

**CITY OF TEMPLE TERRACE, FLORIDA
SCHOOL SUPPORT COMMITTEE
REPORT OF MEETING**

**Monday, January 26, 2009
Conference Room – City Hall
5:00 p.m.**

The Temple Terrace School Support Committee met on Monday, January 26, 2009, in the Council Conference Room at City Hall.

PRESENT WERE: Chairman Janeen Stokes, School Support Members Joseph A. Affronti, Jr., Susan Grzybowski, Cynthia Mohler, Gwen S. Mora, Abdelelah Mostafa and Inglis Wiley.

ALSO PRESENT WERE: Council Liaison Alison Fernandez, Legislative Secretary Sobeida LeBlanc, Dr. Jack R. Lamb, Hillsborough County School Board District 3, and George Gaffney, Area III Director.

The meeting was called to order at 5:03 p.m. by Chairman Stokes.

Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting:

Upon motion of School Support Member Mora, seconded by School Support Member Mohler, and unanimously carried, the **REPORT** of the September 22, 2008, meeting was **APPROVED**.

A. Persons Wishing to be Heard:

Dr. Jack Lamb stated a representative from Olin Mott, the tire dealer, visited Temple Terrace Elementary School a few weeks ago; he is very interested in reading, has invested a lot of money in the Alpha House of Tampa, and was very impressed with what is going on at the school and the Tune into Reading Program.

B. Unfinished Business:

1. Temple Terrace Reads Wrap-up:

School Support Member Mora thanked everyone for coming out and helping at the event. She said it was the largest crowd they have had so far, approximately 4,000 attendees; it was a very successful day. The Committee, along with the Junior Woman's Club, gave away every single book and item they had; she thanked all the contributors for their support.

School Support Member Mora reported there were wonderful performances; she especially thanked King High School for representation by their uniformed cheerleaders, football and baseball players, and reading to the children.

She continued that Brooks DeBartolo High School also came for the first time and was very involved with several of their students; they helped with various things and were wonderful. She said the high schools really supported the event, and the elementary schools also had wonderful booths.

She stated they already have people calling and inquiring about this year's event; people want to know when it is going to take place and how they can get involved. She said they do not have to solicit, people are now coming to them.

School Support Member Mora stated Mayor Affronti was extremely pleased with the turnout of the event. She said they already have a Terrace Reads Committee formed for this year and are looking at a date of the first or second Saturday in October in conjunction with the Fire Department. As soon as the date is confirmed she will advise the Committee, she said.

Chairman Stokes questioned whether a principals' meeting has been scheduled. School Support Member Mora responded it will be held on February 5, 2009, at 3:00 p.m. at Lewis Elementary School. She commented these meetings have been very successful; the last time they met was at Greco Middle School, where they had a very interesting tour of the Robotic Program.

School Support Member Mora reported that Mayor Affronti has set up tours for local Realtors, known as the Market Movers, to visit our schools; King High School and Tampa Bay Tech were the first schools to hold their meeting, which was held last Friday, January 23rd. She said both schools gave presentations for a group of 15 Realtors. She continued King High School's Culinary Department provided breakfast; the students set up, prepared and served all the food. She commented it was a full-service, wonderful breakfast. She noted the Realtors were impressed with all of the programs and quality things going on at King High. She commended Carla Bruning for the wonderful job she has done with King High School and praised the School District for their support.

School Support Member Mora was unable to attend Tampa Bay Tech's tour; therefore, she turned the meeting over to School Support Member Affronti for an overview of the meeting. School Support Member Affronti stated the visit to Tampa Bay Tech was much more low key; they met in the conference room, where the principal reviewed the high points of the school, explained the application process for acceptance to the school, and conducted a tour of the different departments such as nursing, optical, commercial and graphic arts. Everyone was amazed with the programs being offered at this school, he said.

School Support Member Mora reported the next Market Movers meeting will take place on Friday, February 13, 2009, at 9:00 a.m. beginning at Riverhills Elementary School, followed by Temple Terrace and Lewis Elementary Schools. School Support Member Affronti added that on Friday, April 24, 2009, at 9:00 a.m. will be Greco Middle School's Market Movers meeting, followed by a visit to Brooks DeBartolo High School.

The Committee reviewed their school assignments; Chairman Stokes said she would email School Support Member Affronti the name of the school he would be assigned to as a liaison.

Referring to a letter she received in the mail, School Support Member Wiley noted that Tampa Bay Tech is not listed on the letter as one of the schools supported by the grant program. Chairman Stokes responded that she will email Cathy Tack and request the letter be updated.

Mr. George Gaffney, Area III Director, stated the School District is moving right along; their administrators are busy with FCAT, boundary changes, unit evaluations, and other things going on right now.

School Support Member Mora questioned when the schools will identify units for next year. Mr. Gaffney responded they are working on elementary schools right now, and once they get that going, they will begin with the middle schools and high schools.

Mr. Gaffney stated they have projections on the number of students right now for August. Dr. Jack Lamb, District 3 School Board Member, interjected that last spring they had to cut \$63 million from this year's budget; in addition, during the holidays they were notified they needed to cut close to an additional \$27 million. As a result of these cuts, he said there may be some changes in unit allocations. Mr. Gaffney stated they are making every effort not to impact the classroom/teachers.

School Support Member Mora questioned whether they see the administrators "staying put" for the next school year. Mr. Gaffney responded they may see some changes tomorrow night as there will be some recommendations from the Superintendent to the Board. He explained there are some new schools opening up, which creates some opportunity for promotions and other positions; there will be a lot of adjustments as a result. They try not to make some of those appointments effective until after the FCAT's, in order to create some stability in the schools, he said.

Chairman Stokes welcomed and introduced their new Committee Member, Joe Affronti, Jr. All Committee Members introduced themselves.

C. New Business:

1. Second Cycle Grants:

The Committee briefly discussed each of the grants submitted and shared their views and thoughts on them. It was noted that there were a couple of grants lacking principal or teacher signatures; therefore, they do not qualify for scoring.

Chairman Stokes requested that all Committee Members have the grants turned in to Cathy Tack by Friday, January 30, 2009.

D. Reports:

None.

E. Announcements:

Mr. Gaffney questioned whether the Committee would be meeting February 23rd. Chairman Stokes responded that they would meet only if they have new business to discuss. School Support Member Wiley interjected that over the holidays she spoke with Mayor Affronti and he informed her that when this Committee first started they only met quarterly; he suggested the Committee may want to revisit that.

Chairman Stokes informed Mr. Gaffney he would receive meeting agendas or cancellations via email as long as he is on the list.

After some discussion the Committee agreed that unless something else comes up, there is no reason for them to meet again until May 18th, the Monday prior to their regularly scheduled meeting night [Monday, May 25], due to City offices being closed for the Memorial Day Holiday.

School Support Member Mora suggested that all Members be clear on their consensus with the amounts they are recommending for the grants. The Committee revisited a couple of grants where they agreed to recommend a partial award of the amounts requested.

In response to a question by School Support Member Affronti, Chairman Stokes explained the grant scoring and awarding process. She briefed School Support Member Affronti with his duties as the School Support Committee Liaison.

Council Liaison Fernandez interjected the goal of this Committee is to provide a resource where schools could reach out to the government; the idea is for the Liaisons to get to know the schools, take that information to the community, and be a bridge between the school and the District. She explained the grants are important, too, but this is a big part of what the Committee can do.

F. Adjournment:

There being no further business to consider, the meeting was adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

Submitted by,

Sobeida LeBlanc
Legislative Secretary