

FAPE Updates Strategic Plan

President's Message



Dear FAPE Members,

It's all about collaboration . . .

This week, as I reviewed FAPE's strategic plan and our goals for the 2007 conference, it was again clear to me how fundamentally linked we are to collaborative efforts. Achieving our powerful mission and aggressive goals means bringing individuals and partners together to create a top notch team. And what better team could there be than FAPE to provide leadership in the formation and growth of effective partnerships to ensure the success of all students?

They say that individuals play games but teams win championships. There is no more important championship at stake than student success. That's why I'd like to take another opportunity to say thank you to all of FAPE's partners who believe in our mission, plan for the future, and never quit working to improve education in Florida. Florida Association of District School Superintendents, Department of Education, Communities In Schools, Panhandle Area Education Consortium, PTA, Florida Education Consortium, and SUNSPRA, along with our FAPE membership, provide the leadership to sail into the future even as "winds of change" approach.

"The quality of your life is determined by the quality of the people in your life." I am so proud to be associated with a tremendous group of people like you who believe in great effort, great attitude and great success.

Judi Miller, President

The Florida Association of Partners in Education Board of Directors embarked on a strategic planning process in August 2006. The FAPE Board is responsible for the organization's strategic thinking and goal-setting over the three-year period. The board defines where the organization is going. FAPE will use the board's strategic thinking to direct decision-making and have the assignment of setting goals and action plans to place into motion the activities of achieving the goals and objectives established in the three-year plan. The FAPE Board is responsible for monitoring the implementation of the strategic plan and suggesting adjustments when needed.

During this retreat, the group discussed critical issues facing the organization; the group defined three 3-year goals; and the committees defined their objectives and action plans to achieve the designated goals and objectives. From here, the board/committees will reconvene to determine the single-most important 1-year tactical goal and the action steps to guide their activities in support of the strategic plan.

Board members who serve on the Strategic Planning Group are Dr. Judi Miller, President; Doretha Jackson, President Elect; Past President Jane Lane; Rick Everitt, Vice President for Business and Community; Susan Walton, DOE; Connie Wotton, Treasurer; Pam Las-towski, Executive Director and Pat Lancaster, Secretary.

FLORIDA ASSOCIATION OF PARTNERS IN EDUCATION STRATEGIC PLAN

Mission Statement

To provide leadership in the formation and growth of effective partnerships that ensure the success of all students.

Strategic Priorities

- Increase awareness of FAPE
- Increase programmatic and operational funding
- Increase membership services

(Continued on page 7)



Pajamaween Day in Polk Celebrates Reading

As schools in Florida continue to be creative in their goal of ensuring student success, Halloween had an innovative twist at Jesse Keen Elementary in Polk County. Au contraire to the typical Halloween costumes, bus drivers and parents delivered students to the school dressed in pajamas, slippers and carrying their favorite stuffed animal and book. They were greeted by their teachers and FAPE's 2006 Adele Graham Award winner, former president of FAPE, Margaret Anne Wheeler, Polk School District Volunteer Coordinator. Wheeler and the teachers were also dressed in jammies. They, too, brought their stuffed animals and favorite book. Students spent the day reading and being read to. Community members came to the school and read to the children. They joined the spirit of the day and dressed in their favorite pajamas and slippers and carrying their favorite stuffed animals and books. The school's theme, *Reading is Smart*, was well served with smart, creative activities. Healthy treats were served and the students spent the day doing some good old fashioned reading. Congratulations to Jesse Keen Elementary for your innovation!

