



Duval County Public Schools

December 7, 2010, 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 THIS REGULAR MEETING OF THE DUVAL COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD with Mr. Ed Pratt-Dannals, Superintendent, 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. Martha Barrett, Ms. Becki Couch, Mr. Tommy Hazouri, Mr. Fred "Fel" Lee and Ms. Paula Wright, present.

Call Meeting to Order

[CALL MEETING TO ORDER](#)

Minutes:

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

Invocation

[INVOCATION](#)

Minutes:

Board Member Becki Couch led the invocation.

Pledge of Allegiance

[PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE](#)

Presentations

[1. LEONARD MILLER PRINCIPAL LEADERSHIP AWARD](#)

Minutes: --The first presentation of the evening recognizes one of our elementary school principals for receiving the \$10,000 Leonard Miller Principal Leadership Award presented by the Council for Educational Change. --The award, which recognizes exceptional school leadership, is presented annually to an outstanding Florida school principal selected from nominees throughout the state. --The award honors the late Leonard Miller, a well known advocate for education. It recognizes exemplary school leadership in three areas: student achievement, parent/community involvement and empowering school-based leadership. --This year the award goes to the principal of Reynolds Lane Elementary. Would Todd Simpson please come forward? --Mr. Simpson was one of three finalists for this year's award. His selection as the winner was announced in front of friends and dignitaries from throughout the state who attended the gala event held at the Miller home on Miami Beach. --A few years ago, Jackie Byrd, now the cluster chief for elementary turnaround schools, won this award while also principal at Reynolds Lane Elementary. --Under Mr. Simpson's leadership, Reynolds Lane, has moved from an FCAT letter grade of "C" to a repeating "A." -- Congratulations Principal Simpson, you have done an outstanding job. We are proud to have you on our team.

[2. 2010 SEPTEMBER BOOK OF THE MONTH QUILT PROJECT](#)

Minutes:

-- For the past eight years, Duval County Public Schools has partnered with the Jacksonville Agricultural Fair for the annual September Book of the Month Quilt Project where students have an opportunity to create a quilt based on the DCPS selected September Book of the Month.

--This year, under the direction of their teachers, students in grades Pre-K through five submitted quilts that connected visually or morally to the book "Sophie's Masterpiece: A Spider's Tale" by Eileen Spinelli.

--Juried award winners were selected prior to installing the quilts by a team of judges from the Jacksonville Fair Association. After the installation, the public had the opportunity to vote for their favorite piece, making up the Community award winners.

--Both the Juried and Community award winners receive monetary awards that are used to support the schools' art programs.

--As your school's name is called, please come forward to receive your certificate of recognition.

--The following schools received Jurors' Awards:

- Andrew Robinson Elementary won first-place and \$500;
- Seabreeze Elementary won second-place and \$300;
- Chimney Lakes Elementary won third-place and \$150; and
- Abess Park Elementary, who was unable to be here this evening, was selected as honorable mention and won \$50.

--The following schools received Community Awards:

- R.L. Brown Elementary won first-place and \$500;
- George Washington Carver Elementary, who was not able to attend tonight, won second-place and \$300;
- Chaffee Trail Elementary won third-place and \$150; and
- Arlington Elementary was selected as honorable mention and won \$50.

--In addition to the Juror and Community awards, the following 10 elementary schools received Merit Award ribbons for their distinguished quilt designs and applications. These schools are not present tonight, but I would like to acknowledge them during this presentation:

- Jacksonville Heights
- Louis Sheffield
- Martin Luther King
- Merrill Road
- Sadie Tillis
- Susie Tolbert
- Windy Hill Elementary, and
- Northshore K-8

--Both Chaffee Trail and Arlington Elementary are also two of our Merit Award winners.

--Congratulations to each of you! The principals, teachers and students from each winning school should be extremely proud.

[3. BB&T- FOR THEIR WORK WITH ALDEN ROAD EXCEPTIONAL STUDENT CENTER ON THE LIGHTHOUSE PROJECT](#)

Minutes:

--Our final presentation of the evening recognizes one of our district's many business partners, BB&T.

--BB&T selected Alden Road Exceptional Student Center's courtyard renovation as one of their Lighthouse Projects for 2010.

--The BB&T Lighthouse Project was created to provide support to those in need during challenging times. The program has been very successful and has helped more than three million people in the past two years.

--Joining us tonight, on behalf of BB&T, are Scott Keith, Patti McCullough, Allyson Bass and Michelle Oleszek --With support from a few vendors and many volunteers, BB&T helped mulch the entire courtyard to make it wheelchair accessible for the students, landscaped the area with plants and flowers, and provided benches and umbrellas for the patio tables.

--They not only donated \$10,000 to complete the courtyard, but also provided additional supplies, such as paper products, gardening tools, and supplies for arts and crafts. Many BB&T employees also made their own contributions by donating school supplies at branch locations.

--On behalf of Duval County Public Schools, I would like to personally thank BB&T for their work with Alden Road Exceptional Student Center.

Comments From Audience

[COMMENTS FROM AUDIENCE](#)

Minutes:

Mr. John Turner spoke about a concern about the financial problems we're in today. Your budget process is always an on-going process and most people are not aware that you have a \$1 billion dollar budget but it is shrinking mainly because property values are going down and the amount of money you collect is, also, going down. The same thing with the state. I'm passing out to you is a chart that shows just how bad this recession is and there is a projected curve showing it's going to be a long time before we pull out of this...could be several years. People don't have enough money and it will be hard to supplement your budget with higher taxes to make up for "shortfalls". I'm asking and encouraging you to constantly look at this chart and realize how hard it is on people and ask yourself if there is another way besides raising property taxes. Thank you for your time.

