



E-AGENDA MANAGER

## Duval County Public Schools

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April 1, 2014, Regular Board Meeting

Ms. Becki Couch, Chairman  
Ms. Cheryl Grymes, Vice Chairman  
Mr. Jason Fischer  
Dr. Connie Hall  
Mr. Fred "Fel" Lee  
Ms. Ashley Smith Juarez  
Ms. Paula D. Wright  
Dr. Nikolai P. Vitti, Superintendent

ATTENDANCE AT THIS REGULAR BOARD MEETING OF THE DUVAL COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD with Dr. Nikolai Vitti, Superintendent of Schools, Ms. Karen Chastain, Chief of Legal Services, Ms. Becki Couch, Board Chairman, Ms. Cheryl Grymes, Vice Chairman and Board members: Mr. Jason Fischer, Dr. Constance S. Hall, Ms. Ashley Smith Juarez, Mr. Fred "Fel" Lee and Ms. Paula D. Wright, present.

Call Meeting to Order

### [CALL MEETING TO ORDER](#)

Minutes:

The Mandarin High School Clarinet Ensemble, under the Direction of Pam Chaffin, provided entertainment before the meeting began.

The Chairman called the meeting to Order at 6:03 p.m.

Invocation

### [INVOCATION](#)

Minutes: Pastor Bob Hoover gave the Invocation.

Pledge of Allegiance

[PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE](#)

Presentations

Board Members

[1. SCHOOL RECOGNITION - DISTRICT 5 - R. V. DANIELS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL](#)

Minutes:

Principal Robert Gresham at R. V. Daniels Elementary School said "greetings". R. V. Daniels Elementary is a happy place to learn and grow our next generation. Our journey began this past summer when I had the opportunity and pleasure to interview Ms. Rosaville Daniels. The school is named after her husband and invited me into her home to have a conversation about his legacy and what he was all about. If I may quote Ms. Daniels, *"You're that young man I saw on TV with that handsome Superintendent."* Mr. Daniels was a man who cared about children, community needs and preparing for the future.

Also, this summer, I took time away from my church to visit many of the community churches, community meetings and made home visits as the first year principal at R. V. Daniels. My belief is if I'm going to work in the community, I need to know the community.

This year, our enrollment has exceeded expectation. We started with one program called "Success by Six" which is a new program in Duval County in only two schools. We increased our VPK program from one to three units. We added two teachers in kindergarten and one teacher in second grade. We're accomplishing our goals in many ways through multiple steps. First, in academics by having biweekly data chats with our teachers and teachers have chats with their students. We provide a rigorous academic platform by using our current method of "5,3,2" meaning we're meeting with our children every single day in small groups. We use many technology pieces within our school. Technology plays a major part in R. V. Daniels. We use iPads, iReady, MP3 players, student desk tops, Listening Centers, Tudor Mate, Smart Boards, Mimio Boards and soon to come, Teacher Mate. As we begin to move forward, I need you to hear about what we do on each grade

level from our educators:

Kristy Roberts - Pre-Kindergarten On Demand  
Ms. Ovalle - Kindergarten  
Mr. Masline - Finer Things of First Grade  
Ms. Bente - Second Grade  
Ms. Hamilton - Gifted Program

Dr. Constance Hall said I am so proud and that is dynamic District 5 representing; thank you so much, Mr. Gresham and to your faculty and staff for the great work you are doing. As soon as you enter those doors, you feel teaching and learning. It is a very warm environment and it feels just like family. The students are actively learning and it is just a happy place to be, just like the song says. Thank you so much for the work you're doing.

Also, a strategy that they use as they increase their enrollment and membership, they use yard signs and they place them in the community. I don't know what the City of Jacksonville thought about that, but, apparently, it works. There are just great things going on and the infusion of technology, the energy of the staff; it is the best kept secret in Jacksonville. It is a prime example of early learning. We have students that go through school they never have a male teacher which is a reality, but at R. V. Daniels Elementary School, there's a faculty and staff where the presence of male support and male teachers is evident. That takes strategic planning and recruitment. Your presentation was a team and you all shared in that presentation because you share in the learning and success of your student. Thank you as I'm so proud of you and keep up the good work!

## Communications

### [1. GRANT PRESENTATION](#)

Minutes:

#### 1. Carter G. Woodson:

- Each school in Duval County is led by a mission to provide educational excellence to every student, in every classroom, every day.
- The teachers and administrators at Carter G. Woodson Elementary are no exception and their efforts have earned them national recognition by Solution Tree with its Redefining Excellence Award.
- The Redefining Excellence Award is a three-tier award established by Solution Tree, an educational publishing and professional development organization, that recognizes school districts, individual schools, and teachers who have demonstrated tremendous efforts and commitment to improve student learning.

- Here to make the presentation to Carter G. Woodson and its principal, Cheryl Quarles-Gaston, is Jeffrey C. Jones, CEO of Solution Tree.

## 2. FLETCHER HIGH SCHOOL MOCK TRIAL TEAM

Minutes:

### 2. Fletcher Mock Trial Team:

- Our next group of honorees boasts an undefeated record for the 2013-2014 school year! Meet the Fletcher High School Mock Trial Team.
- This team of 7 students participates in competitions sponsored by the Florida Law Related Education Association where they simulate the roles of attorneys and witnesses in a fictional trial situation.
- With the support and leadership of Edward Lange, Social Studies and Law instructor, and mentors, local practicing attorneys Amber Rumancik (RUM-AN-SICK), Carson Lange, and Jay Howell, Fletcher has experienced an outstanding year in competitions.
- After a February win over the Bolles School in the Regional/Circuit Championship, the team travelled to the state competition in Orlando where they were the only team out of 16 to finish with a perfect score of 5-0. This earned them the title of state champions, and recognition as the first state win since 1997.
- Next month, the team will venture to Madison, WI to compete in the National High School Mock Trial Competition.
- We are honored to have them here tonight to celebrate and encourage their continued success.
- Join me in congratulating the State Champions Fletcher High School Mock Trial Team.  
(Students: Katie Shapiro, Nikki Moser, Anastasia Pedersen, Brooke Pierce, Ellie Padgett, Georgia Pinner, Antonio Gansley-Ortiz; teacher: Edward Lange; and attorneys: Amber Rumancik (RUM-AN-SICK), Carson Lange, and Jay Howell).

