

**NATIONAL HEAD START ASSOCIATION  
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING  
ORANGE COUNTY CONVENTION CENTER  
ORLANDO, FL**

**Minutes of April 30, 2009**

Ron Herndon, Board Chairman, called the meeting to order at 4:30 P.M.

**Adoption of the agenda**

*Mary Rose Cox/Johnnye Gibbs* properly moved and seconded to adopt the agenda as proposed, the motion carried.

**Meeting Minutes**

*Mary Gunning/Mary Rose Cox* properly moved and seconded to adopt the meeting minutes of January 30, 2009 and March 4, 2009 with the necessary corrections. There were no corrections noted, the motion carried.

Chairman Herndon provided an opportunity for all members to introduce him/herself. And he introduced the NHSA Board of Directors subcommittee chairs as noted:

- Janis Santos – Research and Evaluation
- Denis Demers – Government Affairs
- Sue Obermiller – By Laws/Nominations
- Jose Martinez – Budget/Finance

**Chairman's Report – Ron Herndon**

Chairman Herndon provided a historical perspective on issues that affected the association's advocacy efforts, our Head Start image nationally, and policies during the past Head Start Bureau Commissioner, Wendy Hill's tenure. Highlights of the challenges faced are noted as follows:

- Head Start funding stream – federal to state (possible threat of block granting funds to states);
- Parental Involvement/Policy Council involvement in shared governance
- Demonstration Projects within Head Start

The Head Start community and NHSA membership was applauded for the successful advocacy efforts in the demise of these issues from coming to fruition and legislative policies in the reauthorization for Head Start.

**Legislative Update – Dennis DeMers**

**Mr. DeMers gave a summary of the Government Affairs agenda and activities during the 2008 - 2009 fiscal year. Highlights of these activities include:**

**2008**

- 2008 Annual Training Conference, Nashville, TN, NHSA celebrated the success of Head Start's Reauthorization Legislation-“**Head Start School Readiness Act of 2007**”

- Implementation of the Law
- Working on language interpretation and implementation with OHS
- Committed time, energy and resources on legislation effecting HS
- Begun work with campaign for Presidential election with both parties (Democrats/Republicans);

#### **2009 - Successes realized to date**

- Confirmation of Secretary for Department of Health and Human Services (4.29.09)
- Input in language for the re-competition process for Head Start/Early Head Start grantees
- Sept. '08 - Partnered with Women's League of Voters to rethink and become involved in request for increased funding from \$586 million to \$3.3. Billion
- December 15, '08 – February 2009 – Legislative communications to field to encourage and promote advocacy and level of competency and confidence in our capability to spend effectively the \$2.1 billion allocation. Results of this activity generated over 50,000 communications from the field to our congressional delegates to support the authorization of \$2.2 billion for HS/EHS Stimulus Grant Awards.

#### **2009 –2010 Legislative Agenda**

- Request \$1 billion new funds for 2010.
- Indian/Native American issues and funding concerns
- Send message to Congress that HS/EHS are not separate programs
- Begin writing language for 2010 reauthorization legislation
- Draft recommendations for the Nurse Family Partnership/Home Visiting Initiative

#### **2009 – 2010 Advocacy Efforts**

- H1638 – Facilities in Head Start Bill
- Homeless Issues
- Diaper Legislation = Rights for Children/Families

Hilarie Deans/Diane Lover properly moved and seconded to accept the GAD report, the motion carried.

Chairman Herndon gave thanks to others who were involved in the advocacy efforts and drafting of the language for NHSA's position statements and recommendations. Applauds and appreciations were given to Ben Allen, Gina Ruther and Vanessa Rich. Ms. Rich provided the meeting space at her office in Chicago. Results of the collaborative work of these individuals and the consortium of state and regional association executive directors, over 30,000 people became involved in the movement. Ms. Rich is an EXCELLENT resource to the Head Start Association and community.

*(Alyce Dillon offered other suggestions and options for advocacy efforts other than websites. She suggested the use that all activities of advocacy via the internet/web should be **bcc:** to NHSA)*

*Chairman Herndon gave special acknowledgement to the Head Start community for its support. He encouraged everyone to go back to their respective communities and share the victory with our local program parents, staff and community the results of our advocacy in the electoral process for President of the United States. A SPECIAL*

*THANKS to parents was expressed for their voices, passion and advocacy efforts in the Save Head Start website. We Won!*

## **NHSA Office update – Michael McGrady, Interim Executive Director**

### **Advocacy and Training Goals and Objectives of the NHSA office**

**Conference content and designed enhanced to be more specific and focused.**

#### **April 2009 Conference Highlights**

- 6%-69% conference revenue have been collected to date
- We need additional capital for GAD. Lucy Ortega is helping to generate \$/per Child Funds during the conference. A special table is hosted in the lobby area of the convention center.
- 96.74% increase in conference attendance rate. 2,581 total attendees registered.
- NHSA staff given credit for the positive outcome of this conference endeavors
- Conference design/format is different.
- Conference Evaluation are customized with individual names. They will be given to conferees upon submission of their evaluation form at close of conference.
- Call for Papers for workshop presenters for the Parent Conference in December 2009 is available on the NHSA website.

*Mary Rose Cox/Mary Gunning properly moved and seconded to accept the office report.*

#### **Question: What is the evaluation process for the individual education session?**

Mr. McGrady explained that five (5) individuals in each session were selected at random to complete an evaluation for the respective workshop. The volume vs. manpower does not allow sufficient time to summarize a large amount of forms that could be generated by every individual in each session. A suggestion was offered to pursue the feasibility and usage of Scan-Trom. The office will investigate the feasibility and cost effectiveness. *There were no additional questions/discussion, the motion carried.*

#### **Chairman's Report – Ron Herndon**

- Chairman Herndon thanked members for coming to the conference and for Saving Head Start. He asked members to share NHSA appreciation with our constituents.
- Parents and all members were encouraged to promote membership to the association.
- Parents were encouraged to stay involved in advocacy efforts after they leave Head Start as a service provider for their child(ren) and family. ***Join NHSA's Alumni Association.***

Alyce Dillon gave special thanks and acknowledgement to Ron Herndon for his strong leadership as chairman of NHSA Board of Directors.

Introductions of the NHSA Leadership team and newly elected officers for 2009 – 2011 term was facilitated by **Chairman, Ron Herndon:**

***Yasmina Vinci – Executive Director (Newly hired)***

***Michael McGrady – Interim Executive Director***

***Janis Santos – Vice President***

***Denota Watson – Secretary***

***James Houlares - Treasurer***

*With no further agenda items or business of the day, Mary Rose Cox/Talleah Rogers moved to adjourn the general membership meeting. The motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 5:25 P.M.*

Minutes taken and respectively submitted by:

Denota E. Watson  
Secretary Elect