



Duval County Public Schools

April 5, 2011, Regular Board Meeting

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

ATTENDANCE AT THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE DUVAL COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD with Mr. Ed Pratt-Dannals, Superintendent of Schools, Ms. Karen Chastain, Office of General Counsel, Mr. W. C. Gentry, Board Chairman, Ms. Betty Burney, Board Vice Chair and the following Board members: Ms. Becki Couch, Mr. Tommy Hazouri, Mr. Fred "Fel" Lee and Ms. Paula D. Wright, present. Ms. Martha Barrett was absent.

Call Meeting to Order

[CALL MEETING TO ORDER](#)

Minutes:

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

Invocation

[INVOCATION](#)

Minutes:

Dr. Gary Williams
First Baptist Church of Mandarin

Pledge of Allegiance

[PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE](#)

Presentations

Board Members

[1. I AM A STAR BOOT CAMP PARTICIPANTS](#)

Minutes:

Board Vice Chair, Betty Burney, said in 2009, the Duval County Health Department conducted a Youth Risk Behavior Survey and in that survey it listed some things that students, not just in Duval County, but throughout the country were engaged and causing some of these students NOT to be the shining stars that all of them are born to be. From a business perspective, when you take a look at it, if we were doing a business deal and we had \$100, we don't want to leave anything on the table, but whenever we see that sometimes our young people are committing suicide or developing suicide packs...not shining as brightly as they can be, not achieving as much as they could be, then we must ask ourselves, "*Are we guilty of leaving anything on the table?*" So, with that in mind, the bootcamp was formed and a conference and I'd like to recognize someone who brought it to my vision - Attorney Eddie Farrah. He has helped me help young people to SHINE. All kids are stars...they just SHINE differently and it's up to us to make them be what they want to be.

I'm going to introduce you to the Millennium Generation - the generation that is been called the most innovated generation in America. I'd like our speakers to come forward.

See attached presentation entitled, "*SCHOOL VIOLENCE: Defining & Resolving.*"

The Chairman thanked all of the young people and adults for coming this evening.

2. SCHOOL RECOGNITION - DISTRICT 3 - WOLFSON HIGH SCHOOL

Minutes:

Dr. David Garner, Principal, Wolfson High School, gave the following highlights of 2010-2011:

Samuel W. Wolfson High School celebrated its first graduating class in 1966. Thousands of graduates are proud of the years they spent at Wolfson and are now a vital part of the Jacksonville community. Some things have changed, but for the most part, school is still all about learning language arts, math, science, foreign languages, physical education and electives such as art, woodshop or chorus. The social life of a school is still just as important, if not more so for the students. Homecoming games, proms, plays, pageants, sports tournaments, clubs, lunchtime, and visiting by the lockers have been enjoyed here for 45 years. This year is no exception--the Wolfpack works hard and plays hard and continues to be proud of the phrase written by Rudyard Kipling in *Jungle Book*: "The strength of the pack is the wolf, and the strength of the wolf is the pack!"

Student population is right around 1,600. We have a diverse student body made up of 3% Asian, 56% Black, 8% Hispanic, 2% Mixed, and 31% White. About 52% of our students qualify for free or reduced lunch.

There are 91 licensed teachers on the instructional staff. The experience ranges from 12% with 15 or more years to 28% with 6-14 years, to 50% with 1-5 years. We are also glad to have the 10% who are national board certified and 30% who have graduate degrees. Several teachers have applied for the aspiring leader academy this year.

We have been working hard all year to maximize our student achievements on FCATs, AP exams, end-of-course exams, Performance Monitoring Assessments (PMAs), benchmarks, Write Score exams and of course, the teacher generated assessments. Some of our FCAT preparation initiatives include Saturday schools, Spring Break schools, after-school tutoring, FCAT mentoring, lunch and learns, lunch with the principal, student feedback surveys, test taking strategy workshops, parent awareness meetings, parent-link communication, daily TV broadcasts about FCAT review, and good old classroom teaching. We have stressed standards-based learning using the workshop model with a strong use of formative assessments in each class to fine-tune the differentiated instruction going on.

We are at the point where we can identify individual student strengths or deficiencies in reading and math and customize the teaching and

assessment by each state standard. All of our teachers have been trained on how to use new software that generates rigorous test questions by each standard and can now tell parents and students exactly what they need to be working on.

We are very proud of all of our teachers who have taken responsibility for using reading strategies in their content areas such as foreign languages, art, culinary classes and even math classes.

Chairman Gentry said, "I learned a real lesson when I was a coach at Jackson in 1969 when we played Wolfson. They had a great football team that year and a great running back named Billy Thompson who went on to play at Duke. We had our best linebacker and I'm sure this was totally illegal, but I promised him .25 cents for every time he tackled Billy Thompson. The only problem was and it was quickly learned that he was going to tackle Billy Thompson on every play whether Billy had the ball or not. It resulted in several penalties so we had to change the deal by the end of the first quarter. I think he must have made about \$20 that night. Anyway, Wolfson has a long and great tradition and Andrew Jackson was not successful notwithstanding my best efforts that night."

Communications

[1. 2011 TEACHER OF THE YEAR WINNER](#)

Minutes:

The Superintendent said, "Tonight, as you are walking through the door, you will pass a couple of booths that were set up in the lobby and these booths are representing some of our Service Learning Schools and the projects their students have been working on this year. Service Learning is a teaching and learning method that engages young people in solving problems within their schools and communities as part of their academic studies and other type of intentional learning activities. I'd like to say thank you to:

Ed White High School
Frank H. Peterson Academies of Technology
Mandarin Middle School
John E. Ford Middle School
Ortega Elementary School
Ramona Boulevard Elementary School

and Dr. Joanne Davis for coming out and displaying all of your hard work!

--Before I bring up our first honoree tonight, I would like to ask Zachary Champagne, our 2010 Teacher of the Year, to please come up front.

--For those of you who don't know, Zak is a fourth-grade math and science teacher at Mandarin Oaks Elementary. He has been teaching for more than 10 years and has held positions on the Board for the Florida Council of Teachers of Mathematics, and assisted with courses at UNF.

--He has also been awarded the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching, which is the highest honor for math and science teachers.

--Last April he was selected as the 2010 Duval County Teacher of the Year and has been a great representation and inspiration to his fellow teachers.

--On behalf of the School Board and myself, I want to thank Zak for his continued dedication to our students and for his year of service as the Teacher of the Year.

--As Zak's rein as Teacher of the Year has come to an end, I would like to recognize Duval County's 2011 Florida Blue Teacher of the Year.

--Would Youmone Berrien and Deborah Smith, Principal at First Coast High, please come forward?

--During the 20th Annual EDDY awards, held on March 17, Youmone was named Teacher of the Year. Youmone stood alongside four other phenomenal Duval County teachers to bring home this distinguished title.

-- Youmone has been teaching for seven years and currently allocates her time to several areas at First Coast High; including leader of the 10th-grade English professional learning community, student activities director, senior class sponsor and co-founder of the Ladies First Organization.

--Congratulations Youmone. Thank you for your commitment to and support of Duval County Public Schools. Best wishes as you go on to compete for the state-wide title.

[2. 2010-2011 OUTSTANDING SCHOOL VOLUNTEER AWARDS](#)

Minutes:

--Our next presentation of the night highlights three very special school volunteers.

--Every year, the Florida Department of Education presents the Outstanding School Volunteer Award to volunteers who have shown outstanding dedication and commitment to quality education.

--This award, administered by the district's Community and Family

Engagement Office, is given in three categories: youth, adult and senior.

--Would Dejan Antunovic, our youth winner, and his family, along with Sharwonda Peek, Principal of James Weldon Johnson, and Vernice Whitfield, nominating teacher, please join us up front?

-- Dan, now a ninth-grader at Stanton College Preparatory School, volunteered approximately 30 hours per week for two years while he was attending James Weldon Johnson Middle.

-- Dan spent the summer of 2010 as a receptionist at the school, answering phones, assisting visitors who came to the school with questions and tours, and helping staff as they prepared for the new school year. Dan was also a key volunteer during James Weldon Johnson's "new student boot camp," and spent a lot of time with the incoming sixth-graders as they navigated their way in a new school.

--Congratulations to Dan on receiving this award.

--Would our adult winner, Sharon Hodges, and Biscayne Elementary Principal Deshune Stroy please join us up front?

--For more than 13 years, Mrs. Hodges has provided thousands of hours of service to Biscayne Elementary. She serves as the district's first Title I Parent Advisory Council Chair, Vice President of Membership for Biscayne's PTA, and keeps Biscayne's wonderful stories and events in the news as the school's Good News Ambassador.

--Mrs. Hodges frequently recruits parents to volunteer at school programs and events, conducts PTA membership drives at the school, and hosts a parent/student orientation entitled "Parent Power Equals Student Success."

--Congratulations to Mrs. Hodges on receiving this award.

--Would our senior winner, Ms. Nina Beale, and Ms. Owens-Thompson, principal of Crown Point Elementary, please join us up front?

--For more than 16 years, Ms. Beale has been volunteering five days a week for 5 ½ hours per day at Crown Point Elementary.

--This is more than 16,000 hours of service to the school! Ms. Beale has only missed a few days of "work" – once for a surgery and once because she was sick.

--Ms. Beale spends time assisting in the media center, organizes the drawings for the school's monthly Good Manners Luncheon, and is known as the school's "laminating queen."

--She is also the school's PTA representative and presents a spiritual meditation thought at all of the PTA board meetings.

--In addition to the district recognition for her volunteer service, Ms. Beale was also selected as one of Florida's Outstanding School Volunteers.

--Ms. Beale, please accept this plaque from the Florida Association of District School Superintendents in recognition of this award.