## 3. PRINCIPAL DRAWING

Minutes:

### 3. Principal Drawings:

- Our next presentation highlights Duval County Public Schools commitment to the whole child and efforts to support and improve the mental health needs of all students, teachers, faculty, staff, and administrators, and school health of each school in the district.
- In an effort to increase our understanding and awareness to issues that affect mental and school health, the district partnered with the Jacksonville System of Care Initiative, with support from the Chartrand Foundation, to form the School Health and Mental Health Committee.
- The purpose of the committee is to research nationally recognized best practices in school and mental health for implementation by large school districts.
- The committee disseminated a student survey developed by The University of Maryland's Center for School Mental Health. It yielded an 80 percent response rate, an impressive result for a large district.
- To recognize the school-based leadership and support that contributed to such outstanding results, The Chartrand Family Fund at the Community Foundation for Northeast Florida provided \$5,000 to be awarded to schools that completed the survey.
- A random drawing was held identifying 5 principals to each receive \$1,000. Here to present the checks to the winning principals is Vicki Waytowich, the director of the Jacksonville System of Care Initiative.
- Principals to receive awards are:  
LaShawn Blackshear, principal Susie Tolbert Elementary  
Corey Wright, principal Englewood High School  
Dr. Amy Lingren, principal Lone Star Elementary  
Felicia Hardaway, principal Northshore Elementary  
And unable to attend, Vickie Schultz, principal Sandalwood High School

#### [4. COMMUNITY AWARD - BOB HAYES](#)

Minutes:

#### 4. Bob Hayes:

- The final presentation for the night comes from representatives of the Bob Hayes Track Meet.
- Last month, event founders joined us at the Board meeting to advise citizens of the Bob Hayes Invitational Track Meet. A few weeks ago, thousands of people celebrated the 50th year of the meet and its legacy as

the nation's largest high school track meet.

- Tonight, we have the privilege of sharing with you an award that the legends presented to one of our very own.
- Joining us to make a special presentation are co-founders Nathaniel Washington and Jimmy Jones.

## Comments From Audience

### COMMENTS FROM AUDIENCE

#### Minutes:

Mr. Jon Heymann said I want to commend you all for struggle, debate on decision on the Open Enrollment issue. You have an update on the Jacksonville Children's Commission and a recent data analysis on the After School Movement, nationally, and I'll report on that in just a moment. I want to remind you that the purpose of the Jacksonville Children's Commission is to help families raise children who are educated, safe and healthy. Those are the three things we look for in everything we fund. Our goal is to make a massive, positive difference for the greatest number of children in the shortest period of time. We also measure the results of each of the agencies that we fund against those three things. With that in mind, I remind you all that we have 22,000 unduplicated students that we are serving. Some students receive multiple services, some will be in our after school program during the school year, in our summer camps during summer school and some may receive other services such as anything from food to mental health counseling. Our budget is higher than what you see as that was last year's budget. Our budget is a little over \$22 million dollars this year. \$4.6 million dollars was given to us by the City Council from what was known as the Jacksonville Journey in three major areas: after school, early learning and summer camps. I want you to know that we've taken no administrative dollars off of that. Not one person is being paid from that; not one paper clip is bought; 100% of that goes out to direct services to children. This is an economy of scale having the Jacksonville Children's Commission here in Jacksonville. The full report of what you have is a one pager if you want to see how we measure our success. The Children Grow and Develop Out of School - you'll have a report on it at the national level; I wanted to give that to you because I want to report to you in about 6-8 months; the Center for Urban Education and Policy at UNF is going to study our local after school initiatives and see how well we're doing and then compare it to national data to see if we're doing better or worse. Early Learning, we have alot ongoing and hope to have roving mental health counselors that will travel all over the county; roving sports programs, as well. Thank you.

Mr. Edward Exson said notwithstanding all the positives, I applaud, adore and revere that of blacks; however, on balance, the masses of unproductive, I grieve that we are descending with sonic speed. This is no April Fool's joke. It is pathetic and very serious. There are few gardens that are bountifully harvested that are not cultivated. Cultivation brings the needed structural intelligibility for creating good breeding, good

taste, refinement, training, manufacturing, and discovering. so many teachers nurturing with love, do the tilling and pollinating with their personal resources hence, extracting intelligent scholarship, which could and should incite a Cultural Revolution. Being cultured that learning makes one far less of being culpable for many actions and crimes, it removes many blemishes. Consequently, that revolution will rapidly gain in closing the achievement gap, lifting so many from a cesspool mentality, thereby, debunking Charles Murray's Bell Curve Theory. With the Bell Curve debunked, it is now a new curse placed on students of color - "Florida's policy of lowering reading and math goals for all of its African American and Latino children." The calamity of lower performance is now called "success". Will we accept that curse we have been marginalized for? Is there nothing lower? Thank you.

Mr. James Moser said I've been known over the last 20+ years in this school system to say what's on my mind and today is not any different. We have an accountability problem in Duval County schools and the accountability problem I'm talking about is with the administration; specifically, the school administration and we need to talk about it. Back in February, I was observed by the Assistant Principal and I thought it was another flawless observation. A couple of days later, she came to my classroom and the first statement she said was, "Did you know you're one point above Needs Improvement last year?" I knew at that point,, this isn't going good and I informed her that last year I had 17 "highly effectives" and 5 "effectives" on my observation and they took the FCAT Reading scores to determine my student growth for my Computer classes. What's wrong with that picture? At this point, I knew that this was a very bias observation. When she finished, she returned to her office and lowered the scores even more without letting me know and I was shocked to see those lowered scores on the computer. Seven years ago, I reported a principal for safety violations that she caused at a school and safety is my number one concern for these kids in Duval County. I don't care if you are a principal or a Superintendent...if you did wrong, I'm going to let you know you did wrong and I know I'm just a teacher but the kids come first. She did give me a bad observation, the principal observed me and put me on a Success Plan and every week called me into her office to rake me over the coals. What about that teacher at Dr. Vitti's town hall meeting that was shaking behind the microphone as she was scared to talk? Or that employee in Broward County that was assaulted by a principal and she was afraid to speak up because she thought she would be fired. We need to come up with some ways to protect our teachers. We have 8,138 teachers in Duval County. What can we do to assist them to do one of the hardest jobs in the country and one of the most rewarding jobs in the country? Why do teachers have to take abuse in Duval County? I'm totally sick of what has been happening for decades in the school system. Thank you.

Mr. Michael Barnes said I'm a senior at William Raines M. High School and on March 26, I was coming out of my last period class and some kids were in the hallway who did not attend Raines so they shouldn't have been on campus let alone at my classroom window. Me being me, normally, I fight back, but I was attacked by one of those students who hit me twice. I didn't fight back because, again, I'm a graduating senior and I didn't want to jeopardize that. But, I got mad and asked the administration and security, *"Where were you when this happened? How did they get into the school? How did you allow them to come through the front?"* Then, I was suspended for 10 days. The bad thing about it was there were three incidents as the same as mine. They came through one of the front side doors to my classroom on the senior hallway.