FAPE Signs 2008, 2009 Conference Hotel Contracts

Conference plans for the next three years are moving rapidly. FAPE and the conference partners are working together to create continuous, progressive in-service for community members, educators and business. The 2007 conference is scheduled for April 18-20 at the St. Petersburg Hilton. The 2008 conference will be at the Jacksonville Hyatt Riverside April 2-4 and the 2009 conference will be at the Daytona Beach Hilton, April 15-17. The 2007-08 hotel contracts were signed this fall by Doretha Jackson, Pinellas District Volunteer Coordinator. Jackson will serve as president from July 2007 to July 2009. To keep up with conference information, timelines and agendas use the FAPE website www.flpie.net

FAPE Member Honor Bell, Sr. "Honored" by President Bush

President Bush flew to Pensacola Naval Air Station on November 6 to honor long time volunteer, Honor Bell, Sr., with the President's Volunteer Service Award. Since 2002, President Bush has honored at least one person from each community he visits during his travels. Bell was on the Florida Department of Education Commissioner's Community Involvement Council in the 90's and was active in Florida Association of Partners in Education (FAPE). He spent a decade working with this Council and FAPE to advocate for statewide, organized school volunteer programs. He was also active in the Escambia District and supported volunteer programs under the leadership of Peggy Pilcher and Sally Lee.

"I really feel -- no pun intended -- honored, to say the least," said Bell, a retired Army Vietnam veteran who has dedicated himself to public service and volunteer work since moving to Pensacola in 1989. "I'm humbled by it, but I don't do my volunteer work to get recognition."

Bell's day job is Special Assistant to the Commander of Naval Education and Training for Community Service and Outreach, where he is responsible for Navy volunteer efforts. Off-duty, his work is much the same.

Bell is the founding chairman of 12 volunteer programs in the Pensacola Bay Area, including Hands on Pensacola, the Hope Center for Teens, and Communities in Schools of Northwest Florida. He also is an Escambia County School District mentor and a member of the Governor's Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service.

He also serves as a Rebuild Northwest Florida board member, a Hope Center for Teens board member and volunteers with Catholic Charities and the Florida Association of Partners in Education. He was previously a board member of United Way, the Private Industry Council, the Pensacola Sports Association, Pensacola Promise and many other nonprofit organizations.



Doretha Jackson, President Elect, signs hotel contract for the 2008 conference.

NEWS from DOE ... Fall Leadership: "Making it Work Together"



DOE initiatives, legislation and program updates initiated "Making it Work Together" on September 28. The conference gave partners and representatives of collaborative programs an opportunity to come together, network and take back to their districts a myriad of ideas.

Mary Jane Tappen, Deputy Chancellor, led the program with a very thorough overview of the current issues in the K-12 arena. The afternoon session addressed an entire gamut of programs in the Bureau of Family and Community Outreach and included partners, such as Volunteer Florida and the Florida Association of Partners in Education.



Mentor/tutor training was definitely a popular topic, as well as, incorporating curriculum planning in volunteer programs. These sessions, along with the service learning provided valuable information and fulfilled the needs of many participants. The workshop on effective communication with partners overlapped all program needs and was well received.

Family Involvement sessions on Friday were stimulated by the Florida State Education Title I Parent Involvement

plan that has been developed for Title I programs. These timely workshops were for those who need to comply with the Title I guidelines and others who wanted more information on parent involvement.

The Panhandle Area Consortium (PAEC) staff captivated the participants at the last session. Conferees were amazed at the resources and training available through the PAEC network. We had a chance to explore cutting edge technology as it is applied to professional development.

At the close of the general session, Commissioner Winn saluted the efforts of the volunteer programs and urged everyone to work to raise student achievement and encouraged us to continue supporting programs to assist Florida's "F" schools.



Conferees agreed the workshops were exemplary and the networking that resulted was priceless. New coordinators had an enriching experience, not only networking and attending the workshops, but profited from in-depth training on the basics of volunteer programs as a pre-conference activity. All agreed the Lottery sponsorship helped provide an opportunity to expand partnerships for stronger outreach programs.

Fall Leadership brings together information on all the initiatives of the Bureau of Family and Community Outreach and incorporates the training requests that have been made and/or that have been indicated on the volunteer survey.



