Officers to form sub-committee
 - Volusia and Seminole Counties to lead sub-committee
- Connect/partner with Miami-Dade County (mobilize parents)
- Need to move forward and affect change in a positive way for public education
- Include Big 7 to assist in discussion (Broward, Duval, Hillsborough, Miami-Dade, Orange, Palm Beach and Pinellas Counties)
- Lee County approved an Opt-Out option for parents

Topics for the October and November Meetings:

Bobby James, Marion County, requested Opt Out (of testing) be placed on the Agenda for next month and the possibility of developing a Resolution.

Andy Ziegler requested a discussion on inequity in sports: choice school students vs. public school students on a future agenda (November).

Vice Chairman Calderone noted that the following items would be placed on the October 13, 2014 Agenda:

- Legislative Update to include the Standard Charter School Contract and 2015 Legislative Platform
- End of Course Exams
- Sub-Committee Reports
 - Workforce/National Center for Simulation
 - PR Campaign / EOCs

8. Adjourn: Vice Chairman Calderone adjourned the meeting at 11:55 p.m.

Next Meeting Scheduled: Monday, October 13, 2014, Orange County Public Schools
Educational Leadership Center, Conference Room A, 445 W. Amelia Street, Orlando, FL 32801