Then, got into their car and drove around back to the student parking lot where they got into it with some other students. Then, drove back around to the front of the school in front of the stadium and got out of their car to argue with another student. I feel that I shouldn't be suspended for 10 days for not even protecting myself. I didn't do anything; I didn't swing and I just don't understand. My suspension was for a major disruption or something like that; a Class III referral in which I was referred to the Alternative School. I have less than 45 days to graduate. I'm missing school and today is my third day of my suspension and three days of education due to improper protocol or failure to follow procedure and make sure the school is secure and the hallways are clear during the last 15 minutes of class. I feel this is unjust to me to be missing class and education. Every day I miss, my grade goes down because I'm missing assignments. The school has yet to call me about my work. I've called trying to get work, to do it and turn it in because the marking period is about to end. That's all.

Mr. Sam Hall said I attended the School Advisory Council meeting this morning and one recurring theme was the budgetary items . This was brought to our attention this morning and one of the main concerns were the budgetary shortfalls and public schools capital outlay (PECO). Will those be distributed equitably among the schools and will that revenue stream dry up or continue?

Dr. Vitti said PECO dollars have not been given to traditional public schools for the past three years. There are some bills that are traveling through the House and Senate to restore funding to not only traditional public schools but also charter schools. We are lobbying those PECO dollars be shared, again, between charter schools and traditional public schools and we're hopeful those bills will go through successfully.

Mr. John Nooney said I want to thank you for the action you've taken which is leading to a completed southbank riverwalk. Dr. Vitti, your letter to Mayor Brown is very powerful and you're going forward. There's a real opportunity, a harness, great potential behind the School Board for everyone. I just wanted to share with you the status of where it is right now. The legislation with the Jacksonville City Council 2014-190 and is going through two committees and it was stalled today in Finance. I didn't attend that Finance Committee but I did attend RCD (Recreation Community Development). I just hope that we still remain vigil as this works through the legislative process. The real reason I'm here is to applaud you because I feel that your actions have really catapulted this issue and we should see that completed southbank riverwalk so thank you very much.

The following students and parent addressed safety concerns and followed up on the Michael Barnes incident at Raines High School:

- Ms. Janicia Griffin, student, Raines High School
- Ms. Octavia McMillian, student, Raines High School
- Ms. Vivian Jenkins, parent of three students at Raines High School

Dr. Vitti said I'd like to clarify a couple things that were stated, tonight. The student was originally suspended but that has been revoked, today. Earlier today, the principal met with the parents to explain that the student will not be suspended. In addition, there has not been concern with safety during the school day. There have been some incidents after school and I think it is important that Raines receive additional security

guards as we've done at other schools, based on need, and this is something we've talked about going into next year's Allocation Plan. I do believe facts are important and I think this is a good opportunity to voice concerns and there are some concerns regarding the situation at the staff level about former employees that the Board should be made aware of at a later time..

Mr. Chris Guerrieri said first, I want to commend the Board and Superintendent for putting on the brakes for Open Enrollment. Let me suggest that if you want to move forward in the future, ask the City of Jacksonville to fund it with a one-half cent sales tax referendum. Several south Florida cities already have such taxes to fund education priorities. If Jacksonville thinks Open Enrollment is a priority, than the state should step up and pay for the transportation. I find it ironic when the Open Enrollment proposal to bring students back from charter schools and private schools first floated, the district was also preparing to approve two more charter schools. Why would we approve more charter schools if the district wanted to bring back students from the ones we already have? The Miami Herald reports the CEO of the Charter Schools USA which operates 58 schools lives in a \$1.8 million dollar house and sends his children to expensive and exclusive private schools. By comparison, our Superintendent runs 161 schools, makes quite a bit less, sends his children to public schools. I don't know how much Superintendent Vitti's house is worth and I'm sure it's nice, but I would guess it's worth less than \$1.8 million dollars

Dr. Vitti said, "It is."

Does anyone on the Board like to go boating? The CEO for the Charter Schools USA does and he repeatedly takes out \$350,000, 43 foot yacht which he named "Fishing for Schools" - an ironic name if there ever was one. I look at the Board of Directors for the reposed Duval Charter School at Southside and I was amazed to find that none of them live in Jacksonville. These people are not local but people who are in it to make a buck. I think it is admirable that the Superintendent and the Board want students to return from charter and private schools but it will take more than trying to convince parents. It will take resistance. Does Jacksonville really need 31 charter schools and alone, two more? If no charter school would be proposed on the Southside, would the district be prepared to build another one? Is the curriculum they're offering so original and innovative that students could receive similar instruction from their own schools? If the answer to any of these questions is "No", then it's time Duval joins Orange and Hillsborough Counties for pushing back against Charter Schools USA. Even if it were true, we can't say that public schools is the best way going. When we compare public schools, graduation rates, academic performance and school grades for charter schools, we can see that public schools are doing better but that hasn't been enough because groups like Charter Schools USA and it's CEO routinely give hundreds of thousands of dollars to the Governor and state legislators. Unfortunately, in today's climate, things like that evidenced the truth can't compete with money. Because of that, we have to resist and somebody has to say "No". I hope this Board, even if it ultimately proves to be symbolic has the fortitude to say "No" to another charter school that the city does not need and much of the city does not want. Thank you.

Ms. Eunice Barnum said in May, Duval County Public Schools will celebrate their 150th birthday. Oh, that's so cool but what is your track record for educating black children since integration? I believe in the last 60 years, your failure rate supersedes your

success rate and let's track the School Board districts where we have the most students failure. A lot of lies are told and a lot of pretense about certain principals and teachers in certain schools saying they are "National Models", they are "Excellent" however, 60% of the children cannot master proficiency in grades 6 and 7. The third grade children are getting ready for college and all of these schools have improved but just this morning in the news, again, the data showed that blacks and Latinos are at the bottom. This problem doesn't just happen to the low income families, free and reduced lunch students but a School Board member's child was retained, twice in one grade. Guidance Counselors, Superintendents, principals, teachers, NAACP members, City Council assistants and the like - so don't snicker but this academic failure includes many of these very prestigious fellows. In year 151, some of your rules, vision and mission, to provide an excellent education to every school, in every classroom, for every child, every day, regardless of race, gender disability or age. Have a great day!

## Comments From Parent Organizations

### [COMMENTS FROM PARENT ORGANIZATIONS](#)

Minutes:

PTA - Gretchen Lynch, President:

Tonight, on the 5th floor, we recognized our 55 students completing PTA's Superintendent Leadership Academy. We had a wonderful trip to Tallahassee and our students represented themselves and public schools well. We appreciate Dr. Vitti and School Board Chair Coach celebrating all of our students prior to the school board meeting.

We appreciate DCPS and the school board offering opportunity for parents and the community to engage in the budget process through the Community Meetings. We encourage parents to take advantage of this opportunity.

Duval County Council of DCCPTA sent 3 board members, 1 student leader and 2 local unit leaders from Sandalwood to Florida PTAs legislative conference in Tallahassee. This 3 day workshop allowed us to continue to build skills in the area of advocacy.

