

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

**Monday, September 28, 2009
Conference Room – City Hall
5:00 p.m.**

The Temple Terrace School Support Committee met on Monday, September 28, 2009, in the Council Conference Room at City Hall.

PRESENT WERE: Chairman Cynthia Mohler, and School Support Members Joseph A. Affronti Jr., Susan Grzybowski, Gwen S. Mora, Jennifer Penoyer, and Inglis Wiley. **ABSENT WAS:** School Support Member Abdelelah Mostafa.

ALSO PRESENT WERE: Council Liaison Alison Fernandez, Legislative Secretary Sobeida LeBlanc, and George Gaffney.

The meeting was called to order at 5:08 p.m. by Chairman Mohler.

Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting:

Upon motion of School Support Member Mora, seconded by School Support Member Affronti, and unanimously carried, the **REPORT** of the August 6, 2009, meeting was **APPROVED**.

A. Persons Wishing to be Heard:

George Gaffney, Hillsborough County Public Schools Area III Director, stated the District is very proud of the Transportation Department; they did so much better the beginning of this school year than last year. He continued all the schools in Area III are making an effort to improve; a lot of schools grades dropped across the state and Hillsborough County. He explained the schools are not doing a bad job; they just had a difficult year with their tests last year.

Mr. Gaffney stated Greco Middle School is continuing to make positive gains and their overall programs seem to be moving along very well. Lewis, Temple Terrace, and Riverhills Elementary Schools, he said, are all moving along. He reported the portables are all gone from Riverhills Elementary School.

Mr. Gaffney continued that almost all of the portables at King High School are also gone; they have three left while they await some storage sheds; the District's goal is to have no portables whatsoever.

Mr. Gaffney reported that Temple Terrace Elementary School added two more grades to the Bankstreet Program this year. Lewis Elementary School has new additional rooms and is waiting on fencing to make the campus secure, he said.

Mr. Gaffney informed the Committee that all the schools are on board and looking forward to the Temple Terrace Reads event, which they expect to be another big day.

Council Liaison Fernandez questioned if there is a way to make the Greco Middle School campus more attractive. She said a lot of work has been done to the front of the school, but the back, which borders Fowler Avenue, is the side most visible to the residents.

Mr. Gaffney responded the District has priced out fencing to extend the black fence down Gillette Avenue to the bus area, which would make a difference on that particular side. In terms of the back of the campus, he said, he does not see the District doing anything more.

School Support Member Wiley questioned whether Greco Middle School will also get modular buildings. Mr. Gaffney responded affirmatively.

Mr. Gaffney informed the Committee that there will be a Class Size Reduction Committee meeting on Wednesday, October 7th at 1:30 p.m. He said they are looking at the ramifications District-wide with this state going to mandatory class limits next year. He explained next year the core classes will have to be 18 students to one teacher in elementary school, 22 students to one teacher in middle school, and 25 students to one teacher in high school. He added this makes scheduling very tough and represents a major money problem. He stated the District will have to look at making some boundary changes to make this all work.

School Support Member Affronti questioned the status of the Gates grant. Mr. Gaffney responded that although it is not completely official yet, they have received a Memo of Understanding to continue moving forward, which is a good indication that Hillsborough County will be one of the recipients of the grant.

B. Unfinished Business:

1. Temple Terrace Reads:

School Support Member Mora distributed copies of the Temple Terrace Reads flyer, a copy of which is a part of the record. She gave a brief history on the event, i.e., when it began, the reason behind it, and how the Fire Department and Temple Terrace Junior Women's Club got involved.

School Support Member Mora stated they estimated 4,000 people attended last year's event and they gave out 800 passports. This year, she said, they ran 1,000 passports and are well prepared for what is anticipated to take place.

School Support Member Mora reported they will have over 30 booths; all of the schools have signed up to participate, along with other organizations.

School Support Member Mora continued the USF athletes and Author Alice Lenard will be there. There will be a stage area, which they are hoping to have covered this year, School Support Member Mora said. She added the stage was moved away from the front of the school to the east end of Flotto Avenue, in front of the teacher parking area. She explained they had to move the stage because it gets really loud when the Fire Department is doing their stunts.

School Support Member Mora reported they have the following performances scheduled: King High School cheerleaders, band, Lionettes, and chorus; Lewis Elementary School storytellers; and Temple Terrace Twirlers. They are expecting many more to sign up by then, she said.

School Support Member Mora reported there will be plenty of food and drinks for sale, and, for the first time ever, an outside vendor.

As far as publicity goes, School Support Member Mora said she sent an article to the northeast section of the Tampa Tribune, and flyers to all of the schools, the Chamber of Commerce, Mike Dunn (City's Public Information Officer), Dr. Lamb, Mr. Gaffney, and Barbara Hancock with the School District.