Florida Outstanding School Volunteers - Youth Category

Region I: Dustin Orr, Bay County

For the past two semesters, A.D. Harris High School student Dustin Orr spent his time working with third-, fourth- and fifth-graders with disabilities at the Margaret K. Lewis School. Dustin displays unending patience and kindness while tutoring students in functional academic programs. He helps them learn to read survival words (such as poison, stop and exit), write their names, recognize coins and tell time. Also, Dustin learned how to use productivity software programs and makes books with picture symbols instead of words that the students can read. He is currently adapting several children's literature books so the computer can read them to the students. Finally, Dustin is more than a positive role model. He goes beyond regular classroom duties and volunteers to accompany the students on community trips and is their No. 1 cheerleader as they participate in Special Olympics.

Region II: Whitney Cooper, Nassau County

Whitney Cooper exhibits the true meaning of a volunteer. Whitney volunteered during "Bring a Parent to School Day" and Field Day at Callahan Elementary. Not only is Whitney a member of many student athletic and leadership organizations at West Nassau High School, she volunteers in the front office and as a Teen Trendsetter where she tutors third-graders with reading. At Callahan Intermediate School, she volunteers in her mother's third-grade classroom and helps with grading papers, filing documents, and setting up games and centers for the next day. She also prepares weekly folders, cuts out letters, hangs bulletin boards, picks up class supplies, helps set up storybook day and whatever else is needed. She helped at the Bausch and Lomb Tennis Championships and assisted a student with a disability at the Special Olympics in Fernandina Beach. She is an active member of her church and serves on the youth choir, usher board and dance team.

Region III: Phuong Pham, Osceola County

Phuong Pham's volunteer service record shows a steady commitment to serving her community and working with students. Over the past four years, she has accumulated 400 hours of community service. At Osceola High School, where she is a senior, she is involved with National Honor Society, Freshman Orientation, Bright Futures Ambassador program and Key Club. She is also a charter member of Teen Trendsetters where she helps third-grade children with their reading skills. The group has doubled in size under her leadership as chairman. Phuong participates in monthly service activities and completed the Summer Volunteer Institute through her involvement with Osceola's Young Volunteers in Action. She always finds time for other special jobs such as teaching vacation bible school and working on Osceola's Dreams for Teens program. Phuong is always ready to lend a helping hand and help make a difference in her community.

Region IV: Whitney Sweat, Collier County

Whitney Sweat selflessly gives her time to help others who are battling cancer and finds intrinsic value in giving back to her community. As a student in the Volunteer Community Service class at Barron Collier High School, she consistently logs in twice the required hours. The Cancer Alliance of Naples, the Wishing Well Foundation and the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society of America all benefit from Whitney's talents. She speaks at fundraising events, does clerical work and organizes programs for children at the Children's Hospital. Volunteering for the last couple years at New Beginnings, a Collier County public alternative school for fourth- through eighth-graders, Whitney helps children express themselves and learn with art-based projects. She is an honest, kind and caring young lady with a positive attitude and a love of life and helping others.

Region V: Larissa Amaral, Broward County

Larissa Amaral, an 11th-grader at Coconut Creek High School, spends her free time before school, at lunch and after school volunteering with two very lucky ESE students. Larissa's support, friendship and watchful eye help reduce the students' stress and anxiety and allow them the freedom to concentrate on their schoolwork. A member of the Cougar Pals, an ESE support organization, Larissa volunteers to take students to a movie or other field trips on a monthly basis. This year she organized a Thanksgiving banquet that brought joy to 91 ESE students, parents and faculty. Also, she worked on a Hurricane Katrina food and clothing drive that sent two Army vans filled with supplies to the storm victims in the Gulf States. Larissa donates her time out of love and community commitment. She summarizes it best by saying: "I love these kids and think they deserve respect, care and most of all love, like anyone else. They have taught me to believe we are all capable of doing anything we want."