Plans are underway for our Spring Workshops. To meet the needs of local unit officers, we will host training on the evening of Tuesday, May 13 at Highlands Regional Library and Friday May 16th at Pablo Creek. Detailed workshops schedule can be found at DCCPTA.org. All PTA presidents and treasurers are required to attend training.

This is a transition time of year for PTAs. All local units are called to elect nominating committees and set the date for advertised general meetings to elect officers for the 2014-2015 school year. During our April General Meeting on Tuesday, April 15, we will be offering transition and end of the year financial training. During that meeting local units can also purchase their tickets for the Presidents' and Principals' Luncheon which will be on Tuesday, May 20 at UNF.

School Advisory Council - Sabrina Zinamon:

The DAC met on Monday, March 24th @ 6:00 here at the school board in the 6th floor conference room. We would like to thank Mr. Heid from academic services, Mrs. Alderson from Chartwells, Mrs. Micheau from school Improvement, Mrs. Kicklighter from Wellness, and Dr. Kim Davis from community engagement and all the Area Chairs for being in attendance.

District Concerns:

1. Lack of attendance from Duval County Board Members. Members were read the memo of non- attendance of Board member Grymes at this last meeting. We are puzzled as to why there was still not representation when DAC meeting are always held the same time unless otherwise stated and her community meeting, I'm sure was planned months ahead of time. The members feel short changed and deserve and explanation for the lack in leadership from the board to the DAC members and the community stakeholders that they represent as well.
2. The Bridge to Success Program not getting support from Coaches- great concern for students in the program.
3. How were the 4 k-5 schools selected that will add 6th grade curriculum next year?
4. What is the decision with school uniforms for elementary schools next year?

We would also like to thank those High School Principals that got the message to their representatives. Please continue to work with us.

The next meeting of the District Advisory Council is April 28th @ 6:00 pm in the 6th floor conference room. We look forward to seeing a representative from every area.

Comments From Employee Organizations

[COMMENTS FROM EMPLOYEE ORGANIZATIONS](#)

Minutes: Mr. Joe Roberts with the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) representing maintenance workers at the School Board. Last month I came here with some fellow employees and talked about human capital relative to the budget. Most of you probably have a degree from a college or university and you spent much time learning your trade. Most of our people do the same thing. They spend four years in an apprenticeship, they student and learn their trade and then apply for a license to become a certified person. Many of the people you hire, you require them to have a city license to perform the work - your electricians, your air conditioning/heating and plumbers and many others have different certifications. You

don't require the same thing of the people you contract with. Many contractors out there come in here and do not have licensed workers on the job sites. Some don't have legal American citizens. Many contractors come in with a scam which is called a "low ball price" and then get money on the Change Orders. Tonight, you will be voting on a Change Order for a contractor who has completed only about 60% of the job yet he wants a 10% increase that he left out of the job to begin with. Lighting retrofit is one of my favorite subjects and not a hard thing to do. You go in and count light fixtures, figure out how many lamps to replace, etc. add that up, turn it into the School Board and they give you a price. The contractor that is on agenda this evening for lighting retrofits is not a licensed electrical contractor. You have a contractor working in eight different schools without a license in the city of Jacksonville or in the state of Florida, that I can find. You need to watch your money as you're not getting the value of your dollar. Give us your thoughts on how you're spending your dollars.

## Chairman's Report

### [CHAIRMAN'S REPORT](#)

Minutes: The Board has had a very busy month. We started our budget community meetings and we have had a pretty good turnout. I would like to encourage you to attend at least one of the remaining meetings in order to provide feedback on the 2013-2014 budget and any changes you would like to see for the coming year. The dates and locations that remain are: April 10th at Fletcher High School, April 14th at Mandarin High School, April 17th at Terry Parker High School, April 21st at First Coast High School and April 22nd at DuPont Middle School. All meetings will last from 6:00 to 7:30 pm.

The last Discover Duval Tours remaining is tomorrow, April 2nd, at Wolfson High School from 9:00 am – 11:30 am to showcase the Judicial and Law Enforcement Programs. Thank you to JPEF for partnering with us on this initiative.

Finally, I would like to say thank you to our Superintendent for his leadership on the decision to pull the Open Enrollment Policy. I understand the desire to avoid a division in our community. These last few weeks have been challenging and at times uncomfortable but overall I think you have handled yourself admirably. I am looking forward to seeing the results of the new initiatives you have implemented in the district. Albert Einstein once said, " In the middle of difficulty lies opportunity." I believe there is an opportunity that has been born out of this discussion the policy has generated and I am looking forward to working with all of the stakeholders in achieving our mission which is to provide educational excellence in every school, in every classroom, for every student, every day.

We've had alot of discussion this evening and I want to say that it is very refreshing to see R. V. Daniels Elementary School. It is clear that when you market what you are doing and people get to see all the great things that are happening, it brings people back in. We try to do that with this Board over the last few years by highlighting

schools from the academic programs in high schools to art programs in our elementary schools. You saw, tonight, the wonderful performance from the Mandarin High School students and it's time this community rallies behind public education, specifically, Duval County Public Schools and our traditional schools. We can not do this alone. We need the support of every person in this community. This city can be something great and special in which I already believe it is but I think we could reach our full potential when we recognize the importance that public education plays in the future of our city. I'd like to encourage while we welcome the comments, we welcome the criticism, we also welcome the compliments. We welcome the feedback out in the community. We welcome you going out taking people to your schools, showing them what great things are happening. I'm available and I'm sure these other Board members are available any time for parents who are hesitant about our public schools and have concerns and questions, I'll personally take you on a tour because I believe we have great schools, great programs, great teachers and great leaders in this district. I want you to see that for yourself. I want you to take advantage of the opportunity that we have in our magnet schools and in our neighborhood schools. So, I'm challenging the public this evening to put your shoulder behind the wheel. It's alright to criticize as we need it and it makes us better, but we also need your support and we need you to help us become a great school district that we know we can achieve. Thank you.

## Superintendent's Report

### [SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT](#)

#### Minutes:

Dr. Vitti said, thank you, Mrs. Couch, and I would like to echo your words. I'd like to congratulate Mr. Gresham and his staff at R. V. Daniels. I had moved Mr. Gresham there and I think he's done a great job mobilizing the community, bringing people into R. V. Daniels and I think some of the strategies you heard, tonight, whether it's the interactive journals or the iPads, Smart Boards and the focus on early learning, symbolizes on what is going on in many of our schools, especially at the four year old level and slowly trickling upwards to the primary. We can't teach children how to read in third grade. We begin to teach them in four year old classrooms and kindergarten. What R. V. Daniels is doing is what we're doing throughout the county and that will certainly make a difference for our children and narrow the achievement gap that we must address.

