



CENTRAL FLORIDA PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARDS COALITION

Purpose: To address public educational issues impacting Central Florida.



MINUTES October 13, 2014

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



1. Welcome / Call to Order: Rosanne Brandeburg, Chairman called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance: Tina Calderone, Vice Chairman

Chairman Brandeburg asked that each person introduce themselves and the district they represent.

Joie Cadle, Orange County, noted the following:

- Jayne Ellspermann, Principal of West Port High School in Marion County was named National Principal of the Year by the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP).
- Melba Luciano, Superintendent, Osceola County, was named the 2014 Just Read, Florida! Literacy Leader of the Year.
- Orange County was named co-winner of the Broad Prize for Urban Education and received \$500,000 in college scholarships for their high school seniors.



3. Approval of Minutes: The motion to approve the minutes of September 8, 2014 was made by Karen Almond, Seminole County, and seconded by Joie Cadle, Orange County. The motion carried unanimously.



4. Guest Speaker: Chairman Brandeburg introduced Jeff Pridmore, Lockheed Martin and STEM Alliance and Steven "Snak" Nakagawa, Florida High-Tech Corridor Council and STEM Alliance. Mr. Pridmore provided an update and reviewed a PowerPoint presentation that included the STEM Alliance goals and focus for 2014, progress of programs, and plans for 2015 (see minutes supplement file). The STEM Alliance recognizes teachers and students in elementary, middle and high schools. Mr. Pridmore reviewed the School Membership Pricing Model that is based on full time enrollment in K-12 schools. Discussion ensued on how school districts can partner with STEM Alliance to have experts visit classrooms and what career opportunities are available.



5. Legislative Update: Wendy Dodge, Director of Government Affairs, Polk County; Scott Howat, Senior Executive Director, Legislative and Congressional Relations, Orange County; Connie Milito, Chief Government Relations Officer, Hillsborough County; and Jessica Janasiewicz, Mixon and Associates representing Brevard, Marion and Osceola Counties provided an update and information on the standard charter school contract. Wendy Dodge noted that the standard charter school contract was scheduled to appear on the State Board Agenda on September 29 but was postponed. The Commissioner agreed to send the contract out to all superintendents for comment prior to moving forward. The standard charter school contract will be brought back to the State Board on November 18 at 9:30 a.m. at Seminole State.



Wendy Dodge stated that the 2015 Legislative Priorities were listed under two categories: Student Assessment and Accountability and Investment in Education (see minutes supplement file).

The bullet points were reviewed under Student Assessment and Accountability and the following concerns, issues and suggestions were discussed in reference to End of Course Exams and student assessment:

- If a parent decides to opt-out of testing – students, schools and districts should not be penalized.
- Tests are administered via computer and keyboarding is not introduced until the third grade.
- Invest in the appropriate amount of time to have a quality product and implementation.
- Other groups supporting education need to voice their concern to legislators.
- Use limited resources in a productive way to create a clear strong statement.
- Make sure parents are well informed and know what they can do to help.
- Having the first sentence reference support for the PTA's legislation takes away from the Coalition – possibly merge the bullets.

Connie Milito suggested the following for the bullet point on EOCs: Develop a quality, educationally sound implementation timeline for End of Course exams and appropriate funding for district development.

Cindy Hamilton and Sandy Stenoff, representatives from Opt-Out Orlando were present and provided comments on what they are doing in regard to EOCs. Coalition members asked their individual questions and made comments.

Restructuring of the 2015 Legislative Priorities was discussed to include less bullets in order to have more of an impact on the importance of Student Assessment and Accountability and Investment in Education. The Legislative Liaisons will rework the Legislative Priorities and bring it back to the next meeting in November.

6. Old Business

- Sub-Committee Report
 - End of Course Exams/Opt-Out – PR Campaign – Walt Griffin, Seminole County, stated that when the 2015 Legislative Priorities are finalized, they (Seminole and Volusia Counties) are ready to assist as needed.
 - Workforce/National Center for Simulation – Tina Calderone, Seminole County, reported that at the last meeting each district was asked to submit a representative for this sub-committee. To date only half of the districts responded to the request. It was suggested that instead of creating a separate committee, the coalition combine efforts and work with the STEM Alliance as presented earlier in the meeting. It was noted that each district currently has a staff member working with STEM Alliance. A STEM Alliance representative will contact the National Center for Simulation.

7. New Business

- School Board Member training/expenses and School Board Member Support: Jay Wheeler, Osceola, requested information from each district on their support of School Board Members in regard to office space, technology, clerical, training and travel expenses. Each District responded with their information.
- Chairman Brandenburg reviewed the districts that have or are in the process of creating resolutions concerning the Florida Standards Assessment Program. Districts are to notify Pati Painter when resolutions are approved.

8. Adjourn: Chairman Rosanne Brandenburg adjourned the meeting at 12:04 p.m.

Next Meeting Scheduled: 9:30 a.m., Monday, November 10, 2014, Orange County Public Schools Educational Leadership Center, Conference Room A, 445 W. Amelia Street, Orlando, FL 32801