--This is a tremendous honor and we are very proud to have Ms. Beale in one of our schools! Congratulations Ms. Beale for receiving both of these awards.

-- Volunteers play a very important part in the world of education. I would like to thank you three for making Duval County Public Schools a world-class system.

[3. WJCT MISSION U.S. EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR](#)

Minutes:

--Our third presentation of the evening recognizes a history teacher from Darnell-Cookman Middle/High School for being selected as the WJCT Mission U.S. Educator of the Year.

--Would Elizabeth Stansel, Beth Culkeen, Education Outreach Manager from WJCT Public Broadcasting and Phil Little, Coordinator of our History Grant, please come forward?

--Mission U.S. is a multimedia project featuring free interactive adventure games set in different eras of U.S. history. Our Social Studies Department arranged for several DCPS' teachers to receive training on using the program and implementing it into their curriculum.

--WJCT selected Ms. Stansel as the educator of the year based on the original, creative and innovative ways she used the multimedia game.

--Ms. Stansel incorporated the game into all six of her gifted and academically talented classes. She had the students use an interactive whiteboard that allowed them to work in pairs navigating their way through the game while being encouraged by their classmates.

--Ms. Stansel integrated the material into the class curriculum by complimenting the game with corresponding lessons in the text book. According to her students, this helped them retain the information, as it was engaging and entertaining at the same time.

--Outside of the classroom, Ms. Stansel used the online resource as a professional development tool in the countywide workshop that was offered

at the Schultz Center for Teaching and Leadership.

-- As the winner of this award, Ms. Stansel will receive a \$1,000 stipend.

--If you would like to hear more about this work, Ms. Stansel will be featured in an upcoming episode of REAL School, airing May 1 at 10 a.m. on WJCT.

--Congratulations Ms. Stansel on receiving this honor. We applaud your efforts to engage your students in unique and captivating ways.

4. RECOGNITION OF PASTOR GUNNS FOR HIS WORK WITH RAINES AND RIBAULT HIGH SCHOOLS

Minutes:

--For our next presentation I would like to recognize an individual who has dedicated a tremendous amount of his time and services to two of our high schools.

--Would Pastor John Guns along with Principal Maxey from Raines High and Principal Young from Ribault High, please come to the front?

--Pastor Guns has been a vital part of the school communities at both Raines and Ribault high schools. I cannot list all of the ways he has contributed to the students at these schools, but I would like to take a minute to honor him for some of the services he provides.

--For the last several years, Pastor Guns has served as the Chaplain of the Trojan football team at Ribault High. He also volunteers at the Northwest Classic Games serving food to more than 200 faculty and staff.

--Pastor Guns continually serves as a motivational speaker for male students at Ribault. For the past 2 years he has been the speaker at the school's Baccalaureate services, and he has been chosen to be the Commencement speaker at this year's graduation ceremony.

--At Raines High, he holds a Wednesday night prayer service each week to minister to students. He also sponsors students at Raines for ACT testing, and again serves as an inspirational speaker for students.

--Pastor Guns has adopted both Raines and Ribault High by funding a mentoring program at each school. His church has also been an important contributor to the schools' programs by sponsoring numerous events for both Raines and Ribault.

--I would like to thank Pastor Guns for devoting his time to these students. Your presence and words of encouragement inspire the students to excel at

school and in life. We appreciate everything you do and everything you offer our students.

5. COMMISSIONER'S BUSINESS RECOGNITION AWARDS

Minutes:

-- The final recognition of the evening honors this year's recipients of the Commissioner's Business Recognition Award.

--For more than 20 years, the Florida Education Foundation has been the host of the Annual Commissioner's Business Recognition Awards Program, which recognizes businesses and businesspeople who make a difference in public education.

--Businesses are selected by the schools they serve. School districts have the opportunity to evaluate their most worthy partners based on its own specific criteria. Once the winners are selected, their names are sent to the Florida Education Foundation.

--The number of award winners for each school district is determined by its size, which is indicated by FTE count. Duval County is considered a large district and has the opportunity to choose three winners.

--Joining us tonight are representatives from Duval County's three winners along with the principals from their partner school:

- From ACES Advisory Board, we have Ms. Joanne Kazmierski (kaz-mer-ski), Mr. Tim Hamilton, Mr. Lex Waters and Principal Addison Davis from Terry Parker High;
- From the Jacksonville Giants, we have Coach Kevin Waters, Mr. Joseph Miller and Assistant Principal Marilyn Barnwell from Mandarin Middle; and
- From West Normandy Baptist Church, we have Dr. Walter Bennett, Brother Murray Teuton and Principal Lisa Brady from Normandy Village Elementary.

--Over the past years, business involvement in education has played a significant role in shaping Florida's education reform efforts. Together, with the help of our business partners, our district will meet its mission of being the best large urban school district in America.

Comments From Audience

COMMENTS FROM AUDIENCE

Minutes:

Mr. John Kattman said I'm here to address an item that is on the last page of your agenda - Suspensions Without Pay. I am an attorney representing Michael Brown. It is my understanding that the Board has on its agenda a recommendation from the Superintendent to suspend Michael Brown without pay pending a final decision regarding whether or not Mr. Brown's employment as a teacher with Duval County School Board should be terminated. I want to address several matters that I believe are pertinent to your deliberations regarding this matter. Mr. Brown has a 14 year career with the Duval County Public Schools system and has always received a satisfactory evaluation. Mr. Brown has requested a hearing before the Administrative Law Judge and is requesting that the Board not suspend him prior to that hearing on April 28, 2011. I am distributing a packet of letters from coworkers, teachers and administrators. Please consider these letters as well as my comments when making your decision. Thank you.

Mr. Blake Menzel said I'm here this evening because I understand that you have been previously been asked to reconsider or repeal the application of the Neighborhood Preference Rule to lottery students who are applying to magnet schools from the school's former attendance zone. I'm here because I represent dozens of parents from the Landon former attendance zone who strongly oppose any reconsideration or appeal of the Neighborhood Preference Rule. It appears that this issue has been placed before the Board primarily because Landon has come so far so fast in the magnet program. Their success is due primarily to the outstanding efforts of the school's principal, Dr. Kelly Coker-Daniel, the administrators, the teachers and the students. It's also to in no small part, by the involvement of concerned families and parents throughout the community, many of whom live in Landon's former attendance zone. Now, the Neighborhood Preference has been part of the magnet program since it began. Consequently, many people have relied upon the rule when making decisions about where they want to live and where to buy a home. More importantly, in this case, the rule is actually doing what it was designed to do which is to encourage the involvement of community members in their neighborhood schools after the school becomes a magnet. The Neighborhood Preference Rule had nothing but positive effects for Landon as a developing magnet program and the local community. Our group is asking that you not reconsider or repeal the Neighborhood Preference Rule. Thank you very much.

Ms. Susan Gallo, Director of Education at the Cummer Museum of Art and Gardens and I'm here tonight to thank you for your support of the arts and to talk about one of the partnerships that we have with the Duval County Public Schools and that is our Very Special Arts Festival that will be held April 26-29 this year. Very Special Arts is an organization founded by the Kennedy family in the 1960's to bring arts to people with disabilities. In Jacksonville, the Cummer is the home for Very Special Arts. We will see approximately 2,400 students with disabilities, parents, teachers and chaperones over the course of the four-day festival and it is one of the best things that happens in Jacksonville. I am here to extend an invitation to all of you to come to the festival on behalf of our director, Hope McMath, and we will be happy to help you experience the joy of these children. We are the only museum in the country that hosts the Very Special Arts Festival in the museum galleries. We believe that the treasures of the Cummer should be assessable to all people in Jacksonville. So, I hope you will come and visit us, see our lovely gardens and see this place in action. Thank

you.

Ms. Nancy Barnard said I'm a public school parent. I've had kids at Stockton Elementary, James Weldon Johnson and Paxon School for Advanced Studies. I'm here to express concerns with the way the lottery designates magnet schools. There are schools that are totally magnet, not neighborhood, and students that attend these schools must apply in February prior to attendance in August. These are our designated magnet schools. There are only ten (10) of these in Duval County which are shown on this table prepared by Dr. Hague and I want to thank her for all the data she has presented us over the years and Mr. Ayars for working with us in trying to collect data to present to the School Board. As you can see on this chart, there are 10 schools, four of which are middle schools and this really only affects two schools - one being, Julia Landon Middle and the other, James Weldon Johnson Middle with its move which we are most thankful for. These schools are in high demand based on their feed to the nationally ranked schools - Stanton and Paxon. This is a good problem for Duval County to have. The issue is Priority One as provided in the lottery. This means that students who live in the former attendance area of the magnet schools receive first priority to attend. Now, there's a good reason to have this priority given the reason for the creation of this magnet school program many years ago. However, for these schools, new thought needs to be given to see if the intent of the program is being met. The percentage of priority one students is low for most of the county. However, Landon is currently at 39% which is well over the average of priority ones students for the other dedicated magnet schools. James Weldon Johnson has historically been below 4% over the years it's been a dedicated magnet school. We are suggesting a cap on Priority One. Thank you for your time.