School Support Member Mora circulated a newspaper article written about John Marley, a coach at King High School, who started a mandatory study hall for all his athletes. She commented it is one of the best articles she has ever read. She said she has placed a call to the writer of the article to request that he write an article on "KARL", which stands for King Athletes Readers as Leaders, a group of athletes at King High School who go out and read to students. She said hopefully this writer will come out to the event and give them some nice publicity.

School Support Member Mora stated they will need at least two people at the registration tables during the whole event. She said they can use additional help and encouraged the Committee to bring along volunteers. She said the registration passports will be grouped in sets of 25, in order to see how many are handed out this year. Also, she added, the prize table must be manned; she requested they keep all passports as they are turned in, in order to know how many students participate.

School Support Member Wiley stated it was useful having high school students hand out passports last year; a lot of people don't see the passport tables and miss it. School Support Member Mora stated King High School NJROTC will be there to help set up tables; perhaps some of those students will volunteer to stay and help. School Support Member Affronti said he would try to get 10 to 15 Key Club students from both high schools to come and help.

School Support Member Mora informed the Committee members that they need to be at the event by 7:30 a.m.; they will be blowing up balloons, taking out tables and chairs, and setting up canopies. When the event ends, they will have to help take everything down and help pick up all the trash, she explained.

School Support Member Mora questioned whether the Public Works Sanitation Department would be able to pick up bags of trash like they do with the 4th of July parade, if they were to leave them piled up on Flotto Avenue. Council Liaison Fernandez responded they do that for the parade, but they also get paid overtime. She suggested School Support Member Mora contact the City Manager for advice on how to handle this.

Chairman Mohler questioned whether there is anything they can do to recycle all the water bottles and soda cans collected on this day. Council Liaison Fernandez interjected that would also be a question for the City Manager. She explained the City encourages recycling because they make a small amount of money from recyclables, and it also saves money by not sending those materials to the landfill.

In regard to parking, School Support Member Mora reported they will be using the Ridgedale side of the school by the baseball field; Police will be stationed at both streets that enter that parking area. In addition, she announced Flotto Avenue and the street between the Fire Station and the Public Library will be closed off.

School Support Member Mora emphasized they are being asked *not* to park in the public library parking area. She said there will also be parking across the street at the old Publix shopping center with supervised crossing.

School Support Member Mora announced she and School Support Member Grzybowski will be bagging books for the event; they have over 1,000 donated books, pencils, and bookmarks. She informed the Committee that Temple Terrace Junior Women's Club donated \$50, which will cover the cost of balloons and prizes.

The Committee thanked School Support Member Mora for the great job she has done putting this event together.

C. New Business:

None.

D. Reports:

None.

E. Announcements:

1. School Contacts – School Grant Submittals (deadline October 1):

Chairman Mohler stated Thursday, October 1st is the deadline for grant submittals by the schools. She encouraged the Committee Members to contact their assigned school and remind them of the deadline date.

School Support Member Mora announced that King High School is having their Homecoming the weekend of Friday, October 16. She added the Alumni Association is having a Lupton's barbeque dinner and is inviting everyone to come by and have dinner before the homecoming game.

School Support Member Mora informed the Committee that the Alumni Association is going to be very active, as next year is King High School's 50th birthday celebration. School Support Member Affronti clarified this year King High School is celebrating their 50th year being open, but next year will be the 50th year of graduating class.

Chairman Mohler announced their next meeting will be Monday, October 26th at 5:00 p.m.; by this time they should all have received and reviewed the grants.

School Support Member Grzybowski stated she will be out next month but will grade the grants and turn them in; she questioned whether it is within the Sunshine Law to send a note to the Committee Members with comments related to her assigned school. Council Liaison Fernandez responded City Council recently had that same discussion. She explained that members can send out an email, but it is better if they send it to Cathy Tack and ask her to forward it to the Committee.

Council Liaison Fernandez continued that the Committee is allowed to send and read an email, but are not allowed to respond to it because that would be considered a conversation; if anyone responds to an informational email it is considered a violation of the Sunshine Law. She advised the Committee not to have any type of conversation that should be taking place inside a “noticed” meeting.

Looking ahead, School Support Member Mora stated the Committee has never met in the months of November or December. She questioned whether the Committee foresees a need to meet those months. Chairman Mohler responded there should not be any reason for them to meet; therefore, the Committee will not be meeting in November or December. The following meeting after October’s meeting will be on Monday, January 25, 2010, at 5:00 p.m.

F. Adjournment:

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

Submitted by,

Sobeida LeBlanc
Legislative Secretary