I also echo your sentiments about rallying the community. Today, the staff and I went through some ideas for enhancing our marketing to bring children back to traditional public schools and retain them. I'd like to ask you, the Chair, to schedule a workshop so that we can present those ideas to the Board and receive your feedback and then reach out to the community, united, to rally SACs, PTAs, DTU, our faith-based community and especially our employees as they must step up as well and become champions of public education so we're united in our approach to promote the

great things that are happening but also recognize that we have challenges. Going into next year, middle school reform and safety are two issues that we must address but also recognize the great things ongoing, as well. I look forward to that continuing conversation and the launch of many new activities and partnerships going into the late spring/summer to increase enrollment and to educate the community about the pros and cons of charter schools. This is important and will certainly be a reality as we go through this budget cycle in a couple of weeks.

Presentation of the 2014-2015 Assessments. *(see attachment in the Minutes).*

## Reports

## Approval of Agenda

### [APPROVAL OF THE APRIL 1, 2014, AGENDA](#)

#### Motions:

That the Duval County School Board approve the April 1, 2014, Agenda as submitted on March 25, 2014, with the following changes:

1. Presentations - Communications - Item 3 - Principals Drawing - Item Added
2. Presentations - Communications - Item 4 - Community Award - Bob Hayes - Item Added
3. Approval of Minutes - Revised Agenda Item
4. Academic Services - Item 5 - Public Hearing and Vote: Student Assignment Policy 5.20 Revision - Item Withdrawn
5. Human Resource Services - Staffing - Item 6 - Human Resource Services Transactions - Revised Attachment
6. Human Resource Services - Professional Standards - Item 7 - Employee Suspension Without Pay and Termination - Jared Goldman - Item Withdrawn - PASS
7. Human Resource Services - Professional Standards - Item 8 - Employee Suspension and

- Termination - Marvin Morris - Item Withdrawn
8. Administration and Business Services  
- Budget and Financial - Item 13 -  
License Agreement with Community  
First Credit Union of Florida for  
Automatic Teller Machine Services at  
the School Board Administration  
Building, 1701 Prudential Drive -  
Item Withdrawn
  9. Board Members Travel - Revised  
Agenda Item

Vote Results

Motion: Fred Lee

Second: Cheryl Grymes

Rebecca Couch	- Aye
Jason Fischer	- Nay
Cheryl Grymes	- Aye
Connie Hall	- Aye
Ashley Juarez	- Aye
Fred Lee	- Aye
Paula Wright	- Aye

Approval of Minutes

[APPROVAL OF MINUTES](#)

Minutes:

That the Duval County School Board approve the following Minutes:

March 4, 2014 - Regular Board Meeting  
March 11, 2014 - Special Board Meeting - Student Expulsion Hearing  
March 11, 2014 - Board Workshop  
March 13, 2014 - Committee Meeting  
March 26, 2014 - Board Workshop  
March 28, 2014 - Special Board Meeting - Student Expulsion Hearings

Motions:

That the Duval County School Board approve the Minutes for the Meetings listed in the Agenda Item.

- March 4, 2014 - Regular Board Meeting
- March 11, 2014 - Special Board Meeting - Student Expulsion Hearings - PASS
- March 11, 2014 - Board Workshop
- March 13, 2014 - Committee Meeting
- March 26, 2014 - Board Workshop
- March 28, 2014 - Special Board Meeting - Student Expulsion Hearings

Vote Results

Motion: Fred Lee

Second: Cheryl Grymes

Rebecca Couch	- Aye
Jason Fischer	- Aye
Cheryl Grymes	- Aye
Connie Hall	- Aye
Ashley Juarez	- Aye
Fred Lee	- Aye
Paula Wright	- Aye

Approval of Consent Agenda

[APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA](#)

Motions:

That the Duval County School Board approve the Consent Agenda. - PASS

Vote Results

Motion: Fred Lee

Second: Cheryl Grymes

Rebecca Couch - Aye

Jason Fischer - Aye

Cheryl Grymes - Aye

Connie Hall - Aye

Ashley Juarez - Aye

Fred Lee - Aye

Paula Wright - Aye

Consent Agenda

Academic Services

1. [DISTRICT BANDWIDTH REQUEST FOR APPLICATION](#)

Attachment: [Project Performance and Accountability BANDWIDTH GRANT 030714.pdf](#)

Attachment: [Duval County Public Schools School Bandwidth Expenditures 030714.pdf](#)

2. [TIER III READING INTERVENTION MATERIALS](#)

Attachment: [Barton quote levels 7 and 8 only.pdf](#)

Attachment: [Barton quote.pdf](#)

School Choice and Pupil Assignment

3. [FIRST AMENDMENT TO THE SEACOAST CHARTER ACADEMY CONTRACT](#)

Attachment: [Seacoast First Amendment Final.pdf](#)

Minutes:

Chairman Couch said I pulled this item for Consent with Comments to talk through the item. The item is not to approve a contract. It is to correct an error that was in the original contract and that was to account for the

enrollment to move up a grade level. Ms. Chastain, is that the right way to explain it?

Ms. Karen Chastain, Chief of Legal Services, said, "Yes, Madam Chairman, that is accurate."

Chairman Couch said Dr. Vitti, we've had a lot of discussion this week on the role of charter schools in the district and this item is going to add more students to a charter school, although it is a correction. Is this charter school operated by a national chain or is it operated locally?

Superintendent Vitti said this is a local-based charter school. Those that run the charter school once ran a private school and then decided to apply for a charter school. It was approved and they now run a charter school that is part of the public school system.

Ms. Couch said I believe they made an "A" last year which was their first year they were opened.

Dr. Vitti said I believe you're correct.

Ms. Couch said, Ms. Chastain, what does it take to become or considered to be "high performing"?

Ms. Chastain said I'm not familiar with the exact details but there is a designation and criteria set forth in statute and then the Commissioner and the Department of Education will make that determination if the criteria is met. So, it isn't something that is designated locally if something that really happens at the state level.

Ms. Couch asked what does that provide you with if you have that designation?

Ms. Chastain said it provides you certain terms within your contract that might be more favorable like a longer length of time for your contract to be in operation and similar benefits.

Ms. Couch said fifteen years?

Ms. Chastain said fifteen years is correct vice, for example, four or five years for a term.

Ms. Couch asked does it allow you to increase your enrollment by a certain amount without having to bring it to the Board?

Ms. Chastain said "yes" it does allow that as well and I can't recall if it also changes the administrative fee.

Ms. Couch said I think it does; it reduces it from 5% for up to 250 students.

Ms. Chastain said that would be held by the district, ordinarily.

Ms. Couch asked if it allows you to open more schools across the state?

Ms. Chastain said I believe it does because I believe there is a replication that is facilitated in other districts.

Ms. Couch said with that distinction?

Ms. Chastain said that is correct.

Board Member Paula Wright asked Ms. Chastain to explain the criteria for the Board in terms of declining a charter school.

