



Duval County Public Schools

April 2, 2013, Regular Board Meeting

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

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

Call Meeting to Order

[CALL MEETING TO ORDER](#)

Minutes:

The serenade we just enjoyed was provided by Broadway Bound, and 18-member vocalist group at LaVilla School of the Arts.

These fantastic singers are a part of the school's award-winning vocal music department that works with soloists, ensembles and choruses led by teachers Shawn Pendry and Theresa Moreau.

Congratulations to them all for a job well done on your performance, tonight!

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Invocation

[INVOCATION](#)

Minutes:

Pastor Jay Stuckey
Macedonia Baptist Church

Pledge of Allegiance

[PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE](#)

Presentations

Board Members

[1. SCHOOL RECOGNITION - DISTRICT 6 - ORTEGA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL MUSEUM
MAGNET](#)

Minutes:

Principal Stephanie Shepard said how we are 1 of the 8 MSAP grant schools. We are the only Museum Magnet School in Duval County and the 11th in the nation.

Our curriculum consists of 4 quarterly units in each grade level K-5 that are tied directly to the Common Core Standards and the District Learning Schedule. The only difference is our curriculum has a focus on object based learning, visual learning strategies, and teaching students how to read objects, documents, images & photographs as if they were reading text.

Our students attend quarterly learning expeditions to local museums and complete their units with a quarterly exhibition, where we invite parents & community members and our students serve as docents.

The three students who shared their work were:

- Jaila Nalley, 2nd Grade, her museum unit was the rainforest, her animal was an Oropendola, an animal that lives in the rainforest, which is cousin to

the cow bird and eats fruit, seeds and insects.

- Kayla Kimball, 4th grade, her museum unit was on space, she talked about going to the Kennedy Space Center, seeing the command center and a real life space suit.

- Chandler Stiles, 5th grade, his museum unit was on renewable Resources, his performance piece was a replica of an egret based on a photo by John James Audubon, and he talked about all of the recyclable resources he used to make it.

Communications

[1. CONGRESSMAN ANDER CRENSHAW PRESENTS CONGRESSIONAL AWARDS](#)

Minutes:

- Six students are with us tonight who have each earned one of the nation's most prestigious honors – the Bronze Congressional Award. Four of these students currently attend Fletcher High School, while two graduated from Fletcher last year.

- Congressman Ander Crenshaw is here to present the United States Congress Award for Youth – which honors students for achieving their own challenging goals.

[2. PAXON "LIFE SMARTS" TEAM - STATE CHAMPIONS](#)

Minutes:

- LifeSmarts, dubbed the ultimate consumer challenge, is an education-based competition designed to improve the consumer and marketplace skills of teens in a fun and interesting way.

- A program of the National Consumers League founded in 2000, LifeSmarts' participants enjoy learning about consumer issues and how to become better consumers within the marketplace to keep the economy going.

- In the state championship held in February, our own Paxon School for Advanced Studies took the gold for the third consecutive year.

- Join me in congratulating the following LifeSmarts team members:

- o Steven Cotter, Team Captain

- o Emory Quinif
- o Alejandra Gil
- o Benjamin Jacqmein
- o Harrison Andrew

• Also with us tonight are Paxon Principal Royce Turner, LifeSmarts Coach Kathryn Loggie, and Assistant Coach Allan Andrew.

• Paxon's winning team will make its third consecutive trip to advance to the 2013 National LifeSmarts Championship on April 20-23 in Atlanta, Georgia. Good luck at the national competition!

3. LAKE SHORE MIDDLE SPECIAL OLYMPICS BASKETBALL TEAM - DIVISION STATE CHAMPIONS

Minutes:

• Hard work and perseverance are also traits of our next group of honorees – the Lake Shore Middle School Special Olympics Basketball team.

• This dynamic team of basketball stars won the gold medal in their 3-on-3 Junior Division 4 State Basketball Championship game.

• They competed against a very aggressive team from Escambia County, and walked away with the win and championship title.

• Congratulations to the following Lake Shore team members:

- o Caleb Ware
- o Breanna Friend
- o Jose Rodriguez
- o Dreshawn Sims
- o Dylan Floyd
- o Head Coach Jesse Rogers; and
- o Assistant Coach Rusty Mathews

4. PARENT INVOLVEMENT AWARD

Minutes:

• Since arriving four months ago, I have met with hundreds of stakeholders to discuss how we can best serve our students. Among those with the greatest interest and passion are parents.

• While we have a number of initiatives planned to increase parental involvement, the next award recognizes two of our schools who have

outstanding Parent Involvement programs, which help draw parents into learning activities with their children.

- Our elementary program winner is Dinsmore Elementary. Principal Christina Gribben, media specialist Tanya Locke, and volunteer liaison Elizabeth Mayernick are here to represent Dinsmore and its parent program, "Cookies, Cocoa, and the Common Core."
- Our secondary program winner is Matthew Gilbert Middle. Principal Evan Daniels, media specialist Patricia Leifer-Hayes (Leaf-er-Hayes), PTSA President Detrice (Duh-trees) Jackson, and volunteer liaison Carolyn Berry are representing Matthew Gilbert and its parent program, "Election: The American Experience."
- The parent involvement programs are evaluated on their:
 - o impact on family involvement;
 - o ability to be replicated;
 - o relationship to the goals and objectives of the school;
 - o participation of parents/families in the planning and implementation;
 - o uniqueness and innovation;
 - o impact on school improvement;
 - o method of funding; and
 - o partnerships.
- Both programs have shown great outreach and support to the parents and communities. Because of these efforts, parents have a better understanding of the daily school lives of their children.
- Congratulations to Dinsmore Elementary and Matthew Gilbert Middle schools for demonstrating excellence with parental involvement.

[5. SUPERINTENDENT'S LEADERSHIP ACADEMY](#)

Minutes:

- Our final presentation recognizes students who have completed the rigorous coursework required of the Superintendent's Leadership Academy.
- Developed by the Duval County Council of PTAs, this Academy develops student leaders and advocates for public education.
- These student leaders, selected from a list of criteria, spend one Saturday each month for three months, participating in trainings that include group and community building, business etiquette, lobbying protocol, and effective letter writing.