Ms. Lisa Page said I am a concerned parent and I have two children in Duval County Public Schools. I'm here on behalf of dozens if not hundreds of families throughout Duval County. The reason that we're here is the Board's policy which is 5.46 which is to create diversity in its magnet schools. That is done through race, socio-economic and geographic diversity and it has worked beautifully in the past. We have not had a problem, however, since the creation of Landon and it becoming a designated magnet school...in the 2010-2011 school year of 6th grade in the Academically Talented Program, 66% of those 6th graders were prior neighborhood children. Of the whole 6th grade, it is 50%; for the upcoming 2011-2012 school year for 6th graders, it is at 41%. This is Dr. Hague's and her team's hypothetical of where and she's right on. She anticipated the 44% and she's right on with 41%. This is where she's estimating it could go over the next few years. You could have up to 70% neighborhood; 40% neighborhood. While that is a wonderful problem to have for the Landon parents, it's not fair to other people in the county. The number last year was 66% and this year, 41%. The only reason that number has declined a bit is that 100 seats were added to the 6th grade class for this upcoming year Landon and we have no guarantee that that number will remain at 100 of an increase up to 280. In fact, it will probably drop by 50 seats. James Weldon Johnson, on the other hand, has been about 3%; however, since it moved to a new location at Paxon Middle School, it could have the same problem as Landon. This year alone in the Academically Talented Program for the upcoming 6th grade, 15% of that class is going to be from the prior neighborhood attendance zone and as you can see, they're estimating it to go as high as 35%. There are 103 elementary schools in this county...26 elementary schools are currently feeding into Julia Landon; 71 are feeding into James Weldon Johnson. Obviously, you can see

a lot more children are going to Weldon from various neighborhoods with different socio-economic, different racial and different geographic areas. Now, at the same time, the number of black students at Landon has been dramatically decreasing. The program, prior to it becoming a dedicated magnet, when it first became a magnet, you were at almost 29% and it went to 21% and this coming year for the incoming 6th grade class at Landon, you are at 16%. Thank you for your time.

Ms. Felicia Bullock said I, too, will speak about the issue of Priority One. The rapid decline of racial and socio-economic standards at Landon and its predominantly neighborhood status are not the only indicators of a magnet system that is in jeopardy as a result of Priority One. Continuity, both program and tiered, is a fundamental principle of magnet programs and it is also showing the signs of deterioration beginning in 2010...such as 25 students from Program Continuity did not get into their first choice of Landon or their second magnet choice. No students with Tiered Continuity were accepted at Landon and many who were accepted were not accepted at first choice nor their second choice. The early indicators for 2011 show at James Weldon Johnson, this trend is already developing. These trends show that those families who have been transporting their children to the urban core and investing their time and support in the magnet system are being squeezed out because of Priority One...not just from their first choice, but from all of the dedicated magnets. If these trends continue, it will have a domino affect at the high school level as Paxon and Stanton get shut out to the greater Duval area. Furthermore, the integrity of the magnet system will begin to deteriorate even at the elementary level as parents try to determine where to start their child's magnet education and find that access to those programs that have set the standards for academic excellence is obstructed. We propose a relatively simple solution - impose a 5% cap on the number of neighborhood students allowed into a school under Priority One. We ask that you workshop the issue and allow community meetings to begin discussions. If not, what choice do you leave parents? Without addressing this issue, access and choice within the magnet system is blocked to the greater Duval area forcing a new choice which is moving whether it's to a private school, a different neighborhood or neighboring county. Thank you.

Ms. Debbie Fewell said I'm a proud parents of two Duval County Public Schools students. After hearing the statistics and concerns presented to you regarding Priority One by Ms. Barnard, Ms. Bullock and Ms. Page, I encourage you to start the process of reviewing this issue. Please review the powerpoint presentation that was originally prepared by your staff for the December, 2010 workshop. We were told last October that this would be reviewed and I believe it has not been workshopped as yet, but I'm not sure. We fully support the staff in its desire to address this policy and the staff's recommendations include (1) That the community engagement process is conducted to inform the public of the existing situation; (2) That within the community engagement process that the district staff and working groups develop recommendations for the Superintendent regarding the balance of magnet continuity in Priority One. As parents, it is our desire to see the school system restore its accessibility of the magnet programs to all students in Duval County regardless of where they live. This can be achieved by capping at 5% previous to the students and the dedicated magnet schools. It is critical to start this process now so that a public hearing and policy vote could be held in October, 2011 before the 2012-2013 Magnet Reference Guide is published. Thank you

very much.

Mr. Skot Wilson said welcome new members and congratulations. Ten dollars does not seem like a big sum of money. One penny, one-tenth of a dime is 1/1000 of ten dollars. The idea being and I did this at City Council two weeks ago, you take one penny in a specialized account, a devoted account, for the City, libraries, parks...one penny, 1/1000 from somebody's net worth annual income, monthly income devoted to schools in a specialized, dedicated account for arts, music and sports. It is not the community's place to do the job of the government which is stated in the Constitution - a quality, equitable education and Tallahassee does not hear us and does not respond to us and arrogance puts the blame and burden on this body...on this people. So, having done that, just as an example, I opened up at VyStar, two little accounts and they each have \$5.00 in them and I'm going to be eventually posting them. I want some other groups stepping up to take it over and manage it. There's a lot of them in town...the Community Foundation, Jacksonville Public Education Fund, Save Duval Schools...some organizations to step up and look at this example and go after businesses and citizens and saying, "*Can you give a penny out of every ten dollars?*" That simple little figure because it can do something and while we give that penny, it can remind us that in Tallahassee, there are people who are not doing the people's business well and leaving you in shortfall leaving you with tough decisions and hard choices on our children that we should not have to endure. Art, music and sports. (Gave \$10.00 cash).

Mr. Stanley Scott said, "let's get down to business." First, I'd like to thank all the kids that came out tonight from the Leadership class because, tonight, I'm talking about leadership. I received an email from one of my representatives and they said how any kids have you helped? I said, "What greater deed can a man or woman to put their life on the line for their country?" Wouldn't that be helping families, people and kids? I'm a Viet Nam era veteran. I put my life...they didn't draft me...I joined the military during the Viet Nam war. For someone to ask me what have I done, that's appalling because I have stated so many times that I'm ex-military. Leadership is not about record, not all the time. It's not about how many things you have done because great leaders never talk about what they have done and never use "I"; it's always about "team" and "we". In Jacksonville, we have many misguided, self-serving leadership in this city but in the African American community, our leadership has been comatose for the last 40 years. They are not open-minded nor concerned about what is going on in the community. I'm not a religious person but I have read about and think about David all of the time. I was in the army with great soldiers and then someone said, "Give a kid a chance." That's where leadership comes in. Leadership stays open-minded. They look for any kind of way...the pros and cons and they want information that they don't agree on because sometimes you must look at it from a different point of view. A leader is supposed to get out into the community and tell the truth. Parents need to get involved and that we need quality teachers and not first year teachers in troubled schools which is appalling. That is disrespectful to the community. I'm disappointed with that. I continue to do things, not on the local level or state level, but on the national level...not only for the African American community, but this whole country. Have a good night.

Mr. John Turner Good evening Mr. Chairman, school board members and Mr. Superintendent.

My name is John Turner. Last night (April 4, 2011) I attended the Community Budget Meeting at Atlantic High School. I have attended these budget meetings before over the years and it is pretty much the same speech. The Superintendent pushes the panic button and claims he is facing a budget crisis. However, this year the bogeyman comes in the form of unfunded mandates. That unless the State government fully funds our public schools the superintendent will be forced to raise our property taxes and/or eliminate extracurricular activities including the arts, band, high school sports and even football. By doing that the superintendent will save \$6.3 million. Cancel football, really? Although \$6.3 million may seem like a lot of money, when you compare it to your total budget of \$1.7 billion, it turns out to be less than one half of one percent of the total budget. Is this School Board really going to cancel all High School sports including football simply because you can't figure out a way to trim a measly ½ of one percent from an already bloated budget? And I do mean bloated. Keep in mind even though the State of Florida is still suffering from a deep recession due to high unemployment over 10%, public school funding has done very well. For example your budget last year was \$140 million dollars higher than it was in 2007. In other words since the start of the recession you have average a 3% increase every year. Clearly the School Board does not have a revenue problem but a spending problem and you need to seek the help of financial counseling to get it under control. One of the best ways to do that is to hire an independent audit firm to go over your books and check for waste, fraud and abuse. For example how many millions have been diverted from the school budget in order to supplement frivolous pet projects like the Schultz Center? No one knows because it has been over a decade since the School Board has allowed such an audit. How about this new School Board, are you willing to open up the books to an independent audit? If not, why not? In closing: I have an idea for you. Say starting with the next Community budget meeting instead telling the audience to pick one of several bad and irresponsible choices like going to a 4 day school week or furloughing teachers without pay or raising property taxes or canceling football, how about you give them another choice but instead a good responsible choice and allow them to call for an independent audit to expose waste, fraud and abuse? The money you save will not only pay for the audit but save the football season as well. If any School Board members have any questions or disagree with any of my data please contact so I can make appropriate corrections. Thank you for listening.

Mr. Edward Exson wrote the following letter to: The Honorable Rick Scott Governor of the State Of Florida, Dear Governor Scott: As a result of the democratic process you were duly elected Governor of Florida the sunshine state. You eked out a victory that is short of a mandate, while having an obsession to rule authoritatively more than being governor of all the people. Such despotic tyrannical rulers are now causing upheavals worldwide. After you had aggrandized your wealth from a company that pleaded guilty to Medicare, Medicaid fraud in which you benefited enormous wealth as a consequence is easily able to bankroll a 70 million dollar victorious campaign. I am and perhaps many more Floridians are concerned where you are leading us. While we are cognizant of the finite amount of resources the state has, as a result of the deep recession that we are trying to recover from. Your high priority budget cut on education is a superfluous cut. Every year of late public schools funding is cut. Is the reason for such cuts that only poor and middle income and an insignificant class of people students are enrolled, while affluent parent's children attend private schools?