Ms. Chastain said the criteria is something that is set forth in statute and has been litigated. If the applicant and the request meets the legal criteria, and they wouldn't come to you if they didn't, it's very difficult to make the findings that is sustainable if you're to deny it and the applicant, or in the case of the existing charter school, wanted to appeal. Regardless of the outcome of the litigation if it were to be appealed, there are attorneys fees which is an expensive proposition for something that does not have a great likelihood of being upheld, should be denial be withheld inappropriately by the Board, and that depends on whether it's at the application stage or once it's time to negotiate a contract, that issue, as well.

Ms. Wright said so a charter school does not have to prove that there's a need for the school in a particular area? It's not based on enrollment of ....?

Ms.. Chastain said if I can restate it...in other words, is there a demand or a need or capacity or anything like that? The answer to that is "No, that is something that over the years has been raised by a school district here and there and that has been through legislative amendment in Tallahassee. The local control, afforded to school boards, has gone more in favor of the charter schools then in favor of the school boards."

~~5. PUBLIC HEARING AND VOTE: STUDENT ASSIGNMENT POLICY 5.20 REVISION - WITHDRAWN~~

Attachment: ~~5-20-Student Assignmentv5redline.pdf~~

Human Resource Services - Staffing

6. [HUMAN RESOURCE SERVICES TRANSACTIONS](#)

Attachment: [HRS Attach 04-01-14 TRANS.pdf](#)

Human Resource Services - Professional Standards

7. ~~EMPLOYEE SUSPENSION WITHOUT PAY AND TERMINATION -- JARED GOLDMAN -- WITHDRAWN~~
8. ~~EMPLOYEE SUSPENSION AND TERMINATION -- MARVIN MORRIS -- WITHDRAWN~~
9. [EMPLOYEE SUSPENSION WITHOUT PAY - JOYCELYN LAWSON](#)

Administration and Business Services - Budget and Financial

10. [MONTHLY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS](#)

- Attachment: [January 2014 Board Statement Worksheet.pdf](#)
- Attachment: [January 2014 Monthly Financial Statement Narrative.pdf](#)
- Attachment: [January 2014 Cash and Investment Report.pdf](#)

11. [ADOPTION OF BUDGET RESOLUTIONS February 19, 2014](#)

- Attachment: [2013-14 Budget Resolutions April 2014.pdf](#)

12. [CERTIFICATES OF PARTICIPATION \(COPS\) RESOLUTION](#)

- Attachment: [Certificate Resolution.pdf](#)

13. ~~LICENSE AGREEMENT WITH COMMUNITY FIRST CREDIT UNION OF FLORIDA FOR AUTOMATIC TELLER MACHINE SERVICES AT THE SCHOOL BOARD ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, 1701 PRUDENTIAL DRIVE -- WITHDRAWN~~

- Attachment: [ATM License Agreement.pdf](#)

Operations - Real Estate, Planning and Programming

14. [DECLARE NORTHEAST SPRINGFIELD SCHOOL NO. 8 UNSUITABLE FOR EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES](#)

15. [DECLARE FAIRFIELD SCHOOL NO. 9 UNSUITABLE FOR EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES](#)

16. [APPROVAL OF PROJECT PRIORITY LIST AND EXPENDITURE OF CAPITAL OUTLAY AND DEBT SERVICE \(CO&DS\) FUNDS](#)

- Attachment: [April 2014 Agenda-CO&DS Project Priority List 2-26-14.pdf](#)

Operations - Facilities Project Design, Construction and Maintenance

17. [FIRE ALARM SYSTEM REPLACEMENT AT S. P. LIVINGSTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NO 149/DCSB PROJECT NO. M-83970/OFDC-ITB-001-14: CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT AWARD](#)

- Attachment: [M-83970 Contract for Fire Alarm Replace at No 149.pdf](#)

18. [FIRE ALARM SYSTEM REPLACEMENT AT SUSIE TOLBERT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NO 128/DCSB PROJECT NO. M-83970/OFDC-ITB-002-14: CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT AWARD](#)

Attachment: [M-83970 Contract for Fire Alarm Replace at No 128.pdf](#)

19. [PRE-QUALIFICATION OF CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTORS FOR EDUCATIONAL PROJECTS](#)

Attachment: [Board Approval - Renewals 04-2014.pdf](#)

21. [BUILDING ADDITION AT DOUGLAS ANDERSON SCHOOL OF THE ARTS NO. 107: PHASE III DOCUMENT APPROVAL /DCSB PROJECT NO. C-91590](#)

Operations - Purchasing and Logistics

22. [SURPLUS PROPERTY RETIREMENT REPORT](#)

Attachment: [04APRIL14.pdf](#)

Attachment: [07APRIL14 \(2\).pdf](#)

Attachment: [06APRIL14 \(2\).pdf](#)

Attachment: [05APRIL14 \(2\).pdf](#)

Attachment: [Copy of APR RETIREMENT.pdf](#)

Attachment: [Retirement Order Highlight outline APRIL 2014.pdf](#)

Attachment: [Copy of ROSUMAPRFY14.pdf](#)

Discussion

School Choice and Pupil Assignment

4. [CHARTER SCHOOL CONTRACT FOR RENAISSANCE CHARTER SCHOOL, INC., D/B/A DUVAL CHARTER SCHOOL AT SOUTHSIDE](#)

Attachment: [contract Bvfinal 3-2014.pdf](#)

Minutes: Speakers:

Ms. Becki Couch, Board Chairman

Dr. Nikolai Vitti, Superintendent of Schools

Ms. Karen Chastain, Chief of Legal Services

Mr. Paul Soares, Chief Officer of Operation

Mr. Jason Fischer, Board Member

Ms. Paula D. Wright, Board Member

Mr. Fred "Fel" Lee, Board Member

Motions:

1. That the Duval County School Board approve a five year contract with Renaissance Charter

School, Inc. to open Renaissance Charter School at Southside and  
2. That the Duval County School Board authorize the chairperson and the Superintendent to execute the contract on behalf of the Board subject to form approval by the Office of Legal Services. - PASS

Vote Results

Motion: Cheryl Grymes

Second: Jason Fischer

Rebecca Couch - Aye

Jason Fischer - Aye

Cheryl Grymes - Aye

Connie Hall - Aye

Ashley Juarez - Aye

Fred Lee - Aye

Paula Wright - Aye

Operations - Facilities Project Design, Construction and Maintenance

20. [DISTRICTWIDE ENERGY/LIGHTING RETROFITS AT VARIOUS SCHOOLS GR 4 PH 3-1/DCSB PROJ NO. C-91580; CHANGE ORDERS APPROVAL TO CONTRACT WITH KKOT ASSOCIATES, LLC](#)

Minutes: Speakers:

Mr. Fred "Fel" Lee, Board Member

Dr. Nikolai Vitti, Superintendent of Schools

Mr. Paul Soares, Chief of Operations

Ms. Paula D. Wright, Board Member

Motions:

That the Duval County School Board approve Change Order Nos. 3, 4, 5 and 6 to Group 4 Phase 3-1/DCSB Project No. C-91580 in the total additive amount of \$53,362.95 to the contract with KKOT Associates, LLC increasing the total contract amount to \$465, - PASS

982.09, and a budget amendment resolution.

