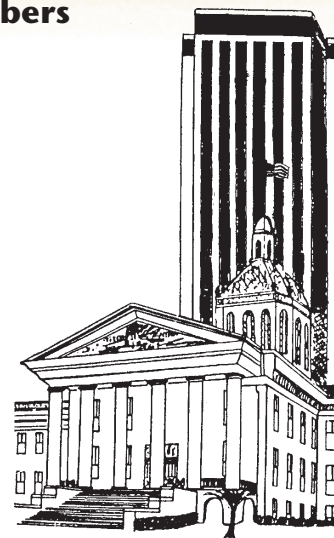


Leaders

A Newsletter for Florida School Board Members

Record K-12 budget; STAR replaces E-Comp; co-teaching back



This year's legislative session can best be summed up by the bills that failed rather than those that passed.

Here are some issues which didn't make it:

- Toning down class size requirements and requiring that 65% of a district's operating budget be spent in the classroom.

- Vouchers.

- Breaking apart school districts larger than 45,000 students.

- Jessica Lunsford rewrite regarding fingerprints and background checks, to make the requirements more school district-friendly. Failure of this legislation "was disappointing," said Dr. Wayne Blanton, FSBA executive director.

- Save our homes regarding lower transfer fees, which would have cost school districts millions.

- An anti-bullying bill.

- A strong school board chairman which would have required the chairman to be elected by voters. A revised bill did pass applying just to Orange County.

- Attempts to change E-Comp. While this bill failed, a new plan was created anyway, not by legislation, but by budgetary mandate.

A big headache for school districts had been the State Board of Education-adopted e-compensation plan designed to reward high performing teachers. A teachers union rule challenge on the plan hasn't even been heard yet and, thanks to lawmakers, e-comp is now moot, at least for a year.

Implementing legislation for the 2006-2007 Appropriations Act specifically halts the Department of Education from moving ahead with e-comp until at least July 1, 2007. Why? Included in *proviso* language in that same budget is a new teacher compensation plan, Special Teachers Are Rewarded, or STAR for short. Since it's in *proviso* and not in legislation, the program would have to be renewed each year.

The Legislature allocated \$147.5 million for STAR and districts have until Dec. 31 to present to the State Board a compensation plan for rewarding teachers who perform well in the classroom as illustrated by how well their students do.

STAR funds will be allocated based on each district's proportion of the state total K-12 base funding, subject to review by the State Board of each district's STAR plan. If districts don't file by Dec. 31, they won't be eligible for STAR money. The State Board has final authority on whether a district's plan passes muster.

Dr. Blanton noted that, since this is a one-year allocation with no guarantee the money will be there for the 2007-2008 fiscal year, the teacher "reward" should be considered a bonus and not part of the base pay.

The 160-page A++ bill, which

did pass, returns co-teaching to school districts as a means to meet class size mandates. The bill specifically states that "...each teacher assigned to any classroom shall be included in the calculation for (class size) compliance." It's a much-needed tool for districts, since class size compliance will be measured on a school-by-school basis starting with the 2006-07 school year.

Legal action to save co-teaching as a class-size compliance tool is no longer necessary, said Dr. Blanton.

Another section of the A++ bill gives districts a one-year delay to meet the new high school reform measures. There are new, stricter requirements for high school graduation and entering ninth graders will face choosing a major and a minor.

But the biggest sound bite from this year's session was the 8.7 percent budget increase, or about \$1.8 billion, that K-12 will receive. "It's the best I've seen in my 30 years," said Dr. Blanton.

The Legislature also allocated \$1.1 billion in Public Education Capital Outlay dollars, one of the highest amounts in years. Last year, for example, K-12 schools got just \$350 million to divvy up statewide.

FSBA will be conducting a complete legislative wrap up at its Spring Conference June 14-16 in Tampa. The legislative review will be June 16 (Friday) at 10:15 a.m.

In this edition...

2 June conference ahead

3 Jane Gallucci honored

4 A Q.E.D. year!

Leadership Calling

Legislative wrap-up, best practices, awards and more

FSBAs annual Spring Conference, co-sponsored with the Florida Association of District School Superintendents, will be June 14-16 at the Grand Hyatt Tampa Bay.

The keynote topic will be "People and Jobs on the Move: Implications for K-12 Education" featuring Dr. James H. Johnson Jr., a William Rand Kenan, Jr., distinguished professor of management, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Concurrent sessions will cover: Charter schools, opportunities and responsibilities; teacher compensation/differentiated pay; how to go one-on-one with your legislators; an update on growth management; a look at audit committees; and how to build efficient and effective schools.