- The trainings lead up to a trip to the state capital, where students speak with members of the Duval Legislative Delegation about education.
- Overall, 42 students from all public high schools completed the Academy this year, which is a total of more than 100 students over the last two years. Would the Leadership Academy students please come forward to be recognized.

Comments From Audience

COMMENTS FROM AUDIENCE

Minutes:

Ms. Michelle Jacobs said I'm a parent of three kids in Duval County Public Schools and in a couple of years, they'll all be in high school, together; the biggest fear of our lives; and the Duval County Special Olympics Coordinator. That's why I'm here, tonight, and wanted to thank you for having us here with the Lake Shore Middle School Basketball team. What amazing individuals they are and they played a great tournament in Gainesville in February and some of the athletes you saw tonight are still playing in track and field. In 2012, we had more Duval County Public Schools students compete and win in more ways than you could possibly know with the Special Olympics in Duval County. Our program provides many opportunities to our schools and students. We offer year round sports training and competition even in the summer when school is out. Our programs are free for participants with intellectual disabilities and we pay for everything - the training, travel, equipment and uniforms. Our coaches are actually the teachers and volunteer their time for free so they're also role models and life changers. Our coaches are from Lake Shore Middle School, Palm Avenue Exceptional School, Alden Road Exceptional School, Kernan Middle School, Ed White High School, Merrill Road Elementary School, Pinedale Elementary School, Chaffee Trail Elementary School and Atlantic Coast High School. Atlantic Coast High School just started their program with us this past fall in 2012 with unified flag football. Special olympic unified sports is an inclusive sports program that combines approximately an equal number of individuals with intellectual disabilities and partners without intellectual disabilities on teams for training and competition. One proven result from unified sports is inclusion and Atlantic Coast High School is the perfect example. When they began unified flag football, the traditional students didn't interact with the special education students. Through equal playing field of flag football, they began seeing more interaction in the cafeteria, hallways and really brought the school together on the entire campus and now our summer games will be held at Atlantic Coast High School this Saturday, April 6 and you all invited to attend to watch these amazing students. We couldn't do it without the Duval County Public Schools so "thank you" for your support of the special olympics in Duval County.

Ms. Susan Santos said I'm a media specialist at Jefferson Davis Middle School and serve as co-president of Media Educators of Duval in Action, the professional organization for media specialists for Duval County schools. One of our School Board members responded to my email about funding media specialists fulltime saying she wants, "*the*

most efficient and effective deployment of resources for our students". I know we can all say this is what we want for our schools and students, so I ask you, "*Which employee can reach and teach all the students at a school? - The school school library media specialist can.*" In the Superintendent's Strategic Plan under the goal "to develop great educators and leaders, Strategy 1 states: "Provide teachers and students with tools and resources necessary to meet the demands of the Common Core standards and students individual needs." We need to prepare our students for the 21st century skills and jobs and who better to teach students and collaborate with teachers than the media specialist? Another goal in the Strategic Plan is to ensure effective, equitable and efficient use of resources. Strategy 2 reads: "Distribute district wide programs and resources in an equitable manner if we're to have an equitable distribution of programs and resources." Why are there some schools with full-time media specialists and too many others with half-time media specialists or even none? Why is there an elementary school where the trained and certified school library media specialist presents the lessons to students the 2 1/2 days shes at the school and a clerk delivers the lessons the other 2 1/2 days? Those students never see the trained and certified media specialist on those 2/1/2 days? Why does one of our college preparatory magnet schools not even have a media specialist? This is not equitable nor effective or efficient. Strategy 3 under the same goal is to deploy information technology that supports the academic needs of all students, teachers and staff - that's what we do. Teaching information and technology is the main role of the school library media specialist. So, please push for full time funding to provide a media specialist in every school in Duval County. We teach 21st century skills and also work to instill a love of reading in our students for success in life. Thank you.

Ms. Gail Cade said I'm not sure if this is the right platform, but my concern is that I'm an ESE mother. I have two girls still in Duval County Public Schools - one in high school and one in middle school. Both of them must take intensive math. My concern is that the math classes are simply shadowing the regular math classes they have to take so they're actually take two of the same math classes and I don't understand how this is going to benefit them if they're not given strategies in the intensive math classes that could help them in their regular math classes. I'm very concerned about how things are going to change and improve the ESE classes and placing them in the right programs. I'm also a substitute teacher and I sub primarily ESE and I see different needs in these students. I'm curious as to how these needs will be met.

Dr. Vitti thanked the parent for coming out, tonight, and behind you is Mr. Fred Heid, Chief Academic Officer, and he can get into the details of your child's particular situation. Overall as a district, we are required by state mandate that if a student is considered Level 1 in reading or math, they must take a remediation class at the secondary level. At the elementary level, they must be provided with additional support during the school day. As you mentioned the intensive class, is really building on the skills that are shown as deficiency so that when you take the regular class, they coincide and are working together to move the student to a greater level of proficiency. That is what we're doing now with our curriculum guides and what we'll be doing differently as we go into next year. If I heard you correctly, one issue is that the classes are the same or similar and that is something we've seen in some instances, so the curriculum will be different, the strategies will be different and most importantly, what we'll have are the intensive teachers working with the core teachers. They'll plan

together so they're not duplicating each other and work on specific skills that are deficient. Mr. Heid will speak with you in more detail about your child's particular situation.

Mr. Stanley Scott said I'm glad to be back as I've been away for about two years. Spoke about the African American Economic Recovery Think Tank...the education method that you're using must change. As I look around the country and talk with major education institutions, Stanford and Yale, we've begun to see the same thing with education. It used to be when I was coming up, the student went off to college and 90% of the time, they did pretty good in their life and career. But, today, we see many college students being lazy, talking about no jobs and not applying themselves. That is part of the parent's fault, as well, and by buying materialistic things they can find under the sun instead of the most basic needs for their child. We find that to be because many of them did not do chores when they were coming up. That was a known factor in my family that made us responsible at an early age. I'm also here to support Mr. Exson, my mentor and our Civil Rights Activists throughout the country. We are very concerned about the local form of school which most are African American students. We do not see the participation from the community, from the parents, from the business leaders, from the religious community. The schools must also to PR (public relations) work because with so much going on with technology, it affecting our kids and we must find a way to get the parents and community involved if we're going to change this paradigm because our country, in the condition it's in, and education in the world and we must import the intelligence which is appalling. If we continue to do this, not only the low performing schools will be behind, but we'll all be behind. We will not have control of this country any more. We must take a very serious look and change the shift on education very soon. If not, we will not be able to compete in the 21st century. I'd like to say that Duval County is in much better shape as far as Fulton County is concerned, DeKalb and Clay County. Sometimes, it's good to leave and go away and look from the outside in because Jacksonville is doing pretty good and I'm proud of you. Have a good day and I support the new Superintendent.

Ms. Lucretia D. Miller said I have the honor of representing our district as a Teacher of the Year four years ago and I'm a school librarian. Each April, I come to you to wish you a very happy National School Library Month and to raise your awareness for our need for full time certificated library media specialist in each and every school. The past four years, Duval County has only funded school librarians for 2.5 days for elementary school and none at all in secondary schools. I've spoken to you all on the research and data that shows the effect of a quality school library program on student achievement. I've spoken to you on the misunderstood and changing role that we have especially now with technology how that is changing our role. I've spoken with you on our instruction of 21st century skills and this year, I would like to speak with you on our inter connection in support of the common core state standards. As school librarians, we are information specialists. Our masters' degrees are in library information science. We teach information literacy which is knowing when you need information, how to access it, how to analyze and evaluate it and how to use it to turn it into knowledge. We also provide information to students, staff, community and parents in all formats both digital and temps. The Common Core State Standards are heavily based on information literacy. In fact, the word "information" appears 243 times in LA Common Core State Standards and to put that into context for you, the word "technology" only appears 10 times; 10/1 ratio. A few examples of the Anchor

Standards for what school librarians are experts include: integrating knowledge and ideas and analyzing and evaluating content, read and comprehend complex literary and informational texts, conduct short and sustained research projects based on focused questions, gather relevant information from multiple print and digital sources; assess the credibility and accuracy each source and integrate the information while avoiding plagiarism, draw evidence from literary or informational text to support analysis, reflection and research, participate in a range of conversations and collaborations, integrate and evaluate information presented in diverse media and formats, make strategic use of digital media and visual displays of data to express information and enhance understanding. This is what school librarians do on a daily basis, instructionally, and yet, somehow, you do not fund us. Personally, I am paid through a grant and I'm in a middle/high school. If you truly want our students to "inspired and prepared" for success in college, a career and life, as the Strategic Plan states, then surely you would want to fund full time for the instructional partner that specializes in those skills necessary for that vision and that would be your school library media specialist. Thank you.

Ms. Grymes recognized Ms. Miller as one of the teachers at Darnell-Cookman for the Forensic App. Ms. Miller said they will find out Friday how they did.

Mr. Edward Exson said while attending the Strategic Plan at Andrew Jackson High School recently, I was gratified to see that Superintendent Vitti make his presentation. He had a positive vision, sincere passion, knowledge, interesting, engaging and full enthusiasm. He's ambitious, capable of making decisions and totally confident that with his plan, all children in the district could learn and progress. Afterwards, I congratulated him on what I heard. To your credit, I congratulate you for selecting him. What I didn't hear or see were parents in numbers that would become involved in their child's education, nor preachers whom I alleged have "dumb down" both parents and children as exhibited in the precipitous indictments of black leaders. Moreover, my greatest fear is the district's Strategic Plan with the combined confederates, Jacksonville Civic Council and the Jacksonville Chamber, will willfully engage to abstract funds from our public schools and convert them to charter schools. As I see the impact of an atomic blast on one is inconsequential to one that is uneducated and ignorant. With such ignorance, it would take a mighty plenty of euphoria and bling bling so that they can bliss out, in a world of technology not knowing they are already dead. Courage enables me to speak to the evils of social promotions. When I finished high school, I probably with a little fudging, had learned what my seventh grade, twelve year old grandson has already learned in school. Am I ashamed or embarrassed in saying that? No, I deeply regret that it is true and with my old age, I constantly try to improve. With the infamous scandal in Atlanta Georgia's schools test scores of cheating, there is irretrievable and irreparable damage to so many students, mostly of color, that were already in a tailspin. So, what was the cheating for? Greed - to buy stuff for the ones involved? The indictment comes in a wave of so many other blacks in positions, i.e politicians, preachers, union heads and others acting foolish and stupidly committing despicable crimes mostly for greed. Often times, taking the proceeds to compete with other fools to just buy stuff. Is there any black that can come forth and save our race or are truly capable of changing our direction from total destruction? I grieve!

Ms. Brittany Beans, student, 11th grade at Paxon School for Advanced Studies and this evening I'm representing the organization One by One. On behalf of the hundreds of students involved in One by One, thank you for keeping a listening ear in our public schools. We, the students, have identified the priority of developing the whole student as most important. Developing the whole child in our mind includes but is not limited to finding different ways to evaluate students that are not as final as testing such as standardized tests from the county. I believe these exams should have a significantly less impact on a child's grade than they currently do. One test should not determine with such finality a student's grade or pass a bill status for an entire academic year of hard work. This issue is so pertinent that over 200 students from Paxon School for Advanced Studies has pledged to support our cause. On behalf of all the One by One supporters and especially the youth in Duval County, thank you for your service and for your active concern in our education.

Ms. Katherine Rawlins said I'm president of the Florida Branch of the International Dyslexic Association on behalf of which I'm speaking, tonight. We are here to endorse or support contract for Hope Haven to get the funds to identify and work with the neediest children that we have. I've been working for over 30 years with students in the area of reading issues, dyslexic and language processing issues. I created programs in Duval County in the early to mid 1980's assisting children being staffed out of the ESE department because they were identified and given the proper intervention that needs to happen. We need that from Hope Haven. These are our brightest children and intellectually gifted students who have a blocked area in learning to read. Hope Haven can work with these students and identify them early, catch them in their window of opportunity so that we don't have to continuously intervene over and over, again. We'll see these children become our successes. A parent commented earlier this evening regarding math which addresses the same component. We must teach them strategies and get out of the box of teaching the same old way and you will have your success stories which will come from the students you least expect. They are your Richard Bransons. Let's get them early in their window of opportunity and I thank you and ask for your support.

Ms. Ebony Johnson said I am a graduate of William Raines High School. Currently, I case manage homeless women and families that the Community Connection from Jacksonville. I graduated from the University of North Florida and I want you to know that I am appreciative of the Strategic Plan. It is so similar to the Jacksonville Public Education Fund's Community Agreement. I felt that at the first time in my life I had a voice because I participated in JPEF's Community Agreement and I saw how much it was similar. I remember in high school being kicked out of class, not because I was disturbing the class, not because I was a disruptive student, but because I wanted to learn and I was challenging my teacher to teach and she didn't like it. So, I would get kicked out of class every day. I feel that in public schools, it should not only be a student's voice, but it should be a public voice when you are making decisions about our public schools. It is our public schools whether we are in schools or have children in schools or not. I really did appreciate the Strategic Plan and both this and the Community Agreement gave me hope that things will change. I know for Jacksonville to move in the direction, we must begin with education, first. If we change education, we can change the entire atmosphere of Jacksonville, in my opinion. I chose to use my talents here in Jacksonville and to give back to my community because I feel like that finally, the community and the Duval County Public Schools finally gave back to me

and I thank you for coming out with the Strategic Plan. It's a great idea and I'm very excited about the things to come. Thank you so much.

Dr. Scott Sowell echoed some of the comments from the last speaker. As you may know, the first One by One conversation took place in the fall of 2001 with DCPS teachers and coordinated by the Jacksonville Public Education Fund. Since then, more than 2,000 people have been engaging with the One by One process. I, myself, have participated in these conversations as well as the meetings and the many events that have followed and I have been simultaneously personally fulfilled and it's been a dramatically productive process. We're now seeing the impact of this Community Agreement has had on the new Strategic Plan before the Board, tonight. So, on behalf of the educators in Duval County, thank you for listening to the voice of the community and we look forward to working with you to make our school system great. On a side note, I would like to voice my support for the media specialists. In my time at Darnell Cookman, I have seen a phenomenal cultural shift and the way we approach research in writing solely due to the fact of Lucretia Miller being at our school. It is surprising and I just didn't realize until she stood up here, she is paid for by a grant which means she will not be with us forever and that is frightening to me. As a personal testament, I can say that we have had a great benefit of her experience, taking us from a library to informational literacy. Thank you.

Ms. Susan Greene said I'm a proud of three Duval County Public Schools graduates and one daughter-in-law and it's been my good fortune to be a volunteer, advocate and celebrant of Duval County Public Schools for 25 years, starting out as a PTA member, and most recently involved in the JPEF One by One initiative. This was a most exhilarating process to sit with people throughout the community and discuss and discover what the priorities are for our school system. It was also very exhilarating to have Dr. Vitti join us in the process of the One by One initiative. I want to thank and congratulate you for your selection of Dr. Vitti. We find ourselves at this time with thousands of signatures on our Community Agreement saying what we think the priorities and our vision is for our school children to be successful in school and in life and it's very much in alignment with the work you have done. I want to thank you on behalf of One by One participants and delegates for the very high level of transparency and community involvement that you displayed in creating the Strategic Plan. I can say that the enthusiasm, excitement and momentum to support public schools in Jacksonville, Florida is very high and we stand ready to help you implement the goals. We're very eager to see you put this into action. Thank you very much.

Mr. Antonio Gansley-Ortiz said I'd like to thank you for the time I have to speak and I'd like to thank the Chair and the Board specifically for working with the Jacksonville Public Education Fund; for working with the One by One campaign which I'm a part of. I'm a Fletcher High School student and I'm a junior. The Strategic Plan which is being put forth here, today, will directly impact me during the upcoming year and so I want to voice my opinion on that. As students, we decided that the most important thing for us was a well-rounded education which is something you hear about all of the time and people say it's a great thing but we don't really know what that means. I believe it means support for the music programs, for the fine arts programs, for the performing arts programs, mock trial teams and as we move forward, I would like to see the Board and the Superintendent focus on these and make these more accessible

to more people and more impactful. Even if you just reach a couple of students, those students will reach out to others and as you heard from the student from Paxon School for Advanced Studies, they have hundreds of signatures because one student affects another and that continues. I'm also in support of extending the school day which I know is something that has been discussed. I feel it will offer us more time for our classes, specifically, our seventh period which right now I feel is almost a disadvantage in my Chemistry course because we can never finish the lab because we have such a short time. I'm personally in favor of extending the school day. I thank you for listening to the community and coming back with such an amazing Strategic Plan which will really benefit our schools.

Mr. Jeff Smith said thank you so much for all your work on the Strategic Plan. I come to you as a member of the Cathedral Arts Project, an associate director, a parent of three small children who enjoy attending public school every day and as a member of ACE (Arts for a Complete Education). I also had the opportunity to participate in the One by One campaign which was a terrific campaign and I thank you for your support and listening to the community. I know much work went into the Strategic Plan as it is not small feat to put something like that, together. So, thank you to all of the district administrators and others who were involved in the project who might not be here, tonight. Thank you. I want to specifically thank you for the priority for educating the whole child and expanding the arts programs within the district. I will offer the support of ACE, cultural infusion and all of the arts organizations within the area in supporting this initiative and supporting the work of the school district in providing expanded arts opportunities. Together, we can make sure our students needs are met and that we are educating the whole child and moving this district from "good" to "great". I'd like to invite all of you and you should have received a postcard in the mail to our Showcase of Performing Arts. We are celebrating our 20th anniversary and we have 50,000 students we've educated in visual and performing arts with our twice weekly after school programs and that will be held April 27-28 at UNF, at LaZier Performance Hall at 1:00 and 4:30 pm on Saturday; 2:00 pm on Sunday. We provide programs to 1,800 students during the school year and summer at 28 schools and centers. So, we're very proud to partner with the school district and look forward to doing that in the future. As a parent and community member, thank you, again for all the work that you do. It's not an easy task and I thank you.

Mr. Travis Pinkney said I am representing the One by One campaign. This has given me an awesome opportunity to share my story. I understand that personal narratives can have a great impact on our public schools. I've had many young men from our community and my church use my story as motivation for them. You can look at the young man who grew up in a rough neighborhood and carried buckets of water to take a bath with but today, I'm a 25 year old black male school counselor. Those stories need to be told and the One by One campaign has created a platform, a vehicle, through images with the Cummer Arts Museum exhibit in which I was featured in and a documentary. So, this definitely ties into what Dr. Vitti was talking about sports advocating for the arts which is something I really advocate for, myself. I want to thank you for combining and unifying the One by One program and you'll see the progress that can be told through a new narrative. I see a new narrative for Duval County Public Schools really unfolding and the best way I can describe it is how the One by One program allows different community stakeholders from various demographics to write into this book with blank pages. The title is "The New Narrative

on Education in Duval County Public Schools" and everyone has an opportunity to be a coauthor in that process. We definitely thank you.

Mr. Stuart Subjinski said I wanted to thank you for really listening to the One by One community. I'm a student at Fletcher High School, a senior, and I took part in the One by One movement. We had 2,200 signatures on our One by One Community Agreement and I greatly appreciate you incorporating a lot of that into your Strategic Plan. Thank you for that. As a student, one of the things we thought was the most important was building the whole child and really educating every part of good character traits - between the arts and extra curricular...they all go hand-in-hand with the course work to make a well-rounded student. I'd like to urge you to keep the students involved and updated with the changes you make. I know there's only about 3-4 of us here, tonight, but at these meetings, at least the ones I've been to, there have been 30-40 kids in these rooms and they're all very interested with what is going on. Please keep us updated and let us know any changes. It would be greatly appreciated. One shout out to Dr. Vitti - I see him all over the place; at least once or twice a month and I really appreciate him being involved in what we're doing in public education. Thank you very much.

Comments From Parent Organizations

[COMMENTS FROM PARENT ORGANIZATIONS](#)

Minutes:

District Advisory Council - Ms. Sabrina Zinamon, Vice Chair:

The District Advisory Council met Monday, March 18, 2013, @ 6 pm (Vice Chair Sabrina Zinamon facilitated because Chair Juanita Franklin-Banton still under the doctor's care.)

-Guests for the meeting:

Dr. Nikolai Vitti – Superintendent
Wendy Lahockey – Chief of Staff
Honorable Cheryl Grimes - School Board Member
Doug Ayers - Facilities
Niki Micheau – School Improvement, Supervisor
Area Concerns – DAC Members
Superintendent Vitti/Wendy Lahockey

-Staff allocation, will revisit in order to sustain funding, goal is to be more efficient

-Judd Strickland is now over School Safety

-Concerning administration changes, the superintendent reviews every situation closely and makes his decisions based on all the information provided

-Chief of Staff/Wendy LaHockey answered numerous questions regarding the plan to clarify positions and proposals

-Honorable Cheryl Grymes – School Board Member

-The strategic plan for the district was made public
-Superintendent proposed a staffing allocation plan to include at least one assistant principal at each school, one In School Suspension teacher at each school, one Dean of Discipline at each middle and high school, a math and reading coach at each school, a Graduation Coach at each high school and a Media Specialist at each school. This proposal is to reduce the student to guidance ratio, also have music/art at each school. It also requests to restore Magnet Transportation. The goal for this is to reduce walking to school from 2 miles to 1.5 miles.

Doug Ayers – Facilities Director

-Reviewed the utilization program
-Current focus is the summer transportation and provisions for students
-Preparing for a flawless open for next school year
-Budget alignment

Niki Micheau – Office of School Improvement

-Inform DAC, recognition funds have been allocated for schools that improved a letter grade

Next meeting – Monday, April 22, 2013 @ 6 p.m.

No Reports from PTA nor Title I, Parent Advisory Council

Comments From Employee Organizations

[COMMENTS FROM EMPLOYEE ORGANIZATIONS](#)

Minutes: *No report from Employee Organizations this evening.*

Chairman's Report

[CHAIRMAN'S REPORT](#)

Minutes:

The Board has been extremely active the past few months. Tonight, you will hear us

talk about the revised Strategic Plan which included a revision to the Vision, Mission Statement, Core Values and various pieces to the Strategic Plan. We have been out front with this with the Superintendent and we truly appreciate all the input you have given us. I saw the Board really sit back and listen and it is extremely appreciative.

We have already started our Budget process. Our next Budget meeting will be April 18, 11:00-1:30 pm in Conference Room 613. We have had several meetings and Board members are asking many questions and the Superintendent and staff are providing various recommendations. I hope you'll attend. We're still waiting on the Legislative process to finish up as money looks somewhat better this year than it has in several years and I believe you'll see that reflective in this year's budget.

The Board will meet at the end of the month regarding the Superintendent's Evaluation. Our goal is once we have this evaluation which will occur in June, then we will be on a yearly basis which informally happens six months in and then twelve months from that time. We will work through it as it is a very comprehensive evaluation tool.

Many of the Board members have been very active in the Legislative process through personal relationships, phone calls or actually traveling to Tallahassee. We've made a huge impact and the Legislative process is always a moving target and can change from day to day. We've made our Legislators and key stakeholders very aware of what we are concerned about.

Superintendent's Report

[SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT](#)

Minutes:

Tonight, the plan is to use my comments to focus on the Legislative front. As you mentioned the Board, in general, and I have been engaged in Tallahassee. Several of us went last week and we've been making phone calls trying to make sure that what happens in Tallahassee benefits our children here in Jacksonville. The Board and I decided early on, before the Legislative process began, to be more focused going into this Legislative session to take a few priority issues and narrow them down and focus on those areas so that we're not too widespread and we see impact as far as lobbying efforts this year. At this point, based on the current bills that are proposed, it looks like we should have a successful Legislative session in multiple fronts. *(See attached sheet - Legislative Updates).*

Reports

Approval of Agenda

[APPROVAL OF THE APRIL 2, 2013, AGENDA](#)

Motions:

That the Duval County School Board approve the April 2, 2013, Agenda as submitted on March 26, 2013, with the following changes:

1. Human Resource Services - Staffing - - PASS
Item 6 - Human Resource Services
Employee Transactions - Revised
Attachment

Vote Results

Motion: Paula Wright

Second: Connie Hall

Rebecca Couch - Aye

Jason Fischer - Aye

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:

January 7, 2013 - Subcommittee Meeting- Board Auditor Duties
 January 18, 2013 - Chairman/Vice Chair Meeting
 March 4, 2013 - Subcommittee Meeting - Communication Strategies
 March 5, 2013 - Regular Board Meeting
 March 6, 2013 - Board Workshsop - Superintendent Evaluation Format
 March 6, 2013 - Board Workshop
 March 12, 2013 - Joint Meeting with DCBS and City Council
 March 14, 2013 - Committee Meeting
 March 15, 2013 - Board Workshop
 March 18, 2013 - Board Workshop

Motions:

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

- January 7, 2013 - Subcommittee Meeting - Board Auditor Duties
- January 18, 2013 - Chairman - Vice-Chairman Meeting
- March 4, 2013 - Subcommittee Meeting - Communication Strategies
- March 5, 2013 - Regular Board Meeting - PASS
- March 6, 2013 - Board Workshop - Superintendent Evaluation Format
- March 6, 2013 - Board Workshop
- March 12, 2013 - Joint Meeting - DCSB - City Council
- March 14, 2013 - Committee Meeting
- March 15, 2013 - Board Workshop
- March 18, 2013 - Board Workshop

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

Approval of Consent Agenda

[APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA](#)

Motions:	
That the Duval County School Board approve the Consent Agenda.	- PASS
Vote Results	
Motion: Cheryl Grymes	
Second: Rebecca Couch	
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. COURSE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR APPROVAL TO THE DISTRICT COURSE TITLE FILE](#)

Attachment: [February 2013 BENEFITS AND CHALLENGES.pdf](#)

Attachment: [DCPS Course Title File Additions_Feb2013b.pdf](#)

[2. MASTER INSERVICE PLAN 2010-2014- ADDITIONAL COMPONENT](#)

[3. AGREEMENT WITH VSCHOOLZ, NATIONAL NETWORK OF DIGITAL SCHOOLS \(NND\), CALVERT, AVENTA, FLORIDA VIRTUAL SCHOOL \(FLVS\), AND UNIVERSITY](#)

[OF FLORIDA](#)

[4. CONTRACT FOR DIRECT SERVICES WITH HOPE HAVEN CHILDREN'S & FAMILY CLINIC](#)

School Choice and Pupil Assignment

[5. FIRST AMENDMENT TO THE TIGER ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL CONTRACT \(AMENDING GRADE LEVELS TO K-5 AND ENROLLMENT\); AND APPROVAL OF THE ARTICULATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN TIGER ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL AND KIPP IMPACT CHARTER MIDDLE SCHOOL](#)

Human Resource Services - Staffing

[6. HUMAN RESOURCE SERVICES EMPLOYEE TRANSACTIONS](#)

Attachment: [HRS Attach 04-02-13 TRANS \(3\).pdf](#)

Human Resource Services - Professional Standards

[7. SUSPENSION WITHOUT PAY - TERESA FLORES](#)

[10. SUSPENSION WITHOUT PAY AND TERMINATION - BEVERLY HOWARD](#)

[8. REASSIGNMENT TO ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL AND PLACEMENT ON THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL SALARY SCHEDULE - RHONDA MOTLEY](#)

[9. SUSPENSION WITHOUT PAY - LAURA CRUSE](#)

[11. SUSPENSION WITHOUT PAY AND TERMINATION - DONNA JAMES](#)

Administration and Business Services - Budget and Financial

[12. MONTHLY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS](#)

Attachment: [January 2013 Board Statement Worksheet.pdf](#)

Attachment: [January 2013 Monthly Financial Statement Narrative.pdf](#)

Attachment: [Final Jan 2013 Cash and Invest.pdf](#)

[13. ADOPTION OF BUDGET RESOLUTIONS February 28, 2013](#)

Attachment: [April Meeting attachment.pdf](#)

Operations - Facilities Project Design, Construction and Maintenance

[15. FIRE ALARM REPLACEMENT AT FT. CAROLINE MIDDLE SCHOOL NO. 238/OFDC-ITB-010-13/DCPS PROJECT M-83970: CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT AWARD](#)

[16. SECURITY SYSTEMS UPGRADES AT THOMAS JEFFERSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL](#)

[NO. 48/DCSB PROJECT NO. M-83980/OFDC-ITB-013-13: CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT AWARD](#)

[17. DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS AT SOUTHSIDE ESTATES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NO. 76/DCSB PROJECT NO. M83810/OFDC-ITB-014-13: CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT AWARD](#)

[18. CHANGE ORDER REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY 2013](#)

Attachment: [Apr 2 2013 Agenda Change Order Report Chart for Mar 2013 02 18 13.pdf](#)

[19. PERIODIC REPORT OF SUBSTANTIAL COMPLETIONS, FINAL INSPECTIONS AN ORIGINAL CONTRACT AMOUNTS ON MAJOR MAINTENANCE AND MINOR CAPITAL PROJECTS UNDER \\$1,000,000](#)

Attachment: [April 2 2013 Agenda Item CSC-CFI-Cont Sav on on Proj Chart for Mar 2013 02 25 13 \(2\).pdf](#)

[20. DISTRICTWIDE ENERGY/LIGHTING RETROFITS AT VARIOUS SCHOOLS GROUP 3 PHASE 2-3 AND GROUP 2 PHASE 1-3/DCSB PROJECT NO. M-83750:CHANGE ORDER APPROVALS TO CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTS WITH A.E.C. ELECTRICAL CONTRACTING, INC. AND T & M ELECTRIC OF CLAY COUNTY, INC](#)

[21. BUILDING ADDITION AT DOUGLAS ANDERSON SCHOOL OF THE ARTS NO. 107: SELECTION OF DESIGN PROFESSIONAL CONSULTANT SERVICES/DCSB PROJECT NO. C-91590/OFDC-RFQ-003-13](#)

Operations - Purchasing and Logistics

[22. CARPENTRY AND REPAIR SERVICES, RFP NO. 03-13/LG](#)

[23. SURPLUS PROPERTY RETIREMENT REPORT](#)

Attachment: [07April13FY.pdf](#)

Attachment: [06April13FY.pdf](#)

Attachment: [05April13FY.pdf](#)

Attachment: [Retirement Order Highlight outline April 2013.pdf](#)

Attachment: [ROSUM APR FY13.pdf](#)

Attachment: [RORET FY13 APRIL.pdf](#)

Attachment: [04April 13FY.pdf](#)

Discussion

Operations - Facilities Project Design, Construction and Maintenance

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

Attachment: [Board Approval - Renewals 4-2013.pdf](#)

Minutes:

Board Member Becki Couch state:

"I have asked that this item be placed on the discussion list so that I can disclose that this matter could inure to the benefit of my husband if his company enters into a subcontract with any of these prequalified contractors.

I will abstain from the vote to be taken for this matter, and I will file the appropriate form to be placed on record with the minutes of this meeting."

Motions:

That the Duval County School Board approve the attached list(s) of - PASS prequalified contractors.

Vote Results

Motion: Jason Fischer

Second: Cheryl Grymes

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

General

[24. PUBLIC HEARING AND VOTE: STRATEGIC PLAN POLICIES](#)

Attachment: [1 21 STRATEGIC PLANNING POLICY redline.pdf](#)

Attachment: [Strategic Plan FINAL.pdf](#)

Attachment: [1 10 CORE VALUES redline \(2\).pdf](#)

Attachment: [1 20 Goals and Strategies Redline.pdf](#)

Attachment: [1 01 DISTRICT VISION AND MISSION Redline.pdf](#)

Minutes:

The Chairman declared the public hearing open on the following item:

Strategic Plan Policies

The Chairman asked if anyone in the audience wished to speak to the Board regarding this item; there being no response, the Chairman closed the public hearing.

Speaker:

Ms. Cheryl Grymes, Board Member

Motions:

That the Duval County School Board conduct a public hearing and approve the proposed Vision, Mission, Core Values, Goals, and Strategies of the Strategic Plan, and approve the attached District Philosophy policies: - PASS
1.01 - District Vision and Mission, 1.10 - Core Values, 1.20 - Goals and Strategies, and 1.21 - Strategic Planning Policy.

Vote Results

Motion: Paula Wright

Second: Rebecca Couch

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: *No Board Travel this evening.*

Superintendent's Travel

SUPERINTENDENT'S TRAVEL

Minutes:

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

March 11, 2013 - Meeting with Education Commissioner Tony Bennett regarding Common Core Transition and Alignment - Tampa, FL

Motions:

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

- March 11, 2013 - Meeting with Commissioner Tony Bennett regarding Common Core transition and alignment - Tampa, FL - PASS

Vote Results

Motion: Cheryl Grymes

Second: Paula Wright

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. Paula Wright said I think we have Early College at Englewood and Sandalwood High Schools, too. I was thinking that I was in the High School Acceleration Office at the time and we made certain there was one in each quadrant in the city so we would have Early College in four areas in the city.

I'd like to talk about Vivian Bradford who is a guidance counselor at Jean Ribault Senior High School. I don't know if many of you saw the documentary, the "two minutes of fame" from Ms. Bradford...I happened to have the television on at 4:30 am and I heard her. It was because of her efforts to recognize that there are some students whose financial ability would not have luggage when they enter college. So, she took it upon herself and raised funds to provide luggage for 100 students at the school. She has been able to give 50 sets away because these students are already recipients of college scholarships...and, we're talking about the whole child...that's recognizing various and diverse needs of children because it's not just about their academic ability but it's also about the, social and financial and those are challenges for students. So when we talk about the "whole child", it's not just arts, physical education, academics or different levels of science or math courses but it's also about how can we better prepare them so that when they walk through those doors, they are prepared for college. I just wanted to share that success story and to publicly thank Vivian Bradford.

I want to keep it on the "whole child" theme, I'd like to thank Dr. Vitti for his testimony and his commitment to education by going to Tallahassee and talking about Multiple Pathways. That's critical, vital and necessary and is needed for all of our children to have various pathways. So, when we look at what we're doing as a Board, district and Superintendent, it's when we come together and despite challenges, focus on what resources do we have and how we can leverage those resources for the benefit of our children? That's what it's all about - pulling all of those pieces, together, when we talk about the "whole child", that we look at every aspect that we can.

Stanley Scott paid us a compliment, tonight. He was our number one critic but it goes to testament and he said it, himself, tonight, and Stanley and I know each other so it's all good, sometimes when you step outside of your environment and you see just how good and just how maybe not so good others are doing, your home sometimes looks a whole lot better. We need to send more people on vacation; it's on Dr. Vitti. It's also a testament to professional development which is my point. When we provide information in different ways to different people, then they can begin to see where they are and it makes all of us stronger and more supportive and more committed and more understanding; not as a Board but as a district.

Ms. Ashley Smith Juarez said I want to thank members of the One by One campaign who came out this evening to talk about the process. I was fortunate to be involved

with initiative from the initial stages in thinking about an art exhibit and how to use art to speak and motivate the public to become involved and engaged in this process. I can truly say as someone who sat on the Steering Committee and was a voluntary facilitator for the community conversations that happened and who was a participant in the Community Congress that they held. This was truly an effort not to come to the community with an agenda but to build a platform for the community agenda. So, I want to thank Jacksonville Public Education Fund and thank everyone involved in that effort and who truly had a voice in crafting and formed the Strategic Plan that we formally adopted, by vote, tonight and we intend for each and every community member to adopt, themselves as a piece of the work that they can contribute and be a part of. You have heard several times from folks about this issue of the whole child and Travis Pinkney who was here this evening, received his degree while the One by One campaign was going on and now, he's a guidance counselor at Andrew Jackson High School, is certainly a testament to that. He has worked with a group of young men through this process to create music that conveys the message and I'd like to congratulate him for both his work in the district and his work with these students. Another piece of that "whole child" development is health. The social, emotional and physical health of our students. Recently, I attended the School Health Advisory Council (SHAC) meeting. This is a group of district employees and community partners who come together to look at policy and practice around the health and well being of our students. I made notes of all of their areas so that I did not miss one: health education, healthy school nutrition, physical education, school health services, guidance counseling, social service, healthy school environments, staff wellness and family and community involvement. So, it truly spans not just services to students but services to the district staff and community around health and wellness. I want to thank all of those community members who have been involved in that work with us as a district..

I'd like to thank Mr. Jose DeLeon who hosted me this morning in his classroom at Englewood High School. It was 7:30 am, second day after Spring Break, and his geometry students were alert and rattling off their perimeters, areas and formulas and were engaged working together. He was a tremendous facilitator in that work and so I appreciate his hosting me and all of the great work ongoing at Englewood High School. Thank you.

Ms. Cheryl Grymes said I'd like to recognize Teach for America and the fact that they have lay teachers. They gave me a class at Terry Parker High School and, of course, not being a teacher, it was pretty scary walking into a class of juniors who were very smart. It was alot of fun and I appreciate the fact that they offered this opportunity to have different people come in and teach. It's always a great experience to be in a classroom. We are a city of bridges and I think the collaboration and the bridging that is happening around our community and city and it's very exciting. We had a great joint meeting with City Council as we have common issues and concerns. We had a good trip to Tallahassee meeting our legislators and I feel they truly want to do what is best for our public schools. It's great having a Superintendent who has relationships all around the state that can offer another bridge for us. I feel this is a time where our community is collaborating to do all of the right things for our kids and there's much hard work ahead. We are all committed and we look forward to the future. I thank my fellow Board members and the Superintendent.

Mr. Jason Fischer said I'd like to thank the Jacksonville Education Public Fund as many spoke this evening saying that this was an avenue for them to have their voice heard and how appreciative they were that the School Board listened in adopting the Strategic Plan. I wanted to thank the Chairwoman in the audience the Executive Director - thank you for your leadership and for being such a strong partner with the district in facilitating the community conversations. The Superintendent is well respected in Tallahassee and many legislators were impressed with your testimony and had great things to say about you. I am proud that with the budget process, even though we haven't made all of our decisions, yet, as to how it will turn out, that we've committed to funding magnet school transportation, an important issue in our district, for choice and students getting a better education.

Dr. Connie Hall said as you already know, our schools have geared up, again, from Spring Break and I certainly want to wish our teachers and staff a welcome back and hope they had a productive time off...and, really geared up to sharpen those skills and focus on the last leg of the school year. April is the kick off for the assessment month. During the next few weeks, we'll be in our testing mode with FCAT. Following that,, we'll have our EOC's (End of Course) and AP (Advanced Placement) exams and I really want to wish our students in our schools, success as we move into that mode of assessment. For our teachers and staff, I know the work is challenging and somewhat difficult each and every day as you face your students in your classrooms...thank you for what you do and thank you for what you will continue to do. Students, make sure that you focus, follow directions, and do your very best. Thank you.

Ms. Becki Couch said I had the honor of touring Venetia Elementary School, today, with the First Lady of Florida, Ann Scott and she read to several students and had conversations about the state and what her role is as the Governor's wife. I really appreciate her interest in our students. I'd like to reiterate some of the comments previously mentioned: the joint meeting with City Council was a very productive meeting and I truly appreciate the collaboration that is now taking place between this side of the river and that side. We all know that public education is vital to the success of this city. I'd like to say "thank you" to Chairman Lee, Board member Grymes and Dr. Vitti as we had a successful meeting with legislators in Tallahassee. We may not get everything on our legislative agenda but it sure does feel good to be heard and to have a Superintendent who is respected within the state, I think is crucial for the success of this district. I'd like to thank the teacher at Ed White High School whom I am doing Junior Achievement in his class for 15 seniors, Mr. Lynam. It has been a very rewarding experience and I miss being in the classroom so this is giving me that boost of energy that I needed. I'm looking forward of finishing up that time. Thank you to Jacksonville Public Education Fund. I had the opportunity to go to Mobile, Alabama and see what type of work they were doing and get an idea of what this was going to culminate into and it's been a great effort and collaborative process between the Board and JPEF and I'm looking forward to more collaboration in the future. I'd like to wish all of our students success on the FCAT and thank the teachers for all of their hard work they they've done in preparing the students for the FCAT. I'd like to remind students the same thing I said to my son the other night, *"No test defines who you are..."* It's a test and it does not define who you are as a person, *"...and have confidence in the skills and your ability to accomplish great things."*

Mr. Fred "Fel" Lee said "thank you" to JPEF for your collaboration. There are many other organizations, PTA folks, thank you, so many different organizations that have been involved over the last few months and if you haven't felt a different air in Jacksonville around public education, let one of the Board members show you it. Many folks are really trying to work with the Board and I'm very appreciative of that. We're looking forward to bringing back the Strategic Plan and you'll receive many phone calls from us. I'd like to say "thank you" to the staff for each and every day the hard work you're doing. We know there's much ongoing and appreciate your dedication to the children and we know why you are here. Thank you to City Council for meeting with us. With each Board member, we have two Council members that makes up our district and we work closely together. They have much of the same concerns that we do and we appreciate their collaboration. Every time I go into a school I think I'm not sure if I could be a teacher...it's a tough profession. Thank you to all the teachers out there. Good luck to all of the students as the testing process begins this month. We're confident in what you're doing and we know you'll do extremely well. Thank you, Dr. Vitti, for working with the Board and we're looking forward to the upcoming budget meetings.

Dr. Nikolai Vitti said I wanted to acknowledge JPEF for their work. That Saturday morning at the downtown Main Library, I think I was maybe a month into the job, but it was truly inspiring to see that big room packed with a diversity of citizens from Jacksonville. To me, it was one of those defining moments that speaks in my mind to the potential of Jacksonville...specifically, to public education. To see that many people come out from all walks of life on an early Saturday morning to come together and define what they thought should happen to take our district and work to the next level. So, thank you to JPEF for organizing it and thank you for every individual who took part. Regarding the Strategic Plan, I would be remiss if I didn't thank staff that worked extremely hard on all the edits. That was one of the first projects for us. I can be demanding and a task master. They responded on this first project together and did a great job and stepped up. A special recognition to Ms. Daniella Simic whom worked very closely with me in creating the plan. Lastly, thank you to the Board as the Strategic Plan was the first major project that we worked on, together and I think it will define the collaboration, the compromise and high expectation that it will take to make this district a "one of a kind" district in our country. So, thank you to all of you.

Adjournment

[ADJOURNMENT](#)

Minutes:

The meeting adjourned at 7:56 p.m.

Isd

Superintendent

Chairman