You should be mindful of the legal action pending, Citizen's for Strong Schools, et al. V. Florida State Board of Education, et al., where the plaintiffs could prevail. With adjudication that the legislature adequately fund public education, pursuant to Article IX of Florida's Constitution. Moreover, you seem to depict a mannerism that you enjoy the pain that's inflicted on the poor and vulnerable whom are subjected, that's satanic. For some their plight was not of their own making. Many of the least of thee could have, with their genius made great contributions to mankind, only lacking an opportunity that you were always accorded. You being credited with having founded a church, where is your empathy and humanity to suppress knowledge for fellow human being? With you advocating that corporations pay no taxes in Florida, I am appalled at your "irrational exuberance" to proffer such benevolence. Such proposal is not only myopic but idiotic. With the atrocious behavior of so many corporations along with union busting, the wages earned by workers' how could they pay all the taxes subsidizing corporations? Your boasting "we are changing America" can be construed as far worst. Who are you referring to as we? And what positive changes that you are making? Of my eight (8) decades living this is the worst that I have ever seen, even the years prior to the Civil Rights Act! Education in Florida is being decimated with the lack of funding. I entreat you to abandon those draconian tactics that you are employing. Thus far I am afraid your administration is taking the sunshine out of Florida!

Mr. Alex Wilson spoke about a park which you now own and bought from the City after you closed Normandy Elementary School. The park has fallen into a state of disrepair...utter disrepair. I can not stand the fact that...and I understand the cuts are costing you money, but I can't understand the fact that you are letting this park fall into such a state. A basic state of repair is desperately needed. Fresh paint would be nice but that's not what is needed. At least, go in there and mow the lawn so there's not pine sapplings growing where children used to play. There is no single swing left in the park. The only use of the baseball field is where junkies go into the dugout and hand out. The trash cans are never emptied and all of this is appalling. This is scary that this continuously happens over and over, again. I can't stand to see it any longer. To quote Winston Churchill, "*Give us the tools and we'll finish the job.*" I need basic things to help out. I can get the manpower. I'm not asking you to get me volunteers to help out. I will get volunteers, but if you can get the things that are needed there so it can be fixed and not left the way it is. The only usage it is used for is for people to cut through one road to another. Other than that, there is nothing. There used to be a time where children were playing on the playground, basketball and baseball and picnics. Now, people are scared to go in there because gangs are in there and gang violence is very well seen there. There are gang symbols. All I want is a basic showing of respect from people here even though you don't have the money, there's still availability that you could go in and make it somewhat better for the people who live in the nearby neighborhoods or pass it off to someone who will be able to. Have a nice night and thank you for your time.

Ysryl welcomed all the new School Board members. One of the great pleasures that blessed my soul tonight was to see these young people who came out and expressed themselves to let you know and hoping that the Governor is paying attention to is, as well, that the shortfall these children are being faced with are allowing them to fall through the cracks. Now, what is happening is good...I will call it an intervention move to capture these children. In our program, we have close to 10,000 of these kids who have fallen through the cracks. These children want and should have a better

quality of life. We must come together for an overall movement to challenge the system to put the funding in place to help these children. I was never an "A" student in math but I did pretty decent and I pay close attention to how much money the lottery takes in and the big push was for education. We don't hear much about the lottery any more about supporting education. I am organizing young people to take by the bus loads to Tallahassee. We want to educate them as to where the funding from the lottery is going, etc. Our teachers are educators and not counselors and they all deal with children with pain. We must support our teachers and help our students. The Tea Party proved something that was very powerful. It was that organizing and execution with a plan and taking "no" for an answer, you get what you want. This is the stand we must take with the school system to ensure that our children receive a quality education because if they don't, there's jail. I'd rather spend my money on education than the jail system. Thank you.

Comments From Parent Organizations

[COMMENTS FROM PARENT ORGANIZATIONS](#)

Minutes:

District Advisory Council - Rachel Raneri, Chair:

Good evening, in the interest of time, I have a very short report tonight. The District Advisory Council met on March 21st. I would like to thank Tim Ballentine, who gave us an in-depth FCAT update and information about End of Course Exams. Paul Soares brought us information about the budget issues and Pat Carley spoke with us about reporting policies for School Advisory Councils. Due to the District calendar, the next meeting of the District Advisory Council will be on TUESDAY, April 26th at 6:00pm in the 6th floor conference room. We would love to have a Board member to join us.

Title I Parent Advisory Council - Sharon Hodges, Chair:

To chairman W.C. Gentry, board members, and Superintendent Ed Pratt-Dannals and Deputy Superintendent, I am reporting on behalf of the DCPS Title I Parent Advisory Council.

We have participated in number important meetings during the month of March and are looking forward to building and sustaining relationships and partnerships throughout the district.

Our board met on March 4, 2011 and discussed the progress of our 2010-2011 action plan, developed strategies for building capacity, and prioritized the parent involvement activities for the remainder of the year.

And on Tuesday, March 8, the board had the privilege of meeting with Dr. Young, Principal at Jean Ribault, to discuss how the Parent Advisory Council can assist him in

his efforts to improve future parent involvement activities. We are planning a follow-up meeting to finalize details.

March 11, 2011, the Title I PAC board members, the At-large committee members, along with the District's Parent Involvement Staff met to discuss the progress of our collaboration and ways to improve the partnership.

A group of parents from various Title I schools met with the District Parent involvement Staff to participate in the mid year review of Duval County's met with the District Parent Involvement staff to participate in the review of Duval County's 2010-2011 Parent Involvement Plan on Tuesday, March 22nd.

As a whole, the activities and programs that were planned and implemented so far, met state and federal statutory requirements. A great improvement was in the area of overcoming barriers that prevented parents from being involved and engaged with their children's education.

On next week, PAC board members will be visiting individual schools to show our support to the students, staff and administrators as students prepare to take the FCAT.

Later this month, Parent Advisory Council plans to host the viewing of BRING YOUR "A" GAME which is a twenty minute groundbreaking documentary film targeting the urban boys and men who are most often the victims of poverty and lack of strong male role models. The film gives a straight-talk approach with interviews from influential black men who stress the importance of educational achievement and high school graduation. Bring Your "A" Game has received rave reviews and viewed throughout the country.

There will be a special presentation of the ONE in THREE initiative by Trey Csar, President of the Jacksonville Public Education Fund. Mark your calendars for Thursday, April 21st from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm.

Parents remember to Get up, Get out, Get involved with your child's education and be part of the spark! Thank you and have a great evening!

PTA - Melissa Kicklighter, President:

Good evening! My name is Melissa Kicklighter, and I am here representing the Duval County Council of PTAs. During the month of March, we continued to focus on advocacy. We conducted our last working session with the students participating in the Superintendent's Leadership Academy, so they were fully prepared for their meetings with legislators, and we made final plans for our trip to Tallahassee for the Florida PTA Rally. During our visit, parents, students and teachers visited with all of the members of the Duval Legislative Delegation or in a few cases their legislative aides. We delivered postcards with handwritten notes to each of their offices, and we shared our thoughts and concerns about the education budget crisis. I was incredibly proud of our high school students, who so eloquently told their stories and shared their worries about not just losing what they need to successfully finish their studies. I was touched to see that they were most concerned for the students coming behind them and the challenges they will face if adequate and sustainable funding is not provided for our schools. It was a day that I know they will never forget because they found their voices and used them to try to make positive change for their community.

I do hope that others throughout the Jacksonville community will join in the cause by continuing to communicate with our lawmakers through phone calls, e-mails, faxes and letters. Legislator contact information will be available at all of the Community Budget Meetings, or you can find it at the Duval County Council website, the Save Duval Schools website or myflorida.gov. Together we can send our message loud and clear – Fund Public K-12 Education First!

Next, I am very excited to announce that the Duval County Council of PTAs has been selected to receive a grant from National PTA that will assist us in growing our advocacy efforts over the next year. The Common Core State Standards Initiative includes high quality, professionally developed advocacy training. Last year it was rolled out from National PTA to eight states, now two school districts in the nation have been selected to take it to the district level. The Duval County Council along with a school district in Columbus, Ohio will be working to implement the program to help develop a plan that can be launched nationally. During the month of February, we piloted one module of the training, and it received rave reviews from the participants. It was our intent to formulate a plan to broaden the scope of that training anyway, but now we will have financial resources and the structure and support of National PTA to assist us in our efforts. This week the Memorandum of Understanding should be signed, sealed and delivered. I look forward to sharing more information with all of you regarding the strategic plan in the coming weeks.

Our next Teacher Supply Depot Opening will be held on April 14 from 3:00 – 6:00 p.m., and the Earth Day Celebration will be held at the Jacksonville Landing on Saturday, April 16. Before I forget, I do want to mention that we have elected our officers for the 2011-12 school year, and we will hold the installation of the officers at our next General meeting on April 19. All PTA/PTSA award applications and history books are also due that day. All judging will take place immediately following the meeting at 12 Noon. Invitations were also extended to the Jacksonville Mayoral Candidates to attend as our program speakers for the meeting. Mr. Alvin Brown has graciously agreed to attend, but sadly Mr. Mike Hogan has declined.

We have many other exciting events this time of year, so I would encourage everyone to visit the Duval County Council of PTAs website at www.dccpta.org for more information.

Thanks to all of the members of the Duval County School Board, the Superintendent, districts administrators and staff for your willingness to work the PTA to continuously improve our schools!