Vote Results

Motion: Fred Lee

Second: Cheryl Grymes

Rebecca Couch - Aye

Jason Fischer - Aye

Cheryl Grymes - Aye

Connie Hall - Aye

Ashley Juarez - Aye

Fred Lee - Aye

Paula Wright - Aye

Board Member Travel

[BOARD MEMBERS TRAVEL](#)

Minutes:

That the Duval County School Board approve the following travel for Board members:

June 11-13, 2014 - FSBA/FADSS Summer Conference - Tampa, FL - Couch, Grymes, Juarez and Wright

Motions:

That the Duval County School Board approve the following Board Members Travel:

- June 11-13, 2014 - FSBA/FADSS Summer Conference - Tampa, FL - Couch, Grymes Juarez, Wright - PASS

Vote Results

Motion: Cheryl Grymes

Second: Fred Lee	
Rebecca Couch	- Aye
Jason Fischer	- Aye
Cheryl Grymes	- Aye
Connie Hall	- Aye
Ashley Juarez	- Aye
Fred Lee	- Aye
Paula Wright	- Aye

Superintendent's Travel

[SUPERINTENDENT'S TRAVEL](#)

Minutes:

That the Duval County School Board approve the Superintendent's travel:

May 27-2014 - 5th Annual Education Summit and Conference - Orlando, FL  
(Guest speaker)

Motions:	
That the Duval County School Board approve the following travel for the Superintendent:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>May 27, 2014 - 5th Annual Education Summit and Sterling Conference - Orlando, FL</li> </ul>	- PASS
Vote Results	
Motion: Cheryl Grymes	
Second: Fred Lee	
Rebecca Couch	- Aye

Jason Fischer	- Aye
Cheryl Grymes	- Aye
Connie Hall	- Aye
Ashley Juarez	- Aye
Fred Lee	- Aye
Paula Wright	- Aye

For The Record

[FOR THE RECORD](#)

Minutes:

Ms. Cheryl Grymes thanked David Pinter, principal at Fort Caroline Elementary School, as I went out there to visit the school. They have great things going on and to see Head Start in the school in their VPK program. When you walk into the school, the kids are on task and learning. It's just a great environment and I appreciate his hospitality.

I'd like to thank several people for a track that was installed at Parkwood Heights Elementary School. Councilman Clay Yarborough was responsible for helping to allocate funds for this and I want to recognize Mike Ellison who is a former parent. I attended the opening of the track and the kids were ecstatic as well as the parent. They have a very active PTA which assisted in this effort.

I'd like to acknowledge that our City Council members are great partners. Councilman Yarborough is looking at another project at Lake Lucina Elementary School. I appreciate Paul Soares and his staff working with the City to help our schools with the track and playground equipment and many things that enhance our schools and serve the community.

I, too, want to thank the Superintendent for his decision to pull back on Open Enrollment and I agree with the fact that this particular issue did bring up the continuing issue of trust within our community. As a Jacksonville native, I have felt the mistrust through the years and we really need to be and are on the way to rebuilding that trust. We need to be one community. I echo Chairman Couch's comments about needing everyone to come on board with us as we can't do it alone. We do need the support more than ever.

I attended an event, today, where Ben Warner with JCCI spoke about a six year old boy, Blake, where his father was developing programs for people at a homeless shelter in New York. His mother showed him an article about homeless children. Blake felt so bad because the other kids didn't have books to read so he organized a book drive for a shelter and he was interviewed. He said, "*When you listen to the community, learn*

*from the community and help the community, you connect to your best self."* I think, Mr. Superintendent, that you connected with your "best self" and I challenge all of us to connect with our best self and bring our community together and help make our schools the best they can be.

Ms. Ashley Smith Juarez said I appreciated the Chair's presentation this evening in terms of really encouraging and inviting everyone to come visit our schools, see what we're doing, connect with us. We all, as Board members, appreciate those opportunities to talk with people about what is happening in our schools in an open-ended way. We have the opportunity to connect with our community and encourage to connect with our students and schools...all are very important. We've heard about some of the after school opportunities at R.V. Daniels Elementary and some of those sports.

I encourage anyone who is available in the morning to visit Wolfson High School. We'll meet here at the district building at 9:00 a.m. will board a school bus and go to Wolfson to see some of the outstanding events that are happening with their Legal Academy as well as one of our community partners, VyStar Credit Union.

We encourage you to get involved and attend our Community Budget meetings this month. Thank you to everyone who has come out thus far to let us hear from you and your thoughts about the budget and other topics that are important to the school district. Our budget is really a value statement so we want to hear from you about what you value so that we can thoughtfully approach the 2014-2015 budget process and be able to provide what is best for our students in each school, each classroom for each student as you hear through our mission. Please visit our schools, let us hear from you and to connect with our school district with whatever your expertise may be. Thanks.

Dr. Constance Hall said:

1. Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority will host its Regional Conference this week in Jacksonville, with more than 4,500 already registered attendees. The public is invited to attend the Public Meeting this Thursday at 8 p.m. at the Prime Osborn Convention Center.

I like to give a shout out to all of our Greek organizations for their community service and commitment to education. I specifically invite all of our local organizations to become even more involved.

2. Thank you to the Rotary Club of North Jacksonville for their involvement with Romona Blvd. Elementary School. I had the opportunity to attend the groundbreaking ceremony for the school's Reading Garden along with Board member Lee. The Rotarians have undertaken the task of building the Gazebo. DCPS staff have been very helpful in assuring that the required specifications are met. The Gazebo will be enhanced by the students through the planting of vegetables and flowering plants, while incorporating all disciplines of learning. What a wonderful project to be enjoyed by students now and the years to come.

3. On April 14, we have the opportunity to participate in Edward Waters Call Me Mister Program. As you may already know Call Me Mister originated out of Clemson University

designed to contribute to the talent pool of great teachers. It is an acronym for Mentors Instructing Students Toward Effective Role Models. Some of our 11th and 12th grade young men have been invited to attend.

4. On April 4 from 1-3 p.m. at Eugene Butler Middle School, the Magnificent Male teachers of District 5 will host Males In Education Symposium. They will facilitate a discussion on the state of education from a male perspective and the importance of retaining and recruiting quality males in education.

Mr. Fred "Fel" Lee thanked the Northside Rotary Club and the staff at Ramona Elementary School; thank you Board Member Hall for allowing me to participate with you. Myself being a Rotarian, it was neat to wear two hats at one time which was fun.