Winds of Change

Florida Association of Partners in Education 33rd Annual Conference



April 18-20, 2007

Hilton St. Petersburg

333 First Street S., St. Petersburg, FL

Room rate: \$133 single/double

www.StPeteHilton.com

**For Conference update, go to
www.flpie.net**

**For Conference information,
contact Meeting Makers at
850.656.0025 or Barbara@MeetingMakersInc.com**

FAPE Provides Five Star School Award Training

The Panhandle Area Education Consortium and The Florida Association of Partners in education announce Five Star School Award Training. The course is designed primarily for district volunteer coordinators, school volunteer coordinators and school leaders. The content describes the requirements and application process requisite to achieve the prestigious Five Star Award School status in Florida.

Outcomes

School leaders will:

- Understand the requirements for achieving Five Star School status.
- Successfully complete the Five Star School Award application.

Pupil Outcomes

Students will:

- Experience benefits resulting from increased parent and community involvement at the school site.

Course Availability and Schedule

The course is available on the Florida Education Channel and can be copied. Broadcast dates and times can be found at www.paec.org. Find the blue FEC tab and select the schedule link. On the page that comes up, find the programs link and select it. Scroll down to Five Star School Award and on the page that then appears, select the schedule link.

Times listed are Central Time Zone.

Did you know?

Online in-service for new district volunteer coordinators is available at www.paec.org (Florida Learns Academy). The training also gives in-service points!

How to Make Parent-Teacher Conferences Work for Your Child

You've been asked to attend a regularly scheduled "report card" conference with your child's teacher. Or you've gotten a special note from your child's teacher asking to see you. In either case, you might be a little nervous.

Well, relax. Teachers don't want to put parents on the spot. They just like to meet with parents from time to time to discuss how to help students do their best in school.

All children learn in different ways. They have their own individual personalities, and their own listening and work habits. To help their students learn new knowledge and skills, teachers must know as much as they can about each child's likes and dislikes. No one knows more about these things than you, the parents. And no one has more influence over your children than you.

That's why teachers need your help to do a first-class job. Working together, you and the teacher can help your child have a successful school year.

Here Are Some Things To Keep in Mind

- Start the conference right: be there on time, and plan not to run over the amount of time that has been set aside, usually about 40 minutes.
- If you are a working parent who can't arrange to meet during regular hours, make this clear to the teacher and try to set up a time to meet that is good for both of you.

The best conferences are those in which both teachers and parents stay calm and try hard to work together for one purpose and one purpose only: to help your child do well.

Arguing, or blaming each other for problems your child is having, helps no one.

Getting Ready

Each teacher will probably come prepared with samples of your children's work and with ideas to help them do even better in school. You should get ready for each conference, too. Talk to your children before the conference. Find out what they think are their best subjects, and what subjects they like the least. Find out why. Also, ask your children if there is anything they would like you to talk about with their teachers. Make sure your children don't worry about the meeting. Help them understand that you and their teacher(s) are meeting together in order to help them.

Before you go to the school, write notes to yourself about:

- things about your child's life at home, personality, problems, habits, and hobbies you feel it's important for the teacher to know,
- your concerns about the school's programs or policies,
- questions about your child's progress, and
- how you and the school can work together to help your child.

If your spouse can't attend the conference with you, ask for his or her concerns and questions.

The Conference

Some good questions to ask are these:

- Is my child in different groups for different subjects? Why?
- How well does my child get along with others?
- What are my child's best and worst subjects?
- Is my child working up to his or her ability?
- Does my child participate in class discussions and activities?
- Has my child missed any classes other than ones I contacted the school about?
- Have you noticed any sudden changes in the way my child acts? For example, have you noticed any squinting, tiredness or moodiness that might be a sign of physical or other problems?
- What kinds of tests are being done? What do the tests tell about my child's progress?
- How does my child handle taking tests?

It's a good idea to ask your most important questions first, just in case time runs out before you and the teacher have a chance to discuss them all. Be sure to ask the teacher for specific suggestions on ways to help your child do better. This is the most important part of the meeting. It will become your action plan. If the teacher says something you don't quite understand, don't be shy about asking for an explanation. It's a good idea to end the conference by summing up decisions you've made together. If needed, ask to meet again.

