

## PLC of MDCPS PTA

### MINUTES OF OCTOBER 25, 2011 MEETING

Handouts: Agenda, 2011-2012 Budget, and Minutes from September 8, 2011 Meeting.

**Call to Order:** The meeting of the PLC of MDCPS PTA was held in the MDCPS IPREP, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Miami, FL 33132 on October 25, 2011. The meeting was called to order at 4:30pm.

**Quorum:** A quorum of ten was established. See attached sign in sheet.

**Minutes.** The minutes of the September 8, 2011 were presented and moved by Sandra Seals, Secretary, and seconded by Natacha Janssens. The minutes were approved.

**PTA's Mission.** Jordan Levin reviewed the PTA's mission and read the guidelines from page 14 of the PLC handbook. "The PTA works with state and national PTAs to support and speak in the schools, in the community and before governmental bodies and other organizations that make decisions effecting youngsters. We support the faculty and administration in their efforts to improve educational and extracurricular activities in the school. We work to encourage parent, student and public involvement at the school as a whole."

Ms. Levin outlined the following goals for the 2011-2012 school year:

1. Grant each teacher \$200.00 to be used to purchase needed materials for special projects in the classroom ("Out of the Box" grant)
2. Double classroom libraries (increase the number of books)
3. Grant \$500.00 to Dr. Bosseler ("Dr. B") to be used to purchase additional science materials
4. Improve the after school enhancement programs (explore adding more classes)

Jordan encouraged parents to get involved and also asked them to sign-up for PTA membership, if they hadn't already.

**2011-2012 Budget.** Michelle Hoyos, Treasurer presented the budget for the 2011-2012 academic year. She emphasized that the budget is just a framework. **Income:** goal is to double membership dues. The most profitable PTA activities are: the after school enhancement programs and the annual picnic. **Expenses:** include payment for after school program teachers, Sunshine fund, "Out of the box" grant for teachers, classroom libraries, science teacher grant and reserves.

**Motion:** To approve the 2011-2012 budget. The Motion was presented and moved by Michelle Hoyos and seconded by Natacha Janssens. The Motion passed.

**Upcoming Events.** Presented by Jordan Levin, PTA President. Evelyn Gigiras announced the PLC Annual Potluck Picnic, Saturday November 5 at 12noon. Location:

Historic Virginia Key Beach Park, Key Biscayne. She stated that there will be good food, a drawing, prizes and special deals on uniform shirt sales. The picnic location has a pavilion and is close to the beach, carousels & playground, pavilion picnic area.

PTA Vice President, Natacha Janssens announced that the PTA is starting to plan the schedule for the January 2012 – May 2012 aftercare extracurricular activities. Parents were asked for feedback and invited to offer suggestions for additional classes. Ideas offered: Yoga, jump rope, lego building, gymnastics, art (for Pre-k) and other languages. Parents also expressed an interest in having more sports offered. Jordan stated that all ideas would be explored but the PLC has limited space and therefore classes that require additional space may be challenging. Sandra Seals encouraged parents to send an e-mail with any additional ideas/suggestions.

Primary Learning Center Update. Presented by Mr. Alberto M. Carvalho, Miami-Dade County Superintendent of Schools and IPREP and Primary Learning Center Principal.

Mr. Carvalho opened with acknowledgement that many parents had received the letter that he sent on Oct. 19, 2011 addressing concerns raised by parents over the future of the IPREP and PLC in light of the recent media report stating that the Miami-Dade County School Board is exploring options to sell land that it owns in the downtown area. He further stated that since the Miami Herald building has been purchased by a company with plans to build a mega casino, there has been a lot of interest by developers in potentially purchasing the land. Totalling a little more than 10 acres, the combination of office buildings (including the IPREP and PLC property), and parking lots, has become a very valuable asset. The option of selling these assets is being explored as a possible way to help the school district financially. Mr. Carvalho stated that it was his decision to issue a Request for Interest (RFI) from developers to see who might be interested in purchasing the land and to take politics (and lobbying) out of the process.

The RFI submissions are due December 1, 2011. The issuance of the RFI initiated a “cone of silence” which shuts down any conversation about the land from him and his staff. Mr. Carvalho stated that the timeline for any activity on the Miami Herald site would be at least 2 years. Development of a mega casino cannot begin until the Florida Legislature approves the new Gambling Bill. .

Regarding the potential sale of MDCPS Board Property, Mr. Carvalho stated:

- The Miami-Dade County School Board is sitting on a very valuable fixed asset.
- The total surface area = slightly more than 10 acres.
- Pre-condition of the sale of the land is that IPREP and the PLC remain or have a state of the art school built in the same geographic location, close to downtown. The transition to the new school would have to be seamless and result in no loss of school days for students. He will not negotiate.
- The school board is a constitutional appointed entity with constitutional rights that aren't imposed upon by the City or the County. No other entity can dictate to the

school board. So in the end, they will make the best decision for the school and the tax-paying public.

Regarding IPREP/PLC specifically, Mr. Carvalho stated:

- PLC/IPREP was a dream of his and his commitment is to create a Pk-12 school. This is his personal vision and his top priority.
- The PLC/IPREP is the most exciting experiment in education today. It is an excellent example of “demand driven education”
- The parents of PLC & IPREP will always have a school
- He is a very dedicated principal to the school and the kids
- Parents are the stakeholder
- PLC is a fully accredited school, has a school location number and is certified with the State of Florida...therefore, PLC is here to stay. The school has its own identity and it now belongs to the parents and the community
- PLC is full to capacity with 124 students. Currently there is a waiting list of 245 students.
- IPREP (which just opened last year) students’ tested #2 for science, just behind MAST Academy.
- Expansion of the PLC playground will occur in the very near future, between 3-6 months from today.

Several parents emphasized that PLC parents are in full support of the school and Mr. Carvalho should feel free to tap into the strength of the parents to advocate for the school.

One parent asked a question about corporations “advertising” on Miami-Dade County School Board property as a potential source of revenue in these challenging economic times. Mr. Carvalho stated his position is “no advertising” close to school property that involved trying to “sell” something to students. He said that discussions are still ongoing about this fundraising strategy. Jordan Levin stated that she was against this idea and that the PLC PTA would have to explore further. Mr. Carvalho emphasized that parents would be kept informed.

In closing, Mr. Carvalho committed to keeping PLC parents informed on the status of the mega casino and the possible sale of Miami-Dade School Board property. He further suggested that the parents may want to create a sub-committee that would meet regularly with him regarding the Miami Herald land purchase and bridge the flow of information between him and PLC parents.

Good and Welfare – Jordan Levin, PTA President closed out the meeting and on behalf of the PTA and all of the PLC parents, Mr. Carvalho was thanked for attending the PLC PTA meeting.

Adjournment:           The meeting was adjourned at 5:55 pm.

Adopted by the PLC of MDCPS PTA membership on this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 2011.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Sandra M. Seals, Secretary

Approved as:

Presented: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

or

Corrected: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_