Comments From Employee Organizations

[COMMENTS FROM EMPLOYEE ORGANIZATIONS](#)

Minutes: *There is no report this evening.*

Student Achievement, Reform Activities, And Reports

1. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Minutes:

The Chairman recognized the following Boy Scout Troops:

Troop 14 from the Jacksonville Jewish Center

Troop 473 from St. Joseph's Catholic Church

Troop 321 from Mandarin Presbyterian Church

I do want to talk about where we are on the budget and particularly, in light of some of the erroneous comments made earlier by a couple of speakers. First, I just want to say because I've heard people ask, "*Why is Duval having this problem as opposed to other districts?*" The answer is we are not...every school district in the state is faced with the same issues as Duval. When the Governor's budget came out, he had proposed 10.4% cut in the budget for Duval County. The average statewide, I think, was 10.3% roughly. Some counties were a little less than we are and a couple more. What we, as a Board, determined to do which is not necessarily what other Boards have done is to get out very quickly and start looking at the budget and what the impact would be. This district, Board and Superintendent have engaged throughout my tenure on the Board in wanting to be totally transparent and work with the community. By getting out early and talking about the impact of these budget cuts, some people have gotten the impression that other people aren't talking about us so it must be unique to Duval. It is not unique to Duval and other districts are now having to go through the same process that we have been doing for some time. It does give us somewhat of a leg up in the sense that we have been costing out everything so that we know where the potential cuts would have to come and we started the process of setting priorities. Ultimately, this Board and Superintendent will make the decisions that have to be made; many of which will be dictated by our academic requirements, but we want the input from the community and understand how they feel about these various issues. So, that's what has been going on...not unique to Duval. In fact, there were comments about financial management and that sort of thing...Duval County, is in fact, very fiscally sound. It's probably one of the most prudently managed school districts in the state, if not, the nation. With the help of JPEF, there was a study by a national organization done recently and it concluded that Duval County spends a higher percentage of its PreK operating expenses on instruction than other districts. That means we are getting the biggest bang for the buck in Duval County. Our administrative costs are extraordinarily low and we're putting more money in the classroom than any other school districts that have been studied. So, that's the reality of what is happening in Duval County.

Furthermore, we have reserves in Duval County. The state requires us to keep a

certain percentage of reserves. We meet those reserves and we have greater reserves and in fact, in our budget estimates, the Superintendent has pulled down our reserves to the minimum amount required in order to reduce the amount of what we expected the budget deficit to be. So, the reality is that Duval County is very fiscally sound, our bond rating is as high as it could possibly be, we are in fact much better off than many other school districts and we, like other school districts, are facing a herculean task in trying to figure out how to deal with these budget cuts. The only money that this School Board receives is from the government; from the taxpayers and when the Governor says that he's going to cut 10% or in this case, \$100,000,000 out of the monies that we need to operate, that is a huge, huge impact. Particularly, after we've suffered three years in a row of budget cuts. So, that's what is going on and we have been having meetings with the community to discuss the community's ideas and also to get their help and input.

Where's the budget heading now? The two Houses have come up with their budget proposals. They are much better than the Governor's. One is at 6.2% cut; the other at 6.8%. You add to that the fact that we have costs that go up every year and we're still looking at potential revenue loss and deficits, if you will, from where we were last year in the range of \$75,000,000. That's why we're going through this very difficult process. One thing that bothers me has been that there's kind of a fatalism involved and I think part of it is due to the fact that people wonder if they can have any influence on Tallahassee, but also, I think people think it's a recession and things are bad and it's just the way it is. The reality is that's not true. We are in a recession. Many states have already come out of it or are coming out of it. We're one of the last to come out and in part due to our very poor economic infrastructure that has been created over the last few decades. I would suggest, as in large part, because we have not invested in education. We do not have the jobs, the workforce, the sort of economy that is resilient any more. We're totally dependent on tourism and selling houses to incoming folks from out of state and when those things go away, we don't have an economy and that is largely because we have not invested in education in the past and if we continue to fail to invest in education for our children, there will be no future for Florida. It's not due to the recession that we have this problem. It's due to the priorities that Tallahassee has set.

Let me give you a couple of examples. Contrary to one of the comments made earlier, back in the 2007-2008 school year, roughly five years ago, at that point in time, the budget for Duval County was a little over \$7,200 per student. That was the year that the U.S. Census concluded that Florida was 50th in the nation in spending per capita on schools. So, we were last in the nation per capita. Fast forward to today. If you use an inflation rate of 3% on average, and actually for our system, inflation is higher than that because our costs are based in great part on things like health care and human costs, but if you use a 3% inflation factor, just to stay at that 50th in the nation per capita, it would cost roughly \$8,300 per child today to stay where we were. The amount in the present budget in the legislature is approximately \$6,200 per student which is a difference of \$2,000 in real dollars from where we were five years ago - a 20% drop and that's what we're expected to use today to educate our children compared to what we were doing five years ago when we were 50th in the nation. So, that is what is happening and those are the priorities that the legislature has made.

One of the other things that was mentioned by someone was the lottery. Everyone asks us about the lottery money. Back in 1989-90, Duval County received \$32,000,000 from the lottery which was the third year of the lottery. Since that time, the lottery dollars have gone up quite a bit. This last year, according to the lottery information, \$1.24 billion dollars was paid by the lottery in the Educational Enhancement Fund. Duval County received approximately \$5,000,000 of which \$300,000 was Discretionary. Remember, the lottery is supposed to be Enhancement, not to replace but to enhance education. Last year, out of \$1.24 billion dollars, Duval County got \$300,000 of Discretionary money to use for enhancements. If the lottery that was supposed to be used for K-12 for enhancement were made available to our public education system, we would not have a problem. That, alone, would solve the problem. That's something the legislature could do if it so chose. It's a priority that they have made regarding how they will spend the monies. Again, the fact that we are in a recession and we have down economic times is not the reason why our educational system is in this budget crisis. It's because of priorities being made in Tallahassee.

One other example: in the Governor's proposed budget and I don't know how it falls out with the legislature but I think it's very similar, relatively speaking, but in the Governor's proposed budget, there are 33 agencies and he made various cuts in various agencies and departments and he actually added money to certain departments including the Executive Branch. Education is one of the major expenditures in our state system. Under our Constitution, it is supposed to be the paramount consideration, the paramount duty. It's supposed to be the first duty; the first thing to be funded under our Constitution. Last year, education was about 30% of the state budget. The two big items are education and Medicaid. Last year education was 30% of the budget. In the Governor's budget cuts of \$4.6 billion dollars, he proposed to put \$3.3 billion on the backs of education. That is rather than saving education from harm and first determining whatever cuts are necessary elsewhere since education is paramount, the Governor's budget put 71% of the budget cuts on education - 71% of the budget cuts public K-12 education. So, I just wanted to use those two or three examples and there are many, many more so the people will not be misled to believe that this is just inevitable and unfortunate, the economy is down, schools have to be cut. They do not - these are priorities being set by the Governor and the legislature and their priority has been to cut public education to the benefit of other programs. So, the only solution, this Board will continue to do the best it can with what it has and we will be out in the community.

We will be at Andrew Jackson High School on Thursday, April 7 and Monday, April 11 at Ed White High School - both at 6:00 pm to hear the community's comments and to give you information but ultimately what we have to do as members of this Board, hopefully, provide leadership but we need this community and this state to step up and if we really do believe that education is essential to having a high quality workforce, is essential to economic development, is essential to social wellbeing and reducing crime, is essential to quality of life, is essential to attracting the kind of jobs we want in Florida...if we really believe that as a state, then some how we have got to communicate with our legislature and let them know that because clearly, that is not the priority in Tallahassee. So, we will continue to do our job the best we can. Yes, we know it's stupid to even talk about not having sports in schools...we know that. We know it's terrible to think about not having art, physical education and music...we know that. I've been called a lot of names ever since we started having these discussions and

it seems kind of odd for me, particularly, since I played sports in high school and college and was a coach to be lectured about how stupid can you be to think that you should be cutting sports and how important they are to kids...we all know that, we get that but as I have said to a couple of reporters when they asked, if we're faced with an \$80,000,000 cut in our budget, we can not get there from here and preserve the programs that we all know are so important. The only solution is for our community to reach out to the legislature and to the Governor and say, "*We want education to be priority number one.*" That is our only solution. I hope everyone will join in doing that and I unabashedly urge you to go to SaveDuvalSchools.org which is a local organization that has been formed to organize everyone and also to work with other organizations around the state to fund education now to try to create a state-wide voice in favor of education because without that, I really fear that the priorities in Tallahassee are not the priorities of the people. Thank you.

2. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Minutes:

The Superintendent said Mr. Gentry did an excellent job of covering the budget situation. I just would like to reiterate and encourage those that did not make the meeting last night at Atlantic Coast High School, to come to Andrew Jackson High School on Thursday, April 7 at 6:00 pm or on Monday, April 11 at 6:00 pm.. We keep it very concise. I was told that last year I may have gone a little long so this year, we have a tighter presentation. We have time for questions and those who come can weigh in and give your advice as to what we ought to look at, what we ought to keep, and what we ought to consider reducing. It's a very important time for you to come out and show your support, interest and concern for your students and community by participating in one of these two remaining meetings. As Mr. Gentry said, you will become engaged in the process and to please let your legislators know what you think about these reductions.

The second thing is, I'd like to respond to an earlier comment about the lack of our being audited. We're one of the most audited organizations in the world and I am pleased to say that each year our audits have always been good and now, have become excellent to superior. We are audited every year. We contract out via bid process with one of the major organizations that does this work, not only for the school district but for Fortune 500 companies. They are basically about only four or five groups that have a national presence now through consolidation. It was Ernst & Young and our current auditor is Cherry, Beckaert & Holland and they do an annual audit and then the third year, the state comes in (Auditor General) and does a full audit, not only of all of the state's spending (state's dollars), but all of the federal dollars and has a report that's given to us that we must respond to; if there are issues and concerns, we correct them immediately. There is an Annual Financial Report that is on our website. As Mr. Gentry shared earlier with the group ERS, they have been contracted jointly by the school district with help and support in funding from Jacksonville Public Education Fund. This is a national organization and benchmarks our district with other school districts and compares "apples to apples" comparison on how we spend our funds.