After the Conference

Start immediately on the action plan you and the teacher worked out together. Discuss the plan with your child. Make sure he or she knows that you and the teacher care. To see if the action plan is working, watch your child's behavior and check your child's class work and homework.

Stay in regular touch with the teacher to discuss the progress your child is making. Meeting with your child's teachers should help build strong parent-teacher partnerships—partnerships that are needed if you and your child's teachers are to reach your common goal of helping your child get the best education possible.

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Sandi Chapnick, Carolyn Glass, and Susan Walton preparing for "Curriculum Connection: The Power of Volunteers" workshop at Fall Leadership.

Involving Families in High School & College Expectations

By Jane Dallet, Information Specialist
Bureau of School Improvement, Florida Department of Education

The Education Commission of the States High School Policy Center has released a new policy brief on the need for students and parents to receive better information on the steps from high school to college, particularly to improve the "college knowledge" of students whose parents did not attend college. The new policy brief provides a synthesis of the research on the college aspirations of many students and their parents today, as well as the documented lack of information far too many families possess on the necessary steps to make the transition from high school to postsecondary. The brief identifies current state policies that address each of the four steps necessary to negotiate the bridge from high school to college: (1) Students and their parents obtain information on colleges' entrance expectations -- minimum coursework requirements, GPA, etc. -- preferably as early as the middle grades if not earlier, but absolutely at the beginning of high school; (2) Students and their parents set goals related to students' post-schooling aspirations and annually choose high school courses to guarantee that college entrance expectations are achieved by end of grade 12; (3) Students and their parents receive annual updates on students' progress toward their high school graduation goals -- and information about remediation opportunities, if necessary; and (4) Students and parents receive information on making the transition from high school to college -- including applications for college admission and financial aid.



(FAPE Signs Contracts, continued from page 2)

Save the Date cards are available for distribution to people within your community, schools, businesses and associations. Order these through Cox at BarbaraCox@MeetingMakersInc.com. The cards will be mailed in bulk. Email her the number you need and a shipping address.

Conference planning committee members are Stacy Carlson, Executive Director, Consortium of Florida Education Foundations(CFEF); Barbara Ann Cox, President, Meeting Makers, Inc.; Lenelle Cruse, President Elect, FL PTA; Rick Everitt, Program Coordinator/Technology, Panhandle Area Education Consortium (PAEC); Lois Gracey, State Director, Communities In Schools(CIS); Carlos Guffain, Coordinator, East Coast Technical Assistance; Donna Houchen, Executive Director, SERVE; Doretha Jackson, President Elect, FAPE ; Janice Karst, President Elect, SUNSPRA; Pat Lancaster, FAPE secretary; Pam Lastowski, Executive Director, FAPE, Teecy Matthews, Volunteer FL.; Betsy McCauley, Leon District Volunteer Coordinator; Judi Miller, President, FAPE; Bill Montford, Executive Director, Florida Association of District School Superintendents(FADSS); Marilyn Parcels, FLDOE; Liz Stark, Alachua School Volunteer Program Coordinator; Connie Walters, Director of Communication, CIS; Susan Walton, FLDOE; Margaret Anne Wheeler, Polk Community Involvement Coordinator; Connie Wotton, FAPE Treasurer.



Happy attendees at Leadership Training!

(FAPE Updates Strategic Plan, continued from page 1)

Strategic Priority # 1 – Increase Awareness of FAPE

Goal 1. Build strong relationships with state leadership

- Department of Education
- Governor
- Legislature
- Other statewide organizations

One year tactical goal – FAPE leadership meets with state leadership

Goal 2. Establish a public relations plan for the internal and external constituents

One year tactical goal – Establish public relations plan.

