

## Legislation Chair Report 9/10/2020

### I. Judicial Action

- A. **Mandated use of federal CARES Act dollars for private school funding on a per-pupil, rather than a Title I population basis:** a summary judgment against enforcement of this administrative regulation promulgated by the US Department of Education has been issued by Judge Dabney Friedrich of the United States District Court for the District of Washington, D.C. The ruling applies nationwide.
- B. **Executive Order mandating the opening of brick and mortar schools in Florida by September 1:** a preliminary injunction against the enforcement of this executive order issued by a Leon County Circuit Court judge has been lifted by the 1<sup>st</sup> District Court of Appeals in Tallahassee, which likewise indicated that it was likely to rule in favor of the state's position that the Governor has the authority to override local school district authority in this matter.

### II. PTA Resolutions

- A. No National PTA resolutions were voted on this year, as the National Convention agenda was modified to align with a foreshortened virtual format. The Miami Dade County Council PTA/PTSA resolution on promoting career and technical education, which was adopted by Florida PTA last year, will therefore be under consideration at the 2021 National PTA Convention next summer.
- B. Florida PTA members approved two new resolutions at the 2020 Leadership Convention in July. The first was on **Culturally Insensitive School Names and Mascots**, and the second on **Chronic Absenteeism**. These now join past approved resolutions among the Florida PTA's Position Statements, and serve as the basis for advocacy efforts in Tallahassee and Washington.
- C. All local unit and County Council PTAs are bound by resolutions passed by Florida or National PTA; local units are bound by those adopted at the County Council level as well.
- D. **Now is the time to consider proposing potential new resolutions at the local unit level.** The issue must relate to the mission and purpose of PTA, must adopt a set format (Whereas and Be It Resolved clauses), and must be backed up by research based on a minimum of three different credible sources. Resolutions may be approved at the local level, and submitted for County Council approval, and beyond this for state and national PTA approval. The deadline to submit resolutions to Florida PTA is November 1.

### III. November Elections

- A. **There is a School Board run-off election in District 9 on November 3.** Run-off candidates are Dennis Moss and Luisa Santos. Miami-Dade County Council PTA/PTSA will be hosting a **candidate webinar on September 17 at 7 pm, via Zoom.** Details will follow.
- B. Additional November 3 elections affecting the Palmetto High attendance boundary area involve those for State Senate District 39, State House Districts 114 and 115, County Mayor, County Commission District 7, Pinecrest Council seats 1 and 3, and Palmetto Bay Vice Mayor and District 2 Councilmember. In addition, the ballot will include election of the County Clerk, judicial retention questions, 6 proposed amendments to the Florida Constitution, several Miami-Dade County charter amendments, and numerous amendments to the Palmetto Bay charter.
- C. PTAs do not endorse candidates, and must treat all candidates equally: if one is invited to be present at a PTA meeting, the same invitation must be extended to all others in the race. Campaigning, including the distribution of literature, during a PTA meeting is not allowed, although candidates may introduce themselves before and after meetings.
- D. PTAs may and should interact with elected officials, including those recently elected. Representative-Elect Kevin Chambliss will represent Florida House District 117, including areas which are within the attendance boundaries of MPSH.

### IV. Allied Organizations

- A. The NAACP may be discussing the possibility of recommending action with respect to sharing of funds raised by parent organizations that exacerbate inequities between schools.

- V. **Topics for advocacy with the region/district/local municipalities/state/feds?** Accepting all concerns. PTA originated as an advocacy association; it is not a fundraising or, worse, a bake sale, organization.