



Patty Ceci - DOE

**FCSS Board of Directors Meeting
March 27- 28, 2009**

Friday, March 27, 2009

Members Present: Elisa Beachy, Ben Saxon, Tom Glazer, John Burkowski, Regina Stuck, Aimee Ballans, Sabrina Gates, Fran Holleran, Kandyce Erickson, Jack Bovee, Mark Quintana, Angela Lewis-Williams, Virginia Para, Connie Brown, Lori Jones, Malla Kolhoff, Susan King, Jessica Day, Terry Trimble, Ralph Egolf, Kristine Scola, Leslie Lee, Julie Gates, Cindy Redeker, Wilma Lovejoy

Members Absent/Excused: Tommie Sue Skirvin, Linda Medvin, Jennifer Smith, Cherie Arnette, Maureen Marullo, Rose Gatens, Ted Banton, Paula Lesko, Judy Nugent, Jessica (Ceballos)Schneider, Barbara Davis, Janie Phelps, Sally Day, Debbie Gallagher, Jane Palmer, Sue Ayers

The meeting was called to order by Leslie Lee at 8:50p.m.

Treasurer Ralph Egolf explained the FCSS reimbursement procedure

Introduction of new members and alternates

Minutes were distributed and approved for October Conference 2008 and the January 2009 board meetings

President's Report-Leslie Lee

Leslie thanked The Exploration Map Company for providing dinner for the FCSS Board

Publications Report- Mark Quintana

-Mark reviewed the FCSS website and the email features, led discussion of possible future changes/ revisions to the website. A tutorial on the website is scheduled for Saturday's agenda.

Legislative/Advocacy Report: Jack Bovee

Jack reviewed the Legislative/Advocacy pages/links of the FCSS website with the board

Jack reviewed a bill introduced in the US Senate S6549 on March 19th - with the goal of improving the teaching and learning of American History and Civics, This bill would double the amount of funding that would go for the Teaching American History Grant, increased funding for National History Day and summer academies were also included in the legislation. An accountability bill was attached to this legislation

- Motion made by Jack that FCSS would support this bill through letter writing, Motion Seconded/Discussion; Terry- moved to table the motion/2nd and Jack withdrew the motion

Florida House Bill HB0013 includes a new required social studies class in Civics at Grade 7 which includes an assessment which would be 30% of course grade; Students must pass assessment to pass the Civics course. At the FASSS (supervisors association) meeting held earlier in the day, the supervisors group wanted to go on record to change the wording of the bill regarding passing the course to be more flexible. Discussion held

- Motion: Does FCSS support the FASSS (supervisors) stance on HB0013?
2nd/Discussion, no support, FCSS is now separated from supervisors' motion/letter
- Motion to include all strands of social studies in the legislation not just civics, FCSS will develop a position statement letter that will be used in discussions with our lobbyist and contacts regarding HB0013-letter was drafted at meeting and will be brought for board approval at Saturday's meeting
- Motion- Terry table until tomorrow morning, 2nd and passed

FCSS Board Minutes **Saturday, March 28, 2009**

Meeting was called to order by President Leslie Lee at 8:46 a.m.
Member Attendance: same as Friday night

Leslie thanked Steve Olsen, Pearson Prentice Hall for his continued sponsorship of breakfast over the past nine years. Due to budget concerns, Steve will no longer be able to sponsor breakfast.

FCSS Position Statement on HB10013 was presented for discussion. Motion/2nd was made to approve FCSS Position Statement-Motion carries (Copy of statement attached to minutes)

Grass roots effort is needed -a copy of the final version of the FCSS Position Statement will be sent to each board member and then sent out to all legislative contacts.

1st Vice President's Report- Kristine Scola

Kris made the following recognitions for outstanding commitment to FCSS:

- Aimee Ballans/Sabrina Gates McCarthy were recognized for their efforts in organizing the silent auction at the October Conference
- Lisa Beachy was recognized for her efforts with the regional drive-in that was scheduled for the Gainesville region; the meeting had to be cancelled but her efforts were recognized.

Kris stated that there were many vacancies and that board members need to provide alternates names to Kris and to encourage alternates to attend a meeting if possible.

District Director Reports/Committee Chair Comments

Personal information on FCSS Board Roster needs to be continually updated; give Kris any changes
Terry Trimble- busy with Ralph/Ted working on conference contracts/renegotiations and future contracts
Susan King- working on FCSS marketing plan

*putting sponsorship programs out there

*institutionalize membership

Ralph Egolf- not usual to spend more this quarter

Mark Quintana- FCSS website email will be blind linked to member's personal emails; the Publications Committee continually needs articles for e-newsletter

Leslie Lee- encouraged the continued establishment of regional conference events, FCSS does have start up funds that can be applied for to assist in development

Connie Brown-Escambia Area Council for Social Studies Regional Council is sponsoring a regional drive-in conference with other local organizations in celebration of the 450th Anniversary of Pensacola, Terry will attend as a representative of FCSS

Regina Stuck- Miami Dade Council held a one day session for teachers at the Gold Coast Railroad Museum-Approximately 120 teachers attended and were encouraged to join FCSS

Legislative Committee Report- Jack Bovee

Motion and 2nd was made to write a letter of support for the Senate S6549; Discussion/passed

Conference Committee Report

Ted Banton, Conference Committee Chair was not in attendance due to illness

Suggestions for conference included the need for a conference session for new teachers. This would encourage new teachers to attend. Regina Stuck offered to provide a session at the September conference for new members. New attendees will need to be identified and invited to the session

A general call for help on all committees was made by Leslie especially on Legislative, Membership/ Publication

Discussion about scholarship for first time attendees at conference; not able to provide due to budget

Old Business

Thank you to The Exploration Company for sponsoring dinner. Prentice Hall will no longer be able to sponsor breakfast. Suggestion was made to join the Priority Club at Holiday Inn. Ask for a continental breakfast coupon when you check in and it will give you a later check out.

New Business

- The current board manual needs to be revised - contact Leslie or Kris if you are interested in helping
- FCSS Book club- suggestion by Virginia Parra - one book per blog on the website
- Budget concerns: surplus/deficiency depends on membership and conference attendance
- Discussion on savings: FCSS share of the lobbyist fee is \$8000 not \$10,000 because the supervisors' contribution paid 1/5. Question: Do we return the \$500 to the legislative budget?
- Proposal made by Terry: Propose that we increase the legislative committee budget by \$500 and establish a fund for the regional conferences of \$500. The balance would go in the FCSS general contingency fund and the endowment fund would not lose any money.
- Discussion/call question/ motion passes

Announcements

Congratulations to Aimee Ballans on the birth of her daughter Anabella and to FCSS President Leslie Lee on the birth of her daughter Alexis

Next meeting is scheduled for August 7/8 at Holiday Inn Select, Orlando
Meeting adjourned 11:33 a.m.

Florida Council for the Social Studies Position Statement on CS HB0013



Since 1989, the Florida Council for the Social Studies has repeatedly been on record as advocating appropriate legislation to require accountability and assessment in the social studies.

In this 20 year period, FCSS has lobbied for assessment of all strands of the social studies including history, geography, economics and civics and government. At the present time, Florida is one of only two southern states that do not assess the social studies at any level. The proposed revisions to HB0013 do not reflect the direction that FCSS has advocated regarding assessment since 1989.

We applaud the willingness of the legislature to consider and support assessment in the social studies and improve accountability for social studies instruction. We recommend revisions of the current bill within the context of the following:

- Less than 10% of school districts currently teach a stand-alone course in civics education. The remaining districts have chosen to integrate the civics standards in their US History course at middle school which is a current option approved by the course descriptions.
- Updated course descriptions have not yet been written to reflect the Next Generation Social Studies Standards with no announced timeline for completion and implementation.
- The timeline for implementation of such a change is not aligned with the current instructional materials adoption timeline.
- We believe that any proposed assessment should not occur prior to the implementation and adoption of the revised social studies standards, course descriptions and instructional materials adoption.
- The DOE Social Studies Curriculum Specialist position currently remains unfilled due to budget cuts which leave social studies teachers and organizations without effective oversight at DOE.
- Appropriate professional development and curricular revisions at the state and district levels need to take place prior to implementation of any assessment.
- Assessment in social sciences should have the same breadth and depth of planning and evaluation as the other disciplines. In terms of parallel development, science and mathematics did not begin assessment by targeting a single course.
- The current legislation includes a proposal that requires an end of course examination to account for 30% of the student's final grade. This requirement is not educationally appropriate for middle school students. No such requirement under the guise of "rigor" exists anywhere else in the curriculum at any grade level.
- In the legislation as proposed, there is no implementation schedule for assessing any other social studies strands, i.e. history, geography, economics.

FCSS would welcome the opportunity to provide input and expertise in the establishment of a well planned assessment schedule with age appropriate parameters.