Strategic Priority # 2 – Increase programmatic and operational funding

Goal 1. Increase legislative advocacy as evidenced through \$500,000 in legislative funding.

One year tactical goal – Recruit a lobbyist and share the plan.

Goal 2. Increase private sector (corporation / foundation) funding to FAPE by 15%

One year tactical goal – Identify potential funders, relationships and contacts

Strategic Priority #3 – Increase membership services

Goal 1. Further develop the website

- Identify materials needed for the website
- Get members to look at the website and give feedback
- Invite regional coordinators to contribute
- Place new and revised information on the website
- Make adjustments to the website, based on feedback
- Establish ongoing system of renewal

One year tactical goal – Collect materials to complete the website

Goal 2. Increase professional development opportunities

- National standards communicated
- Content delivery
- Parent DVD distributed to all districts

One year tactical goal – Deliver a “new and improved” conference. Creation, development and distribution of the Parent DVD.



Become a FAPE Member!

Individual membership: \$25
Institutional membership (10 members): \$200
Visit www.flpie.net or contact Pam Lastowski:
850-514-FAPE (3273)
pamlastowski@comcast.net.

Have you visited www.flpie.net?

Five Star School Award Flags/Banners

The Florida Department of Education presents this award annually to those schools that have shown evidence of exemplary family and community involvement. It is the department's highest award for schools who exemplify total school and community participation. To recognize the Five Star schools in your district, the Florida Association of Partners in Education has negotiated a discounted price for the purchase of flags/banners. Please contact **Tammy Lamm**, American Ad Specialties, 407-649-4772 or e-mail tammy@americanadspec.com.

2005-2006 FAPE Board of Directors:

Judi Miller, President
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Panhandle Area Educational Consortium
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Broward County Public Schools
Jane Lane, Past President
Seminole County Public Schools
Susan Walton, DOE Representative
Florida Department of Education

More NEWS from DOE ...

District Coordinators TAKE NOTE!

2006-2007 Calendar from DOE Family and Community Outreach

December 2006

- 1 Outstanding School Volunteer Nominations Due

January 2007 NATIONAL MENTOR MONTH

- 12 Commissioner's Business Recognition Award Nominations Due

February 2007

FLORIDA SCHOOL VOLUNTEER MONTH

- 6-7 FCAT Writing
- 11-17 School Volunteer Week
- 26-28 FCAT Testing (Reading, Mathematics Science)

March 2007

Learn and Serve RFP sent out

- 1-9 FCAT Testing (Cont'd)
- 16 Parent Involvement Award Nominations Due
- 28-31 National Service Learning Conference in Albuquerque, NM

April 2007

Regional Technical Assistance Meetings for Selected Federal Programs

- 15-21 National Volunteer Week
- 18-20 FAPE Conference – St. Petersburg Hilton
- 19 Commissioner's Business Recognition Awards Event
- 20 Golden & Silver School Award Nominations Due
- 26 Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day

May 2007

Learn and Serve RFP due

- 6-12 National Teacher Appreciation Week
- 8 National Teachers Day
- 18 Annual School Volunteer Program Survey Due

June 2007

- 22 Five Star School Award Nominations Due
- 30 Title V, Part A Applications Due

July 2007

- 13-15 PTA Leadership Conference/Parent Involvement Awards Event

Happy Holidays from FAPE!



The Florida Association of
PARTNERS IN EDUCATION

Contributing Editors: Pam Lastowski, Judi Miller, Susan Walton, Jane Lane, Holly Laiben, Marilyn Parcels
Newsletter Layout: Pat Travis

The mission of the Florida Association of PARTNERS IN EDUCATION is to provide leadership in the formation and growth of effective partnerships that ensure success for all students. The Focus Newsletter is published bi-monthly for members of the Florida Association. If you have an article you think is newsworthy, please submit to Pam Lastowski via FAX: 850.514.3273, e-mail: pamlastowski@comcast.net, or mail to 3010 Southshore Circle, Tallahassee, FL 32312.