The FSBA President's Award will be presented and recipients of this year's legislator of the year awards will be announced.

The final day will feature a review of the 2006 legislative session.

Also, a popular speaker, Dr. Ron Stone, Pinellas county associate superintendent for human resources and public affairs, will again be the Friday breakfast speaker.

FADSS CEO steps down; accepts bank position

Dr. David Mosrie, CEO at the Florida Association of District School Superintendents for the past seven years, will resign effective the end of May to accept a position with Banc of America Securities.

In an email to FADSS members announcing the move, Dr. Mosrie wrote: "Even though the decision to leave FADSS was a difficult one and changing careers at my age (59) is unusual, the new position with Banc of America will be an exciting challenge. I'll be starting something that I never dreamed possible at my stage in life."

A search committee made up of FADSS' executive board members, is currently looking for a replacement.

"The only way that I can handle this departure is by telling myself that superintendents and I are not saying goodbye; we are merely changing roles," wrote Dr. Mosrie, a former St. Lucie County school superintendent, principal, teacher, and DOE administrator,

Dr. Mosrie, who joined FADSS in 1999 after a three year stint as Director of the Division of Public Schools for the Department of Education, said he "looks at superintendents as part of my extended family which made my decision to leave very difficult."

Upcoming Events

June 14-16

FSBA Annual Spring Conference
Grand Hyatt Tampa Bay, Tampa

July 23-26

NSBA Southern Region
(Hosted by Alabama), Sandestin, FL

Sept. 7-9

FSBA Board of Directors Retreat
West Palm Beach

Nov. 28 - Dec. 1

FSBA Joint Fall Conference
Grand Hyatt Tampa Bay, Tampa



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Florida School Boards Association
203 S. Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32301
(850) 414-2578 or Suncom 994-2578
Fax (850) 414-2585 or Suncom 994-2585
E-mail: fsba@fsba.org

Editor
Andy Williams
Communications & Consulting
Tallahassee, Florida
(850) 894-2226
andyw313@earthlink.net

FSBA honors new NSBA President Jane Gallucci

Former FSBA President Jane Gallucci got quite a start to her year as NSBA president. During the national conference in Chicago, FSBA gave a party in her honor and presented her with several gifts.

FSBA President Jack Lamb presented her with a tiara and a bouquet of roses during installation ceremonies. The gifts "made me feel like a homecoming queen," Ms. Gallucci later wrote.

Then, at the party given in her honor, the Pinellas County School Board member was presented with a Lladro swan by Dr. Lamb.

What was probably most important to her though was that most of her family was in attendance to witness her latest achievement.

In a letter to FSBA addressed to Florida school board members, Ms. Gallucci wrote that she is looking forward "to seeing you and getting your input at both FSBA and NSBA events in the months to come. Thank you again for the support of those FSBA officers and Florida school board members who attended the Chicago conference. Also thank you to all the FSBA members who have sent congratulatory wishes to me. I will make Florida proud. Remember my message this year: 'One voice, One Message, Success!'"



An obviously delighted Gallucci thanks Dr. Lamb for the swan presented her by FSBA during the reception in her honor.

It was a family affair during Jane Gallucci's installation as new NSBA president. Turning out for the event in Chicago were, from left: Marie Narvid, her 87-year-old mother; Bob Gallucci, her husband of 34 years; Bunny O'Horo, older sister; Ms. Gallucci; Noel Stevens, younger sister; Stephanie Clance, son Andrew's fiancee; sons Andrew and Edward Gallucci; and niece Melissa O'Horo.



We appreciate our sponsors

FSBA thanks the following for their generous sponsorship of the Jane Gallucci reception during the recent National School Boards Association conference in Chicago.

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Snapshots of Success

Students helping students

*By Linda Cobbe
 Hillsborough County School District*



Seven years ago, Victoria Gregor was reading to her sixth grade class "The Circuit," by Francisco Jimenez, about the life of a migrant child. At that time, she and her students at Williams Middle Magnet School decided to adopt an elementary school with a high number of migrant students.

This year, as a part of their year-long community service project, Ms. Gregor's students adopted Wimauma Elementary School which has large numbers of migrant students. Her 60 students collected clothing, school supplies, books and other items to donate to those students.

As a culminating activity, the students supplied a bus to bring the Wimauma students to Williams for a celebration where they could meet one another, have lunch, and interact. The students were treated to entertainment and door prize drawings.

Prior to the event, Williams students prepared gift boxes containing school supplies, children's books and poetry books written by Williams' sixth graders to present to each guest when they arrived. Proud and happy memories of a job well done will follow these students for a lifetime.