I want to thank Mayport Middle School for allowing me to participate and be their keynote speaker to the induction of students into the National Junior Honor Society. We really had a good time and thank you Dr. Kelly Coke-Daniels for being their, as well.

I'd like to congratulate to approximately 31 Fletcher band students who traveled to Gainesville for the Florida Band Masters Association - State Jazz, State Solo; Ensemble, Music Performance Assessment. The Jazz Band earned straight Superior rating for the first time since 1980. Out of 12, there were only 3 who received the highest rating; a very proud moment for our district.

The Florida Robotics team won the 2014 Regional Tournament at UNF (University of North Florida) two weeks ago. The team swept all three categories: the Seating Round where the robots run unopposed accumulating as many points possible; the Double Elimination, head-to-head competition where the teams face each other; the Documentation Category and the swept the whole competition. I'd like to say "thank you" to Tom LaPointe who is a Physics teacher at Fletcher High School who keeps the Bot Ball running.

I also want to say "thank you" to Tom Ming, the Drama teacher at Fletcher High. They just returned this weekend from a State Drama Competition and they received three Superiors and two Excellent grades.

Fletcher Middle School took second place in the City-wide Scholar Bowl. Congratulations to James Weldon Johnson College Prep who took first place.

A big congratulations to the Fletcher Mock Trial team for bringing home the State Championship!

Mr. Jason Fischer said I'd like to talk about students as we put students first. The Robotics Team at Loretto Elementary School placed second in the regional competition and they went on to Orlando. I'm very proud of those students and the students, tonight, from Mandarin High School - what an amazing performance that was. Truly, we are blessed to have great performers in our school district.

The next District 7 Town Hall meeting will be next Monday, April 14 at Mandarin High School at 6:00 p.m. I look forward to seeing everyone there and I welcome folks from other areas to come and voice their concerns. I, too, attend other district's meetings to

listen and welcome everyone.

I think all of us should celebrate the reduction and streamlining of some of the testing assessments that were highlighted by the Superintendent, earlier. Our mission is to educate kids and not to test them. I think accountability is very important and these changes help to protect the integrity but they allow us to focus more time on learning. That's what we're here to do; we're here to teach kids and get them to learn.

Last month, I brought up Commissioner Adam Putman's proposal to cut the energy sales tax in half to help simulate some part of the economic side and to dedicate the other portion to funding education. There was some discussion this evening on PECO funds and what that is going to look like. I know the original draft was roughly \$225 million dollars as it is moving its way through the process. I'm in favor of it and I hope my colleagues will lend their support.

Tonight, there was some discussion on School Choice and some of my colleagues have thanked the Superintendent for his leadership. I, too, appreciate your leadership on issues and I feel you do put students first in every decision you make and I'm thankful that we have you as our Superintendent. Thank you.

Ms. Paula Wright said I want to thank four students at Mattie V. Rutherford Alternative School who received second place in the Weather Awareness Week video because they are going to have another opportunity to be celebrated on May 16. They won second place in the statewide contest and they are: Christina Smith, Karrington Copeland, Keshon Sifford and Navone Mickens. They produced their own weather commercial and I think that is an outstanding job and it goes to the heart of what we strive to do everyday in our mission and our vision is to allow an opportunity for every child to reach their full potential.

I'd like to remind everyone about the Accreditation which is April 28-30. Education is a Family Affair and it starts with you and me.

I commend the Superintendent on his decision to pull the Open Enrollment agenda item because the schools rest within the community and we have an obligation to ensure that the decisions we make impact in between the walls and halls of the school buildings and that they have a positive impact outside of those halls and walls. I think that decision shows that we are trying to be one community and that we are working together. We're striving to become a community that says, *"I'm am a part ..I am a part and I am a part"* as opposed to *"I am a part but somebody else or community is not a part"*, so I'm excited about the opportunity that we have as a Board/Superintendent team to further collaborate and find the necessary steps to process strategies to ensure that every school provides a quality education every day. I'm looking forward to the marketing plans and all of the things we're getting ready to do as a team. Thank you.

Ms. Becki Couch said I'd like to remind everyone about the upcoming Budget Community meetings at 6:00 pm:

April 10 - Fletcher High School  
April 14 - Mandarin High School  
April 17 - Terry Parker High School

April 21 - First Coast High School  
April 22 - DuPont Middle School

We encourage the community to come out and provide feedback.

I'd like to thank our lobbyist, John Sullivan. I had the pleasure of rushing around to meet with seven legislators in one day, independently and to discuss legislation and how it would impact our district. Mr. Sullivan was able to coordinate those meetings for me. We had an opportunity to talk about House Bill 681 and Senate Bill 736 which is tied to Adam Putman - with PECO. One thing we stressed is that we like the Bill but would appreciate some language that shares the funding with traditional public schools and not exclusively towards charter schools.

If you go to our website: [www.duvalschools.org](http://www.duvalschools.org) and click on "School Board", you can then find our Legislative Agenda and we have updates that will tell you which bills relate to our agenda, particularly this item is on there. We encourage you to reach out to your state legislators and let them know you support our agenda and to say with that bill, we want to share the revenue and not give it exclusively to charter schools.

I want to thank the Duval Delegation for graciously accommodating me with the visits. We had some last minute changes and their clearing their calendars.

I'd like to thank the PTA for their job they do with the Superintendent's Leadership Academy. It's always a pleasure working with the students. I get one time a year and told the students earlier today, it gives me that "fix" of being able to teach for that hour. It's a pleasure to see the great minds that exist in our district, perhaps future School Board members.

Thank you to the Jacksonville Bar Association, particularly Ray Driver. They organized an essay contest for our students and the topic was "*With What I Learned in My Civics Class*" and "*Why We Live in the Best Country in the World*". We had several students from different schools submit essays. One of our students, Christina Lao, a 7th grader, won \$2,500. She was able to read her essay in front of a lot of people at the Courthouse Time Capsule event. She was able, thanks to Ms. Smith Juarez, put her essay into the Time Capsule. In 50 years, she'll be able to see that letter, once again. It was great to be included in this event. We do have other students whose essays are in the capsule, as well, and it's an exciting time because having one of our students showcased was great and she did an outstanding job!

We have several people participating from the district, particularly students, in *ED SPARK* which is part of *ONE SPARK* and that will be April 9-12 at the Wells Fargo building. We have the venture group of students which is the "food truck" project thanks to Andrew Post, the Chamber and Big Brothers/Big Sisters. They have been working together with our Career Academies that are working together to have this culminating project. I encourage you when you're out doing the *ONE SPARK* event, stop by and see them. Mamie Agnes Jones Elementary in my district is participating and they have submitted something to *ED SPARK*. Please check them out and give them your support; show up and give them words of encouragement which would be greatly appreciated.

Adjournment

ADJOURNMENT

Minutes:

The meeting adjourned at 8:51 p.m.

Isd

\_\_\_\_\_  
Superintendent

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman