



## Duval County Public Schools

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April 27, 2011, Joint DCSB-JPEF Board Meeting

Ms. W. C. Gentry, Chairman  
Ms. Betty Burney, Vice-Chairman  
Ms. Martha Barrett  
Ms. Ms. Becki Couch  
Ms. Mr. Tommy Hazouri  
Mr. Mr. Fred "Fel" Lee  
Mr. Ms. Paula D. Wright  
Mr. Ed Pratt-Dannals, Superintendent

ATTENDANCE AT THIS JOINT MEETING OF THE DCSB-JPEF: All Board Members were present. Mr. Ed Pratt-Dannals, Superintendent, was also present.

Call Meeting To Order

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

Minutes:

The following people were present:

#### Duval County School Board:

Martha Barrett  
Betty Burney  
Becki Couch  
W. C. Gentry  
Tommy Hazouri  
Fred "Fel" Lee  
Paula D. Wright

#### JPEF:

Trey Czar  
John Anderson

Dr. Jordan Baker  
Ronnie Ferguson  
Delores Weaver  
Ken Reddick  
Zachery Champagne  
John Baker  
Cindy Edelman  
Dr. Shannon Perry  
Poppy Clements  
Reverend Torin Dailey

DCSB Staff

Ed Pratt-Dannal  
Bonnie Susan Cole  
Pat Willis  
Doug Ayars  
Jill Johnson

Other:

Nancy Broner - Consultant

John Baker called the meeting to order. Welcomed everyone and thanked them for coming. Mr. Baker talked about this being our 2<sup>nd</sup> joint meeting and need to work together. He and W. C. Gentry have been meeting also. He thinks our relationship is improving.

W. C. Gentry also welcomed everyone and said he thought the relationship was improving also. He talked about it being important for everyone to attend these meetings. He talked about the two organizations reading programs and the need to work together on this topic. Mr. Gentry said the recent JPEF study was informative. He talked about the need to have even more liaison between the groups.

Items To Be Discussed

[JOINT DCSB-JPEF BOARD MEETING](#)

Minutes:

Trey Czar introduced Nancy Broner, who will be our facilitator for the day. He gave a brief overview of the agenda for the day.

Nancy Broner welcomed everyone. She talked about everyone benefiting from working together. She thanked everyone for staying engaged. We met in October 2010 last and information is in the packets for today for everyone to review, especially the new members to both groups. She mentioned a page about initiatives and that where JPEF and DCSB are parallel and some areas that intersect. There are times when a little distance is helpful. Ms. Broner said we will go quickly through the presentations.

Ed Pratt-Dannals made a brief presentation on the budget. He provided the group with a written update. Mr. Pratt-Dannals reviewed the information on the deficit and shortfall we are facing. He also provided a list of those items being considered for cuts. We need help with the legislators today if anyone has contacts. We are looking at about a \$41 million dollar shortfall. This does not include class size and negotiable items. The Senate budget is higher than the House at this time and the figure that came out yesterday would give us another \$10 million dollar hit. The conference figure was higher than the House budget and not in the middle as is normal for budget conferencing. The recommendations are a work in progress and nothing has been finalized. He also mentioned the Board going out for a ¼ mil referendum but at this time there is no support for this.

Questions: Gary Chartrand asked about school consolidation. The Superintendent talked about this being an emotional topic and we are doing this with Bank of America now. But we have to follow the process or we lose community trust. Board Member Hazouri also spoke about this topic, and encouraged everyone to talk to the legislators to make sure we get the \$12 million on class size. Chairman Gentry talked about the budget and calling legislators and give the message to “do no harm.” We also need the unfunded mandates. He encouraged everyone to make the calls. This needs to be done today. Trey Czar will circulate a list of contacts to the JPEF Board today. Cindy Edelman asked about the unfunded mandates and working with other Districts. The Superintendent responded that they have worked with other Districts. Zachery Champagne asked about the Associate Teacher topic. Mr. Pratt-Dannals pointed out it is a negotiable item.

W. C. Gentry provided the group with an update on the school systems reading initiative. He talked about the Level 1’s and 2’s and the need to address the issues. We thought early learning was the silver bullet and we were a leader in that area. The City has also contributed money to early learning. We are still not reaching everyone. The positive thing is that students are coming in our system better prepared than in the past. Some students are still not receiving the wrap-around services and support that others have, and they fall behind. It is more than reading. It is writing also. The goal is to train our content teachers to teach reading and writing with their curriculum. The Superintendent has been working on the curriculum and Board Members have been working on various committees. Summer school, locations for children to meet, technology, and community engagement are all important factors of this initiative. We are talking to various community organizations. Mr. Gentry talked about the “Buy a Library” initiative. It costs about \$350 per school. We have not agreed on anything as a Board yet. He shared one of the proposed logos – Read It Forward Jax. We need JPEF and the community to work with us. No matter how bad our deficit is we have to do this.

Questions: The Superintendent added that on the summer portion we have always offered and sometimes required courses. This will be required. We will need more spaces and will need to make sure they are filled. Mr. Gentry said the Mayor has been supportive and he has talked to both candidates for Mayor and they agree this is important. He has asked the City to make sure the summer camps are not offered at the same time. Ms. Broner talked about a TV special that talked about early learning and cuts around the country.

Cindy Edelman updated the group on the “1 in 3” Initiative. Real improvement to public education cannot happen without community support and buy-in. When polling the community everyone says that education is the most critical issue, however, they are not willing to pay for it. She shared elements of the program and shared statistics from Mobile, Alabama, where this program was implemented. Their AYP scores increased and the community passed a referendum to build new schools. Their business partners also increased and brought additional dollars into the school system. Starting in September 2011 JPEF will launch the program. A visual presentation will be held on September 14, 2011, at the Cummer Gallery. Everyone will receive invitations to the kickoff. There will also be a cell feature where you can hear a story on your cell phone. The students used represent the entire community. It

will be a multi-media kickoff and will run 3-4 months. The exhibit will then travel around the county to various locations. She said the exhibition would then be broken down into smaller exhibits and taken to movie theaters, grocery stores, etc. They will also offer some Lunch and Learns. She asked for help in connecting them with appropriate community groups for assistance. We want to develop an army of people to share the message. Hired Collaborative Communications, who also worked with Mobile, Alabama. We are looking for volunteers. Questions should be directed to Trey Czar or Rachel Tutwiler.

Questions: Board Member Hazouri asked about the Alabama referendum. Gary Chartrand asked that she address the funding. Ms. Edelman talked about the need for funding. They applied for grants but have not received any to date. John Anderson asked if this would build toward the Mobile example. Ms. Edelman said yes. Mr. Anderson asked if we should not travel to their district and seek their advice. Trey Czar said they would look at this and other districts have done this also. Board Member Paula D. Wright asked about the students participating and what mechanisms being put in place to support the students if there is a down side to their exposure. Ms. Edelman talked about the fact that some do have mentors, but we need to think about your questions. Trey Czar talked about how the students were selected and tried to be aware of this and not exploit their stories. We met with the students and their parents about the project. Ms. Wright expressed her concern with this aspect of the program. Ms. Broner suggested there be further discussion on this before the program gets too far along. Delores Weaver suggested these students could continue to be mentors for other students in the future. Reverend Tori Dailey commented that the students not be students who are disconnected from support. They have been recommended by their support groups. One factor was that they had to have a strong system of support. Ms. Broner talked about Board Member Betty Burney working with Houston with Broad and about the school system being so bad and the community coalition formed as a result. Board Member Betty Burney talked about how their system is made up and how they improved by getting their Board-Superintendent team together, then their community. They have been able to maintain even after 2 Superintendent changes. Board Member Hazouri talked about what we did back in 1986-1987.

Nancy Broner pointed out that the conversation today centered on community engagement and that this is important. The public schools belong to the community and the challenge is to get them engaged. Everyone will now break into small groups for 30 minutes and then we will come back together and share the ideas discussed.

Trey Czar gave a couple of examples where LEF's and School Boards work well together. The key to success is deep involvement and co-ownership of the work. He talked about Learning to Finish, the Boston Plan for Excellence, New Visions program, and PEF in Chattanooga, Tennessee, and gave a brief overview of these programs. He asked that people think in terms of 3-4 years in the future in their group discussions. Ms. Broner talked about quote from Mobile – A Vision Without Action is an Hallucination.

The small group discussions took place and everyone came back together to share what was discussed, and the top 2 initiatives they came up with for future work. The leadership of both Boards will get together and decide next steps.

John Baker thanked Nancy Broner for facilitating today's meeting.

John Baker, Reverend Torin Dailey, Tommy Hazouri – Mr. Baker reported – funding and civic capacity – they work together – need advocates for schools – take what we are doing well – ERS great step – show positive things and then show things we need to do – reading or whatever – say what we can do to improve and what funds are need to make it happen.

John Anderson, Ed Pratt-Dannals, Martha Barrett – Mr. Pratt-Dannals – same as last group – Mr. Anderson talked about importance of 1 in 3 and need to have something to follow – symbolism means everything – group should go to Mobile and meet with all elements of community involved – keep messenger from becoming the message – need to bring everyone in community get involved up front – if not nothing will happen. The Superintendent talked about the organizations needed for the civic capacity and engagement in order to have next year’s State plans on budget to be different – focus on budget and political advocacy and 2<sup>nd</sup> would be reading plan and support for turnaround schools – reading is across the district and not just the turnaround schools.

Dr. Jordan Baker, Delores Weaver, Becki Couch – Ms. Couch talked about holding forums and inviting State and local officials and if they don’t attend they can be held accountable – include local elected officials on JPEF – encourage voting – have Lunch and Learn forums – town hall meetings with City Council members – go to different venues and talk about issues; aligning reality with perception of our schools – talk about positive as well as the negative – get input from community – our teachers, students, and parents often feel they are not included in the decision making – include all of these groups – variety from across the City – could have a task force to talk about the issues – sometimes our teachers are our worse critics – more engagement would help in this area – I was a teacher and can now see it from a different perspective.

Pat Willis, Poppy Clements, Fel Lee – Ms. Clements talked about 80% of population do not have children in the public school system and don’t care or think it applies to them. This is wrong. Talked about 1 in 3 and reading initiative – launch them both at the same time. Talk about positive points. Talked about the cultural community having same theme around the City – good idea for education.

Dr. Shannon Perry, Cindy Edelman, Betty Burney – Dr. Perry said their group talked about the same ideas. Talked about images from media bombarding all of the negative things – need to correct this. Need to work together better as a group and getting to know each other better. Go to schools as small groups – Board and JPEF. Students do have a lot to say. Thinks 1 in 3 will highlight this as well.

Trey Czar, Zach Champagne, W. C. Gentry, Ken Reddick – Mr. Champagne talked about the library donation idea and maybe let people put their names on the libraries. Teacher input is important – need them on board to say the right things. Take advantage of large audiences – sporting events – half time presentations – questions on screens – long term effect – instead of how horrible reading is in the schools, what are we going to do about it.

Gary Chartrand, Ronnie Ferguson, Paula D. Wright – Ms. Wright talked about taking 1 in 3 to business buy into this campaign and ask them to adopt a school. Talked about health care and involving support services from the major health providers. Involve the parents and provide support services for them also. Combine all groups – civic, parents, schools, health care, etc. Create a model school – Butler for example – show them how it should look and can bring groups in to see how it should look. Some things JPEF should do and some things DCSB should do – define who will do what – we each need to take the lead on certain issues and then bring groups together.

Ms. Broner said that the notes would be compiled and shared. We will look at another meeting sometime in September.

Coleen Wood – Save Duval Schools – talked about Reach 10 for Education – the Education Budget Committee canceled their meeting for this morning and this is the time to call – there is \$600 million to help fill the gap and will get numbers to everyone.

Ms. Broner said that May 4, 2011, there will be a United Way-JPEF summit on teacher evaluation

system – 4:00 pm – 6:00 pm – Library.

Mr. Chartrand thanked everyone for coming today and that there is a lot of power in the room. He and W. C. Gentry will get with Nancy Broner and Trey Czar and come up with action steps.

Adjournment

ADJOURNMENT

Minutes:

The Meeting was adjourned at 11:12 a.m.

BSC

We Agree on this

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Superintendent

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Chairman