

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

**Monday, February 22, 2010
Conference Room – City Hall
5:00 p.m.**

The Temple Terrace School Support Committee met on Monday, February 22, 2010, in the Council Conference Room at City Hall.

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

ALSO PRESENT WERE: Deputy City Clerk Donna Spano and George Gaffney.

The meeting was called to order at 5:10 p.m. by Chairman Mohler.

Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting:

Upon motion of School Support Member Mora, seconded by School Support Member Wiley, and unanimously carried, the **REPORT** of the October 26, 2009, meeting was **APPROVED**.

A. Persons Wishing to be Heard:

None.

B. Unfinished Business:

1. Discussion – Single Cycle Grant Process:

School Support Member Mora stated she requested this item be put on the agenda because she wanted to get everyone's feeling on how the single cycle grant process went and whether they felt they should keep it in place or not.

School Support Member Wiley opined she liked it because the grant applications were not so repetitious and because almost all of the grants were awarded their requested amounts.

School Support Member Penoyer stated she liked it because being a past teacher she believes it is great being able to implement what they want at the beginning of the school year and see it through the whole year. She added it was a lot of work for teachers when they had to submit grant applications more than once a year.

School Support Member Mostafa agreed it is best to leave it as a single cycle at the beginning of the school year.

School Support Member Mora stated she likes it because the funds are being used by the teachers who applied, whereas in the past, by the time funds were awarded teachers had moved away and never got to implement their program. Also, she added, teachers write grants with a particular group of children and their needs in mind; this way the funds are awarded and programs are implemented and used by these children.

School Support Member Mora stated she hopes to see better results with the evaluations and that the funds were used this year; she does not see any reason for the Committee to accept an evaluation where a program did not get implemented. She suggested the Committee keep an eye out for that before they award another grant to the same teacher.

The Committee unanimously agreed to leave the single cycle grant process as is.

Having arrived late, Mr. George Gaffney missed the opportunity to speak under “Persons Wishing to be Heard.” Mr. Gaffney said he just wanted to know how things are going and whether the Committee had anything special for him to do or look into.

Mr. Gaffney reported that the Gates Grant is going to be very good for the school district; they have hired four Directors, one Assistant Superintendent, and are taking applications for peer and mentor teachers that will be helping out teachers next year. He explained mentor teachers will help out the new teachers as they come into the school district, and the peer teachers will help existing teachers.

Another big thing the district is looking to do next year Mr. Gaffney said, is add a seventh period to the middle schools, rather than having only six periods. He explained high schools have been doing that, and about 25-30% of middle schools are already doing that; this will put middle schools on the same schedule as high schools making the transition into high school easier for students. Also, he said, it will offer middle school students an opportunity to have more electives.

Mr. Gaffney continued the district is also getting ready for the accreditation process; they have a team of about 40 persons coming from the Southern Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools the end of April to review and accredit the district. He explained if a district is not accredited, colleges will not accept their high school’s students. He said Hillsborough County School District is going to make it with “flying colors” as they are a really high performing district. He continued this will be the first time the entire district is accredited; in the past only the high schools have gone through the accreditation process, but now elementary and middle schools are also getting accredited.

Upon School Support Member Mora’s request, Mr. Gaffney reported that Temple Terrace Elementary School was asked by the United States Department of Education to apply for the “National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence Award”, which is a nationally recognized program and probably the most prestigious recognition that could be bestowed on a school. He said the school is in the process of finalizing their application and if selected, the school principal will be honored at a ceremony in Washington, DC. He emphasized it is a big deal and an honor to be asked to apply.

Mr. Gaffney announced the state grades for the high schools are changing significantly this year; the schools are a little concerned, but it all looks good.

C. New Business:

1. King High School 50th Anniversary Celebration & Homecoming Weekend:

School Support Member Mora reported that King High School is celebrating their 50th year and is going to have a big celebration for their homecoming, which is scheduled for October 28-30, 2010.

School Support Member Mora continued there will be an alumni dinner, with entertainment on the night of Thursday, October 28th, starting around 5:00 p.m.; tickets for this event will be sold in the future. Following the dinner that evening, she said, will be the homecoming football game, which will encompass pre-game activities such as the alumni, recognitions, and singing "Happy Birthday" to King.