They came up with to initial conclusions and the first one was that we have the least top heavy administrator group of any district they've studied, to date and we have one of the most transparent processes with the public in terms of visibility on how to see how we spend our money, how much money we receive, what are the sources so kudos to all of our operations and financial staff for doing a superior job. Our auditing staff who does a superior job and keeps us on the straight and narrow. We do not have problems like a number of the other districts have and we have a superior bond rating because of how we manage our Capital Funds. Also, one correction of a number said earlier that we have \$1.7 billion dollar budget, that's correct if you consider all funds including Capital Funds; however, our Operating Budget is less than \$1 billion dollars and it's been in the mid-\$900 range ever since I came in five years ago as the Chief Academics Officer and it has not changed and costs have gone up dramatically over those same years. If you count inflation, which has not been high over the last few years, but it has been there, we're \$2,000 less per student than we were five years ago. So, these are real. I had a conversation today with another Superintendent. They are either going to a four-day week this coming year or the following year and they started way ahead of us on this issue. Many school districts have done away with, if they ever had any, middle school or junior high athletics. Numerous school districts, over the last 2-3 years, have done away with any non-required or prior transportation and many districts do not provide or have drastically reduced the amount of art, physical education and music resource teachers that are available to elementary schools...sound familiar with our list? Yes, athletics at the high school level, we may be talking about that but others are at least mentioning it and may not be mentioning it publicly, but if you look at all of the major things that we're discussing, other districts are, at least, talking about those issues because they will be facing the same types of challenges we are. Again, we got out of the gate sooner. I'd rather say these are things we have to consider rather than at some point say, "If we have to dramatically reduce...let's say for instance, the magnet transportation" and have been say, "I didn't know and you didn't tell us; you sprung this on us. We didn't have an opportunity to weigh in. We didn't have an opportunity to discuss it." We're putting that on the table because these are very real considerations we're having to make. So, that's why we need the public engaged with this process and, initially, trying to lower these cuts. We realize we'll probably have some this year because of where we are economically, but there are some specific things.

Three things that we ask of you come to the presentations:

- (1) Minimize the penalty in the Class Size Amendment - that could save us \$12,000,000;
- (2) Allow the School District, through a super majority which we have had for the last two years, the ability to levy an addition 1/4 mil millage on property taxes which is actually a property tax cut because evaluations have dropped dramatically and we'd be raising far less money than we did the prior year, but because evaluations are so much lower, that would help us to the tune of about another \$17,000,000;
- (3) Putting off textbook purchases would be at least \$4,000,000.

So, if you add up those three items alone which is not extra money that the state has allocated. Notice, we're talking about spending money differently...not more money. If we could get that kind of flexibility as well as a number of other unfunded mandates that we put on the list, then we could come much closer to being able to bridge this

gap. There are specific things that can be done today in the legislature to help Duval County and other school district in the state of Florida and we enlist your support in helping us with those.

Reports

[1. OPERATIONS REPORT - MR. DOUG AYARS](#)

Minutes:

There is no report this evening.

[2. ACADEMIC SERVICES REPORT - MS. PAT WILLIS](#)

Minutes:

Deputy Superintendent said that Mr. Tony Bellamy, Chief Officer of Turnaround Schools, will give the Turnaround Report and Ms. Kathy LeRoy, Chief Officer of Academics, will give a Summer School Report.

Turnaround Report:

- Due to the fact that schools are just returning from spring break, tonight will be basically a brief update on our Turnaround schools. We have been working closely with our schools and students as they prepare for the upcoming state assessment. Schools have developed Incentive Plans, principals are having motivational talks with students and testing schedules have been created to ensure that testing runs smoothly and that each student gives their very best and take the assessment seriously. We are also in the process of planning Summer Professional Development for teachers. There will be an Urban Institute in partnership with Duval and the Schultz Center and in collaboration with the State; we have currently selected dates that the State will facilitate Professional Development trainings for teachers.

INSTRUCTIONAL VACANCIES

- Just to inform you about current vacancies, we are showing 3 vacancies in our Secondary Turnaround Cluster. One in Social Studies, one in Language Arts and one in Physics. Each school is actively interviewing candidates.

Summer School Report:

Academic Services is currently in the final planning stages for the Summer Programming that will be available for DCPS students. As in previous years, the intent of these programs is to support (1) the promotion of students to the next grade level;

(2) identifying areas in reading and mathematics in need of additional skill building; and (3) maintaining and enhancing the reading and mathematics progress made throughout the school year. Because of the critical and urgent need for all of our students to read on grade level all of the time, we are continuing to investigate reading opportunities for students that are performing well below grade level in Reading based on FAIR data and 2011 Reading FCAT scores. When the final direction on the 2011-12 budget is decided, the additional Reading opportunities will be finalized. Regular summer programming will include:

- The required Elementary Summer Reading Camp for Grade 3 Level I students as required by the FLDOE in order to be promoted to grade 4;
- The Summer Grade 3-5 Reading and Mathematics Course Recovery Program for students receiving an F in either course;
- The Secondary Credit Recovery for Middle and High School Students via our on-line program Compass Odyssey;
- The Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten; Exceptional Student Education and English Speakers of Other Languages mandatory programs.

Additionally, the Superintendent Academies for students that attend our Turnaround schools will be offered. The Superintendent Academies will include:

- The Superintendent's Primary Academy intended for K-2 students that have low FAIR scores based on the third administration;
- The Superintendent's Intermediate Reading and Mathematics Academy intended for promoted rising 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade students;
- Bridge Academies intended for rising 6th and 9th grade students to support the enhancement of the required reading and mathematics skills to be successful in a middle school or high school setting;
- The DCPS, FSCJ and Bethel Baptist Institutional Church Summer Intervention Academy for face-to face instruction for Grade 9-12 Level I and II students from Turnaround HS in need of credit recovery; and
- The College Bound Academy for our grade 11 and 12 students that have not successfully passed the Grade 10 FCAT in Reading and/or Mathematics. These students will receive extensive SAT/ACT prep with 3 weeks of intensive reading and 3 weeks of intensive mathematics to support the successful passing of these assessments that will be administered in early fall.

All of the summer activities will be comprised of an all-day, six week program, running from June 20nd through July 29st and will include engaging research-based curriculum and professional development as part of pre-planning for our summer program teachers. All summer activities will support a focus on individualized instruction and support so that our students will continue to have increased achievement and success as they move forward.

Approval of Agenda

[APPROVAL OF THE APRIL 5, 2011, AGENDA](#)

Motions:

That the Duval County School Board approve the April 5, 2011, Agenda as submitted on March 29, 2011, with the following changes:

1. Presentations - Communications - Item 1 - 2011 Teacher of the Year Winner - Added Item
2. Presentations - Communications - Item 2 - 2010-2011 Outstanding Volunteer Awards - Added Item
3. Presentations - Communications - Item 3 - WJCT Mission U.S. Educator of the Year - Added Item
4. Presentations - Communications - Item 4 - Recognition of Pastor Gunns for his work with Raines and Ribault High Schools - Added Item
5. Presentations - Communications - Item 5 - Commissioner's Business Recognition Awards - Added Items
6. Approval of Minutes - Revised Agenda Item
7. Human Resource Services - Staffing - Item 1 - Suspensions Without Pay - Revised Attachment
8. Operations - School Choice and Pupil Assignment - Item 1 - Charter School Contract for Florida High School for Accelerated Learning, Inc. - Duval Campus D/B/A Murray Hill High School - Revised Agenda Item - PASS
9. Operations - Facilities Project Design, Construction and Maintenance - Item 1 - Prequalification of Construction Contractors for Educational Project - Revised Attachment
10. Operations - Facilities Project Design, Construction and Maintenance - Item 11 - Districtwide Roof Replacement at Landmark Middle School No. 256: Construction Contract Award DCSB Project No. M-83800, Stage I - Revised Agenda Item; Attachments Added

11. Operations - Facilities Project
Design, Construction and
Maintenance - Item 12 - Districtwide
Roof Replacement at Alfred duPont
Middle School No. 66, Douglas
Anderson School of the Arts No. 107,
and Matthew Gilbert Middle School
No. 146: Construction Contract
Award DCSB Project No. M-83800,
Stage II - Revised Agenda Item;
Attachments Added

Vote Results

Motion: Thomas Hazouri

Second: Betty Burney

Martha Barrett - Aye

Betty Burney - Aye

Rebecca Couch - Aye

William Gentry - Aye

Thomas Hazouri - 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 6, 2011 - Joint DCSB & Duval Delegation Meeting

January 18, 2011 - Board Workshop

January 24, 2011 - Board Workshop

January 27, 2011 - Board Workshop

January 31, 2011 - Board Workshop

February 8, 2011 - Grievance Committee Meeting

February 8, 2011 - Board Workshop

February 14, 2011 - Board Workshop
February 22, 2011 - Special Board Meeting
February 22, 2011 - Board Workshop
March 1, 2011 - Board Workshop
March 1, 2011 - Regular Board Meeting
March 8, 2011 - Board Workshop
March 14, 2011 - Board Workshop

Motions:

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

- January 6, 2011 - Joint DCSB - Duval Delegation Meeting
- January 18, 2011 - Board Workshop
- January 24, 2011 - Board Workshop
- January 27, 2011 - Board Workshop
- January 31, 2011 - Board Workshop
- February 8, 2011 - Grievance Committee Meeting - PASS
- February 8, 2011 - Board Workshop
- February 14, 2011 - Board Workshop
- February 22, 2011 - Special Board Meeting
- February 22, 2011 - Board Workshop
- March 1, 2011 - Board Workshop
- March 1, 2011 - Regular Board Meeting
- March 8, 2011 - Board Workshop
- March 14, 2011 - Board Workshop

