



## PINELLAS SAC ASSOCIATION, INC.

P.O. Box 2532  
Largo, FL 33779



The PSACA Executive Board would like to take this opportunity to announce what we hope will be a frequent, if not predictably periodic, update of our activities. We are choosing an informal newsletter style for now.

Tom Cuba traveled to Tallahassee to meet with representatives and staff of the Commissioner of Education. The meeting lasted about an hour and the discussion was open and frank. Tom opined at one point that we, the community, should be embarrassed by our graduation rate and not be lost in how happy we are that it has improved slightly. The staff agreed and it was in this agreement, this acknowledgment of a common concern, that common ground was found. Tom reports that, just as we sometimes have a hard time communicating our desires to Tallahassee, the staff sometimes feel hard pressed to communicate their concerns to the local level.

From this came a tacit understanding that a direct communication line would, perhaps, be more effective. The board will continue regular communication with the staff and report. Of note, the one piece of advice was offered with the observation that SAC committees sometimes try and solve too many things at once and get overwhelmed. The advice?

Tackle one problem at a time. If security is an issue, put all your energy into that and ignore the FCAT for the time being.

Dave Westermeyer also traveled to Tallahassee and participated in the Rally in Tally event which was organized by the PTA. The participation raised awareness among the PTA leadership that PSACA is a viable and dynamic organization, and a potentially strong ally.

Tom attended the Circle of Change workshop and has established a good relationship with the Executive Director. There has been one follow up meeting and another is scheduled. The Circle of Change organization, like many others, is an approach being transplanted from another area (Virginia). Tom will be working to make adjustments to tailor it to Pinellas County.

In an unexpected surprise, Tom accidentally encountered two school board members and both of them complimented the PSACA on the white paper which was turned in regarding the decentralization scheme being proposed.

Both members expressed an interest to draw the PSACA closer to the board in an advisory role, expressing an interest in our attendance at workshops, further reviews of policy and programs, and in general just to gain our perspective.

While all this sounds good, the work load is high. As members of the board or as general members of the organization, there are ways for you to make a personal and very effective contribution to the future of our children.

Start by attending our next meeting, JUNE 30, at 6:30 PM. Chilis at Tri City Plaza. No reservations (of any kind) are needed.

The registration form and the program for the 2009 PCCPTA Workshop is locate at <http://www.florida-family.net/SAC/psaca.htm> . This year's workshop is scheduled for September 12th, 2009 at Pinellas Park High School beginning at 7am. Pinellas School Advisory Association is proud to partner with the Pinellas County Council of PTAs to offer these training classes again this year. You will have the opportunity to attend a breakout session during each of the class times directly related to School Advisory Councils. The cost is \$10.00 (and includes lunch) per person and can be paid from the School Improvement Funds at our school. Please plan to attend this valuable training.

I look forward in meeting you at this event.

Best Regards

David Westermeyer  
Pinellas School Advisory Association, President