

CENTRAL FLORIDA PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARDS COALITION

www.cfpsbc.com

Purpose: To address public educational issues impacting Central Florida
Representing 1,000,000 Florida students and their families.

Meeting Summary January 9, 2017

Coalition Meeting
Educational Leadership Center
445 West Amelia Street
Orlando, Florida 32801

Welcome/Call to Order

Chair Andy Ziegler, School Board Member, Brevard County, called the meeting to order at 9:34 a.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Ziegler led the Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Minutes

MOTION: The motion to approve the minutes of December 1, 2016 was made by Mr. Dave Miner, Manatee County; and seconded by Joie Cadle, Orange County. The motion passed unanimously.

Following the approval of the minutes, Chair Ziegler asked for members to introduce themselves.

Program

Chair Ziegler introduced and welcomed Keith Winsten, Executive Director of Brevard Zoo. Mr. Winsten provided an overview of partnerships the zoo has with Brevard Public Schools and what makes them successful. Those programs include Zoo School and Lagoon Quest. Chair Ziegler asked Mr. Winsten to elaborate about a new program the zoo was going to implement for students with disabilities. Mr. Winsten commented about the benefits of students playing outside. The zoo is in the process of designing a space for students with challenges to be able to be "out in the woods" with outdoor experiences.

Questions ensued from Coalition members. Mr. Winsten said he would forward some handouts to members regarding "Nature Playgrounds." Chair Ziegler thanked Mr. Winsten for attending.

Legislative Update

Chair Ziegler asked about the Coalition's legislative platform. Mr. Miner explained that there had been some items put together at the December meeting, but nothing has been adopted. There was general discussion among members including various suggestions.

- **Member Consensus**
 - Linda Kobert, Orange County School Board Member, will take the lead and work with Legislative Liaisons
 - Include overarching statement
 - Examples of phrases
 - Future of Florida
 - Future of our children
 - Children matter in Florida
 - Clear and concise
 - Three or four things that could help change the conversation
 - Align with FADSS legislative platform
 - Members will finalize in February



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Legislative Update (continued)

Ms. Kobert provided the group information about an upcoming meeting with Orange County's Chamber. She explained that the strategy is to garner support from chamber members by describing to them the affects that some of the proposed educational legislation items will have on Orange County as an economic driver. Various members further expounded on their respective district's relationships with chambers and municipalities.

Mr. Ziegler had questions about a Senate Bill on open carry K-12. Codeye Woody, director of Legislative and Congressional Relations, Orange County, said he would bring more information. Mr. Woody will also supply the Coalition members a listing of legislative meeting dates and House and Senate assignments.

Before moving on to new business, Chair Ziegler presented a plaque of appreciation from the Coalition members to outgoing chair, Dave Miner.

New Business **Andy Ziegler, Chair**

I. Best Practice

Chair Ziegler asked for each district to select a best practice that is unique to their school community to share at an upcoming meeting. He asked for them to be emailed to him for a determination of which ones to share. He said that unfortunately there were only eight more meetings, which means they will not be able to have each district present.

II. Biggest Challenge

Along those same lines, Chair Ziegler would like for districts to share the biggest challenges their respective district is facing and unique solutions the district is implementing to address the problem. He hopes to stimulate conversation and share answers.

- **Ideas for Meeting Challenges**
 - Meeting with various community leaders so that both sides can listen and inform; no one comes away blindsided. Some meetings mentioned were monthly, some were quarterly.

III. Creating a CFPSBC School Grading Model

Chair Ziegler mentioned that there had been discussion at a previous meeting about creating a Central Florida Public School Boards Coalition School Grading System. Dr. Barbara Jenkins, superintendent, Orange County Public Schools, cautioned against using the term "grade." Instead she said that it should be a rating/ranking system that demonstrates a more inclusive picture of a school's success rather than just grades. It may be a scorecard of sorts.

Dr. Jenkins said that she and her staff have been working on this already and she believes other districts are as well. They already have the data; the challenging part will be to narrow it down.

- **Consensus**
 - Dr. Jenkins will continue working on narrowing the criteria and bring back something for the Coalition to review.
 - Melissa Snively, school board member, Hillsborough County, volunteered to assist.

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New Business (continued)

IV. Methods to Elevate Respect for the Education Profession

Chair Ziegler said that he wanted to seek input on ways to elevate respect for educators. Conversation ensued and many members brought up things they were doing in their school districts for employee morale. Most revolved around communicating the great things going in the district. Chair Ziegler commented that perhaps the solution is as simple as sharing. He asked that each district put together a list of the great things they are doing and how it is conveyed to the community.

Future Business

Andy Ziegler, Chair

V. Logo

Chair Ziegler said that CFPSBC does not have a logo per say. He feels, as an organization, the Coalition needs a brand. He asked what the group thought.

- **Consensus**
 - Coalition members liked the idea.
 - Some suggestions were to have the state of Florida with the 13 counties identified.
 - There was a suggestion to have students design.
 - There was mention of inserting a tagline with something like, "Collectively Represent Over a Million School Children." (This is not finalized.)
 - Chair Ziegler asked for members to bring back their ideas to a subsequent meeting for group consideration.

VI. Website/Photos

Chair Ziegler said that he wanted to do a little more with the Coalition's website. He asked for each member to send a photo to Pam Escobar.

VII. Bylaws

Chair Ziegler asked to have the current bylaws and suggested changes sent to all members for discussion at the next meeting.

VIII. Refreshment Sponsorship

Chair Ziegler mentioned that he would like to enhance the refreshment offerings at monthly meetings to something a little more substantial. He told the group that he had been in conversation with a vendor who would be interested in providing food and beverages. There was discussion among members. Chair Ziegler followed the conversation by saying that first the group needs to determine what it will look like and what it will cost. Then each district can sign up to sponsor it, an individual can sponsor it and if a district or individual is unable to sponsor, they can look at an outside vendor. Chair Ziegler said his intent is to only have a sign on the table saying who provided the food.

Adjournment

Andy Ziegler, Chair

Chair Andy Ziegler thanked all for their attendance and adjourned the meeting at 11:33 a.m.