Vote Results

Motion: Thomas Hazouri

Second: Betty Burney

Martha Barrett	- Aye
Betty Burney	- Aye
Rebecca Couch	- Aye
William Gentry	- Aye
Thomas Hazouri	- 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: Betty Burney	
Second: Thomas Hazouri	
Martha Barrett	- Aye
Betty Burney	- Aye
Rebecca Couch	- Aye
William Gentry	- Aye
Thomas Hazouri	- Aye
Fred Lee	- Aye
Paula Wright	- Aye

Consent Agenda

Academic Services

[1. EQUIPMENT ASSISTANCE GRANT](#)

Attachment: [EQUIPAssist.BENEFITS AND CHALLENGE.pdf](#)

[2. AVID IMPLEMENTATION AGREEMENT RENEWAL AND MIDDLE SCHOOL EXPANSION](#)

Attachment: [AVID - Academic Services BENEFITS AND CHALLENGES FORM 06-22-10 \(2\).pdf](#)

Minutes:

Ms. Barrett said I want to highlight the AVID program for the public and I've asked Ms. Leroy to give me a few ideas about what AVID is for the public. It's a college-ready system targeting average students in the academic middle that has been involved for 31 years. AVID was implemented in Duval County five years ago. We currently have AVID in eleven high schools and seven middle schools and I believe we're approving more for the middle schools, tonight. We're implementing AVID in six additional middle schools this year. Last year was the first graduating class of Duval County Public Schools AVID students who were in the program all four years and one of the successes was when Terry Parker High School graduated 54 AVID seniors and those seniors were offered \$2.7 million dollars in scholarships and Bright Futures awards. Sandalwood has teamed up with the University of North Florida and has developed an excellent relationship to help students with their post-secondary experience. They will be presenting this connection at the AVID National Conference in December.

I thought this was important about the partnerships, Big Brothers Big Sisters is partnering with our AVID high schools and local businesses to provide mentors to them. They have a current connection between Comcast and Sandalwood and we'll be starting a connection between the Haskell Company and Andrew Jackson's AVID students next year. Some of our AVID high school students have been serving as tutors to feeder middle and elementary schools. I just think this is one of the best programs we have. Congratulations to all! Thank you.

Mr. Gentry said it's a great program and the young woman who was recognized this afternoon from Wolfson came here not speaking any English 2-3 years ago and enrolled in AVID and has now been offered a scholarship, I think, at the University of North Florida. It's a great program.

[3. SUBMISSION OF NEW ACCELERATED MIDDLE SCHOOL SCIENCE COURSE REQUESTS TO FLDOE](#)

Attachment: [CS Accelerated Advanced Course Sequence.pdf](#)

Attachment: [Com_Science 1 Accelerated Adv course description.pdf](#)

Attachment: [submission-form-combined-course Duval Accelerated Science 1.pdf](#)

Attachment: [Com_Science 2 Accelerated Adv course description.pdf](#)

Attachment: [submission-form-combined-course Duval Accelerated Science 2.pdf](#)

Attachment: [BENEFITS AND CHALLENGES new courses 03 07 11.pdf](#)

[4. COURSE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR APPROVAL TO THE DISTRICT COURSE TITLE FILE](#)

Attachment: [April 5 2011 Adoption of COURSE TITLES.pdf](#)

Attachment: [April 5 2011 BENEFITS AND CHALLENGES.pdf](#)

Human Resource Services - Staffing

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

Attachment: [HRS Attach 04-05-11 TRANS.pdf](#)

Human Resource Services - Labor Relations

[1. SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT WITH JACKSONVILLE SUPERVISORS ASSOCIATION, INC.](#)

Attachment: [HRS Attach JSA Language 2010-11.pdf](#)

Human Resource Services - Professional Standards

[1. SUSPENSIONS WITHOUT PAY](#)

Attachment: [HRS attach 04-05-11 susp.pdf](#)

Administration and Business Services - Budget and Financial

[1. MONTHLY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS](#)

Attachment: [January 2011 Board Statement Worksheet.pdf](#)

[2. ADOPTION OF BUDGET RESOLUTIONS](#)

Attachment: [April 2011 Spreadsheets.pdf](#)

Attachment: [April 2011 Narratives.pdf](#)

Operations - School Choice and Pupil Assignment

[1. CHARTER SCHOOL CONTRACT FOR FLORIDA HIGH SCHOOL FOR ACCELERATED LEARNING, INC. - DUVAL CAMPUS D/B/A/ MURRAY HILL HIGH SCHOOL](#)

Operations - Real Estate, Planning and Programming

[1. TEMPORARY WAIVER OF SCHOOL BOARD POLICY 9.30, USE OF FACILITIES AND GROUNDS](#)

Operations - Facilities Project Design, Construction and Maintenance

[2. APPROVE AMENDED SPOT SURVEY FOR DOUGLAS ANDERSON SCHOOL OF THE ARTS #107 AND WESCONNETT NO. 57](#)

Attachment: [SPOT Recommendation Wesconnett No 57.pdf](#)

Attachment: [B-C Agenda Item SPOT Douglas Anderson 107 and Wesconnett 57.pdf](#)

Attachment: [April 5 2011 SPOT Recommendation Douglas Anderson 107.pdf](#)

3. VIDEO SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM AT JEAN RIBAUTL HIGH SCHOOL #96/OFDC ITB-007-11: CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT AWARD/DISTRICTWIDE SECURITY CAMERAS AND SECURITY SYSTEM REPLACEMENTS;DCSB PROJECT NO. M-83980

Attachment: [Acceptance letters from Beth and Haddad 3 17 11.pdf](#)
Attachment: [April 5 2011 B-C Agenda Item M-83980 Video Surv Sys at No 96 Cons Con Award PLACEMENT 02 28 11.pdf](#)
Attachment: [M-83980 Security Ribault Bid Tab 3-15-11.pdf](#)

4. FIRE ALARM REPLACEMENT/UPGRADES AT ANDREW JACKSON HS NO. 35, SALLYE B MATHIS ES NO. 91, JOHN STOCKTON ES NO. 88: CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT AWARD/DISTRICTWIDE FIRE ALARMS REPLACEMENT DCSB PROJECT NO. M-83970/OFDC-ITB-006-11

Attachment: [M-83970 Fire Alarm Replacements-MBE Bid Review memo 3-9-11.pdf](#)
Attachment: [M-83970 Fire Alarm Replacements 35918848-Bid Tabulation Form 3-8-11.pdf](#)
Attachment: [April 5 2011 B-C Agenda Item M-83970 Fire Alarm Replace at Nos 35 91 88 48 Cons Con Award PLACEMENT 02 18 11.pdf](#)

5. WINDOW REPLACEMENTS AT ORTEGA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NO. 16/DCSB PROJECT NO. M-84410/OFDC-ITB-008-11: CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT AWARD

Attachment: [M-84410 Bid Tabulation for Ortega ES No 16 03 15 11.pdf](#)
Attachment: [April 5 2011 B-C Agenda Item M-84410 Window Replace at No 16 Cons Con Award PLACEMENT 02 28 11.pdf](#)
Attachment: [M-84410 MBE Rec Letter for Ortega ES No 16.pdf](#)

6. WINDOW REPLACEMENTS AT NORMANDY VILLAGE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NO. 221/DCSB PROJECT NO. M-84410 OFDC ITB-010-11: CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT AWARD

Attachment: [M-84410 Bid MBE Rec Letter for Window Replacements at Normandy Village ES No 221 03 17 11.pdf](#)
Attachment: [April 5 2011 B-C Agenda Item M-84410 Window Replace at No 221 Cons Con Award PLACEMENT 02 28 11.pdf](#)
Attachment: [M-84410 Bid Tab for Window Replacements at Normandy Village ES No 221 03 15 11.pdf](#)

7. WINDOW REPLACEMENTS AT ENGLEWOOD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NO. 87.DCSB PROJECT NO. M-83790 OFDC ITB-009-11: CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT AWARD

Attachment: [M-83790 Bid Tab for Windows at Englewood No 87 03 15 11.pdf](#)
Attachment: [M-83790 MBE Rec Letter for Windows at Englewood No 87 03 15 11.pdf](#)

[Attachment: April 5 2011 B-C Agenda Item M-83790 Window Replace at No 87 Cons Con Award PLACEMENT 02 28 11.pdf](#)

8. CHANGE ORDER REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH 2011

Attachment: [April 5 2011 B-C Agenda Item Change Order Report for the Month of March 2011 02 28 11.pdf](#)

Attachment: [April 5 2011 Agenda Item Change Order Report Chart for March 2011 Revised 03 10 11.pdf](#)

9. PERIODIC REPORT OF SUBSTANTIAL COMPLETIONS, FINAL INSPECTIONS, ORIGINAL CONTRACT AMOUNT AND NET SUM OF ALL CHANGE ORDERS ON MAJOR MAINTENANCE PROJECTS UNDER \$1,000,000

Attachment: [April 5 2011 B-C Agenda Item Periodic Report of Subs Comp-Final Insp-Cont Sav on Projects under \\$1M 02 08 11.pdf](#)

Attachment: [April 5 2011 Agenda Item Subs Comp Final Comp Chart for March 2011 03 18 11.pdf](#)

10. AMEND PROJECT BUDGET FOR DCSB PROJECT C-91160 DARNELL COOKMAN MIDDLE-HIGH SCHOOL OF THE MEDICAL ARTS NO. 145

Attachment: [April 5 2011 B-C Agenda Item C-91160 Darnell Cookman Reprogram Funds.pdf](#)