(Got a "snapshot?" Send it to FSBA, blanton@FSBA.org.)

From the President

By JACK LAMB

A great Q.E.D. year!

Wow! Time really flies when you're having fun. My term of office has just flown by. My theme of Q.E.D.—Quality, Equity and Diversity—has really been achieved in a large part by the dedicated work of the committee chairs and their members. The board of directors, the executive committee and, of course our fantastic FSBA staff.

Q.E.D. is actually an abbreviation of the Latin phrase, *quod erat demonstrandum*, that which was to be demonstrated. But it fits very nicely with my theme.

We have worked diligently to celebrate diversity at our conferences and it's my understanding that President-Elect Sue Hershey, Martin County School Board, is planning on continuing to maintain this focus.

Our technology plan is moving and we should see a considerable improvement and enhancement of our communications with members.

Our legislative committee, led by Wayne Blanton and Ruth Melton, has really been successful this legislative session. We've seen more involvement from our membership in the legislative process at both the national, state, and local levels.

We had great participation at the NSBA Washington Conference and at the association's national convention in Chicago where one of our own, Jane Gallucci, Pinellas County School Board, assumed the NSBA presidency. It's quite an honor for Florida to be so well represented at the national level and I know she will do an excellent job—the same kind of job she did when she was our FSBA president.

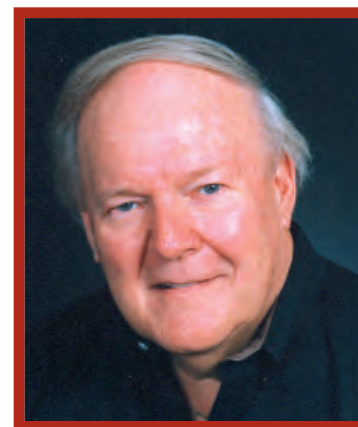
One of her key themes for her NSBA presidency is "Snapshots of Success," where she intends to highlight the positive things happening in today's public schools. We here at FSBA want to piggyback on that theme by spotlighting in each issue of *Leaders* some of the great things our schools are doing. If you have any contributions, be sure to send them to the FSBA staff.

During our Washington trip, NSBA members called on Congress to live up to its promise to increase funding for programs for disadvantaged and disabled children. Congress has not stepped up to the plate on funding, so our local schools and taxpayers are shouldering this extra fiscal burden. We also asked Congress to make the No Child Left Behind law more accurately reflect how schools are doing by expanding student progress measurements.

At the state level, it was also very busy.

The Constitutional Accountability Commission, which had been in operation for more than a year, issued its final report calling for more education funding and greater accountability.

The Florida Supreme Court issued its long-awaited ruling late last year, declaring vouchers unconstitutional because "...funding unaccountable private schools



JACK LAMB

violates...the constitutional requirement of a uniform system of high quality public schools."

Then, with school districts struggling to meet class size's rising bar, the State Board of Education eliminated one of our main class size compliance tools: co-teaching. FSBA was ready to go to court to undo this decision, but some key legislators asked us to hold off and they would fix the problem. They did in the A++ bill. This is just one example of the fantastic support we've received from our lawmakers. A very generous education budget, what Commissioner John Winn calls a "record" increase, is the other. Please make an effort to thank your representative and senator. They need to know we appreciate their hard work on behalf of education.

I'm extremely pleased that we have followed through and built on the foundations laid by our previous FSBA presidents—Andy Griffiths, Monroe County, and Tom Greer, Osceola County.

A year ago, when I first took office as your president, I quoted Mother Teresa, who once wrote, "We are all pencils in the hands of God," and then I asked, "What will we write this year and what will be written about us and our achievements?" I hope you can see, from this brief summary that FSBA is stronger than ever and is poised for even greater accomplishments in the future.

I truly have enjoyed working with, and for, all of you. I hope you have a great school year closing and a most pleasant (and hurricane-free!) summer.

Dr. Lamb, a member of the Hillsborough County School Board, is the 2005-2006 president of the Florida School Boards Association.

Southern Region coming in July

FSBA's Southern Region conference, hosted by the Alabama Association of School Boards, will be held July 23-26 at Sandestin Golf and Beach Resort, Destin, Fla. The conference was originally scheduled for Alabama, but Hurricane Katrina forced the conference's relocation to Florida.

The 2,400-acre resort features four golf courses, 15 tennis courts, and a marina. The conference itself will include motivational speakers and clinics loaded with ready-to-use ideas.

For registration information, contact FSBA.