School Support Member Mora reported there will be a golf tournament sponsored by King High School's Athletic Booster Club on Friday, October 29th, planned to be held in Temple Terrace, but is still a work-in-progress. Also in the planning stages for Friday, she said, is a VIP Luncheon for major King High School contributors, School District representatives, Mayors Pam Iorio and Joseph Affronti and Temple Terrace City Council Members. She said on Friday evening there will probably be an informal "meet and greet" where the alumni community will be invited to attend at a very low cost. This event will likely take place at a hotel with a liquor bar, she added.

School Support Member Mora informed the Committee that on Saturday, October 30th, there will be a school open house, with tours of the school and a formal recognition and celebration of King's birthday, with various VIP's coming from the School District. She added they are hoping the school's Culinary Arts Department will make the birthday cake for the celebration.

School Support Member Mora stated the school needs different groups to sponsor the different events; she proposed the School Support Committee get involved and help with the open house event on Saturday, October 30th. After some discussion, the Committee agreed to participate in support of King High School's open house event.

Mr. Gaffney stated King High School's celebration is two weeks after the Temple Terrace Reads event. School Support Member Mora interjected Temple Terrace Reads is currently under discussion; the Mayor has asked her to postpone the date for now. She explained postponing the date has absolutely nothing to do with King's celebration.

D. Reports:

1. School Liaisons' Updates:

School Support Member Penoyer reported Temple Terrace Elementary School only submitted one grant; she met with Carol Brown, whose grant application was for a garden they started at school. She explained that in addition to the City's grant money, the school also received funds from Lowe's and a few other things, totaling about \$6,000. She added the garden is fabulous and is really taking off.

School Support Member Wiley reported the principals' meeting was held at Lewis Elementary School a few days ago. She said she spoke to Ms. Campo, but she did not have any update on the grants at that time, and she has not gotten back to her as of yet. She continued the schools raised \$800 for Relay for Life "Coins for a Cure", which is an ongoing fundraiser.

School Support Member Wiley reported "Didyaredo" is coming up this Thursday night. School Support Member Penoyer interjected she is in charge of that event; she briefed the Committee on the event.

School Support Member Wiley informed she is a member of the Temple Terrace Women's Club; at their last meeting they talked about the money the club has given to the different schools. She said Terrace Community School was not mentioned; after some discussion with the Women's Club, they will now start considering Terrace Community School in the future. She explained the club had not considered them in the past because they are not "physically" in Temple Terrace.

Chairman Mohler reported on her visit to Terrace Community School; she was able to see past grants and some of the projects, such as the rocket project, the wind energy project, the social studies readers, the calculators, the character education DVD's, the SRA corrective reading program, and the seedfolks.

School Support Member Wiley questioned whether there would be grant money for the next school year. The Deputy City Clerk responded the City starts discussing budget in the months of April, May, and June; budget has to be passed by September 30th. The Committee commented it is great that the City feels so strong about supporting the schools.

School Support Member Mostafa questioned whether the high school on Fowler Avenue is a Temple Terrace or Hillsborough County school. School Support Member Wiley replied DeBartolo Charter School belongs to Hillsborough County. She added their principal attends the principals' meetings and commented he is a very nice young man.

School Support Member Mostafa reported Tampa Bay Tech did not apply for grants; they seem to be extremely busy with other things. He said he visits them every week.

School Support Member Mora pointed out that School Support Member Grzybowski was not able to attend tonight's meeting, but sent an email update on her assigned school, Riverhills Elementary, a copy of which is a part of the record.

E. Announcements:

School Support Member Penoyer questioned whether the Committee Members are invited to attend the principals' meetings or just the Chairperson. School Support Member Mora responded she did not know the answer to that, but will email the Committee any future information she may hear about those meetings, but she knows the principals do not meet every month. School Support Member Wiley interjected it is an open meeting; everyone is welcomed to speak. School Support Member Mostafa added he has attended twice in the past.

School Support Member Mora announced that Wednesday, April 21st is the Temple Terrace Chamber of Commerce Citizen of the Year Award Luncheon at the Country Club. She will be providing further information and ticket cost in the near future. She encouraged the Committee to attend as the Chamber of Commerce has requested their support.

Chairman Mohler suggested the Committee meet again before the school year is over to discuss evaluations. After some discussion the Committee decided to cancel their March meeting, meet on Monday, April 26, 2010 at 5:00 p.m., and meet again on Monday, May 24th to discuss grant evaluations.

The Committee discussed three members' appointments coming up for reappointment in April. The Deputy City Clerk informed the Committee she will be advertising the positions by the end of the week.

F. Adjournment:

There being no further business to consider, the meeting was adjourned at 6:16 p.m.

Submitted by,

Sobeida LeBlanc
Legislative Secretary