11. DISTRICTWIDE ROOF REPLACEMENT AT LANDMARK MIDDLE SCHOOL NO. 256: CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT AWARD DCSB PROJECT NO. M-83800, STAGE I

Attachment: [BidTabulation FORM 3-29-2010 stg 1.pdf](#)

Attachment: [Stage I attachment.pdf](#)

Attachment: [BENEFITS AND CHALLENGES FORM 3.7.11 M-83800 Stage I.pdf](#)

12. DISTRICTWIDE ROOF REPLACEMENT AT ALFRED DUPONT MIDDLE SCHOOL NO. 66, DOUGLAS ANDERSON SCHOOL OF THE ARTS NO. 107, AND MATTHEW GILBERT MIDDLE SCHOOL NO. 146: CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT AWARD DCSB PROJECT NO. M-83800, STAGE II

Attachment: [BidTabulation FORM 3-29-2010 Stage 2.pdf](#)

Attachment: [Stage II attachments.pdf](#)

Attachment: [BENEFITS AND CHALLENGES FORM 3.7.11 M-83800 Stage II.pdf](#)

Operations - Purchasing and Logistics

1. SURPLUS PROPERTY RETIREMENT REPORT

Attachment: [April 2011.pdf](#)

Attachment: [04April11.pdf](#)

Attachment: [NEW BENEFITS AND CHALLENGES FORM 2011.pdf](#)
Attachment: [ROSUMFY11april.pdf](#)
Attachment: [07April11.pdf](#)
Attachment: [RORET FY11 \(2\)april.pdf](#)
Attachment: [05April 11.pdf](#)
Attachment: [06Aprpil11.pdf](#)

[2. RENEWAL OF HEALTH INSURANCE ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES ONLY AGREEMENT](#)

Attachment: [BENEFITS AND CHALLENGES Insurance.pdf](#)
Attachment: [Market Analysis.pdf](#)

General

[1. NAMING OF ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NO. 160 - WATERLEAF ELEMENTARY](#)

Attachment: [Naming of Elementary School No. 160-Waterleaf.pdf](#)
Attachment: [Benefits and Challenges Naming Elementary School No 160 Waterleaf.pdf](#)

Discussion

Academic Services

[5. PUBLIC HEARING AND VOTE; MODIFICATION TO THE GRADE CONFIGURATION FOR NORTH SHORE K-8](#)

Minutes:

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

Modification to the Grade Configuration for North Shore K-8

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.

The Superintendent said, "I would like to recognize on Consent, you approved Mary Ann Simon to be the new principal at Waterleaf Elementary School. Congratulations! Mary Ann is an experienced principal and brings a wealth of experience and knowledge. This is a facility where we have a significant number of special education classes and she has a great background and will do a superior job at our newest school. Waterleaf will be opening in the fall and we wish her the best. We wanted to recognize her now so she can begin selecting her faculty."

Motions:

1. That the Duval County School Board conduct a public hearing on the modification of the grade configuration for North Shore K-8 to a Pre-K through 5 elementary school. - PASS

2. That the Duval County School Board, following the public hearing, approve the modification.

Vote Results

Motion: Thomas Hazouri

Second: Martha Barrett

Martha Barrett	- Aye
Betty Burney	- Aye
Rebecca Couch	- Aye
William Gentry	- Aye
Thomas Hazouri	- Aye
Fred Lee	- Aye
Paula Wright	- Aye

Operations - Facilities Project Design, Construction and Maintenance

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

Attachment: [Board Approval - New April 2011.pdf](#)

Attachment: [Board Approval - Renewals APRIL 2011.pdf](#)

Minutes:

Board Member Becki Couch made the following declaration:

"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 lists of pre-qualified contractors. - PASS

Vote Results

Motion: Fred Lee

Second: Betty Burney

Martha Barrett - Aye

Betty Burney - Aye

Rebecca Couch - Abstain

William Gentry - Aye

Thomas Hazouri - Aye

Fred Lee - Aye

Paula Wright - Aye

Board Member Travel

[BOARD MEMBERS TRAVEL](#)

Minutes: *No Board Travel this month.*

Superintendent's Travel

[SUPERINTENDENT'S TRAVEL](#)

Minutes:

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

March 14-15, 2011 - Florida State Board of Education Meeting - Tallahassee, FL

May 17-20, 2011 - The Florida Council of 100 General Membership Meeting -

Palm Beach, FL

Motions:

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

- March 14-15, 2011 - Florida State Board of Education Meeting - Tallahassee, FL - PASS
- May 17-20, 2011 - The Florida Council of 100 General Membership Meeting - Palm Beach, FL

Vote Results

Motion: Paula Wright

Second: Fred Lee

Martha Barrett	- Aye
Betty Burney	- Aye
Rebecca Couch	- Aye
William Gentry	- Aye
Thomas Hazouri	- Aye
Fred Lee	- Aye
Paula Wright	- Aye

For The Record

[FOR THE RECORD](#)

Minutes:

Mr. Hazouri mentioned several great things have happened during the last month including approving our new principal at Waterleaf Elementary School and, also, West Riverside Elementary School is celebrating their 100th birthday this Saturday. They're doing a walk-thru at 9:30 and a BBQ about noon time. Everyone is invited to this celebration. It's an honor to have a school that is 100 years old and still alive, kicking

and doing well!

Ms. Barrett said congratulations to Mary Ann Simon and to let you know that Waterleaf Elementary is now the official name. Mr. Lee and I will have most of the students in our district attending that school and we're thrilled about it. I'd like to invite all of you to the Tree Hill Butterfly Festival on Saturday, April 30 from noon to four o'clock. They are going to release the butterflies at 3:30 pm and I urge you to come as it's a wonderful event. Congratulations to the folks who were here tonight being honored from Terry Parker High School, Lex Waters and Addison Davis - they are all doing a fantastic job and a wonderful partnership with Jacksonville University. One of the most prominent men in town passed away in March - Judge William Durden, who was the first General Counsel for the City of Jacksonville and many of you are following in this wonderful man's footsteps. We'll certainly miss his great mind!

Mr. Lee said "good luck" to all of the students, teachers and administrators with the upcoming FCAT tests. I'd like to continue encouraging the community that what we need from you to realize is that we're all in this together and we welcome your ideas and thoughts. We must figure out how to solve this problem. It won't be easy but I'm encouraged so far with the meeting that was held last night at Atlantic Coast High School. Many people came up to me with concerns about education. Your Board is very, very passionate about education along with all of the teachers and administrators in this entire district and we're reaching out to you. We want and need your help and advice and together, we'll solve this problem. Thank you.

Ms. Burney said I want to echo Board Member Lee's statement with regards to the FCAT and wish our students and teachers well. I wanted to congratulate students from Frank H. Peterson who won a national cook-off contest between Sandalwood students and Terry Parker students - all of them were exceptionally professional, the food was delicious and they're going to the White House in Washington, DC to represent Jacksonville.

Ms. Couch said I would also like to say "good luck" to our students next week when they take the FCAT. We believe in you and we know that you will do your best. You've worked hard all year and now is the time to demonstrate the knowledge you possess. I would also like to thank all of the people who attended the community meeting last night and remind everyone that there are two more meetings, this Thursday evening at Andrew Jackson and one Monday evening at Ed White High School. We've received several emails from constituents and I hope the public lets all those in Tallahassee who determine our funding know your concerns, as well. You have a voice so let your voice be heard.

Ms. Wright said I want to share thoughts and commendations to the staff at Jacksonville University, Florida State College at Jacksonville, Edward Waters College and the University of North Florida for all of the work they are helping with our students in nine high schools in the Upward Bound Program. A couple of Saturdays ago, they had a celebration and they brought all of the students together and it was so nice to see how effective they are at helping to prepare our students for college and life. I just wanted to give thanks in particular to Glory Peters at JU who is the director who pulled it altogether. Also, I want to thank everybody including the speakers tonight because it's important that you come and we know it's only three minutes to

share your thoughts, ideas or suggestions, but they are appreciated and welcomed. It was nice to see tonight how the district is partnering with so many different organizations to help meet the needs of the whole child. It's not just about academics and tonight, you saw with the students, the Boy Scouts, the Cummer, the Jacksonville Giants...so many different organizations come - that's what this is all about and despite the deficits we're facing as a district, we're going to continue to partner and work to meet the needs of all of our students. I want to say to the Cluster staff, principals, administrators and teachers who have worked so very hard to prepare our students for the FCAT - thank you! To our students, I want to wish you well. From the times I've spent in various schools, I wish that the efforts, the engagement and the excitement that I've seen in the students and staff in schools, that it would equal what you do on the FCAT tests. So, we're pulling for you during the next few days and every day.

Mr. Gentry said reading over the list of minutes made me realize how often we've been meeting lately and I want to thank the Board and staff for all they've been doing as we go through what is always a difficult time this year and even more difficult with preparing for the budget, having community meetings and this Board meeting on a very regular basis, not only to deal with the budget but issues regarding the Intervene schools and other things we're doing. It's a very, very busy time for everyone and I know that all of us on the Board appreciate the work that you all are doing trying to keep us up to speed and moving forward. I just wanted to say since I was asked out front as to what I think about not paying School Board members - Andrew Jackson would roll over in his grave because that is the antithesis of a democratic process which is to only have a system where the elite can serve on a Board, but all these meetings we've had were just the tip on the iceberg. All the work the Board does and the community along with the time involved in these meetings is a huge undertaking and I certainly appreciate all you are doing and we still have a lot ahead of us and we appreciate the staff.

Adjournment

[ADJOURNMENT](#)

Minutes:

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

lsd

Superintendent

Chairman