Ms. Elnora Atkins, Chair of the Education Committee of the Jacksonville Branch of the NAACP spoke concerning two agenda items: the moving of James Weldon Johnson Middle School to another facility; and the consolidation of Paxon Middle School with Eugene Butler Middle School. The NAACP has taken an active part in the district's Academic and Community Excellence review process and recognizes the rationale for the closing and proposed relocation of James Weldon Johnson, program and students to Paxon Middle School, effective 2011-2012. While Johnson's facility is aging and landlocked, it's school name, James Weldon Johnson, is a name rich in American history and Jacksonville culture. James Weldon Johnson was born in Jacksonville, Florida and his numerous contributions in education, music, poetry, law and diplomacy have been chronicled in history books, scholarly papers and other documents. He and his brother wrote the well known song, "*Lift Every Voice and Sing*". In 1988, the United States Postal Service issued a stamp in his honor. No other local dignitary or Floridian has reached this. While the agenda item does not address or mention the name of the relocated James Weldon Johnson Middle School, I want to go on record tonight that the Jacksonville Branch of the NAACP strongly encourages this Board to continue to have the name of James Weldon Johnson on the school facility that is being proposed to be relocated to the current Paxon facility. Neither this city nor the district can stand to lose or remove the name of one of the most prominent Jacksonville and national African American icons. In regard to the proposed programs and consolidation of Eugene Butler at Paxon Middle School, it is crucial that the Superintendent and his staff begin implementing strategies and transitional programs that will allow and foster the interaction of students from both schools. It is paramount that these new consolidated school bodies become a unified student body to prevent turf wars and isolation. The district should begin addressing this issue in January so that there is a smooth transition of the two student bodies in August, 2011. Thank you for your time and we stand ready to help in whatever way we can.

Mr. George Young, newly elected first Vice President of the NAACP and tonight I'd like to address the need for district administrative support for our principals in our challenged schools and secondary schools. As a school volunteer and a member of the Education Committee of the Jacksonville Branch of the NAACP, I am concerned about the lack of administrator support that our school principals are receiving from the district's staff in addressing ineffective teachers. Hostile environments created by some collective bargaining representatives and outright disrespect for our school administrators and support personnel such as instructional coaches. While I commend the administration for placing young, passionate and effective principals in many of our challenged schools, they will not succeed unless they have the full support of the Superintendent, cluster chiefs, executive directors and this Board. As these principals begin to change their schools culture, there will be times when changes and new directors will be resisted or sabotaged by some staff members. It is imperative that our principals have the full backing and support when they confront these individuals and their collective bargaining unit representatives. Each year, the DTU and the THANE survey results are shared with the Superintendent and his staff to present

DTU assessments of individuals and whether DTU has been an asset and improved the school's culture or directive. We hope that the DTU will be an asset but this is not true in all of the schools. There is a need to allow the school principal an opportunity to provide feedback on whether collective bargaining units are working in collaboration with the school administration/personnel or whether they are perceived as a roadblock to school improvement. If we are going to improve our schools, we must have effective, visionary and passionate leaders to lead these schools. We also must have a commitment from the Superintendent and his staff to provide the support to these school leaders when small groups of teachers openly challenge their leadership and run to the DTU when they are reprimanded for their unprofessional behavior. I thank you for this opportunity to address you tonight about the need for support of our frontline leaders...our principals.

Mr. Kirit Patidar said thank you for allowing us to speak tonight on behalf of our little volleyball club we have in Jacksonville for the last 31 years and to the Superintendent, Chair and entire Board and especially our district member, Mr. Fred Lee, for winning his election. We will be serving along side of each other on different aspects of community affairs. We have a long history of playing volleyball in our community since 1979 and what happened to us in September/October time frame was basically, we were paying about \$120 a week on Sundays playing at Landmark Middle School off Kernan for about 4 hours (from 2:00-6:00 pm). Now, today's rate is \$398.00. We don't have the resources to pay that kind of money for the 35-40 members who have played for the past 25-30 years and 11 years, we have played at Landmark and before that, at Wolfson High. Why are we concerned? We have another facility in St. Augustine - Flagler State College who has offered us the same pricing before the change but 80-85% of our members are living and work in Duval County and we've always been able to enjoy the facility at Landmark. And, for that, we asking for due consideration by this Board for trying to accommodate us especially through this recession. Both the Chairman and Superintendent are aware of our problem and we'd like the Board to be cognizant of the fact and try to come to some accommodation and we've always helped from our small budget the Landmark Middle School, as far as school supplies and mentoring programs over the last 10-11 years since I've been in this county and always paying our taxes on time. Property taxes have gone down as the other gentleman has said and this isn't the time to increase those kind of prices on a small volleyball club. We're a very small minority of the total community and this is the time we need your help to look into this issue for us. I have outlined the different facts before you. Hopefully, we can come to some conclusion before we must travel to St. Augustine to play.

Mr. Paresh Patel said thank you for your consideration, tonight. As Kirit explained, we're not here looking for a handout. What we want is to have a discussion with you and seek some consideration. A three-fold increase is something we can't absorb. This community event which happens every weekend involves folks from every spectrum in our community and we want to make sure it's affordable to all as it is a social event. Our community comes together and a grandfather can play the same sport

with his grandson...sort of like golf. One thing we hear is, "*Say No to Drugs*" and "*Fight Obesity*" and this is a social event which connects with different generations within our community and it's an exercise. We've seen great changes and one thing I think people voted for in the state of Florida is to look at government, to look at school boards and to say, "How are they more accountable and accessible?" We certainly appreciate your time and for us to understand how a business, any business, can execute a three-fold increase in its pricing without any consideration of the customers that use it. We, obviously have other choices in going to other counties but we don't want to do that. We want to work with you, ponder and revisit this. If you have any questions, please pick up the phone and call us as this is very important to us. Thank you.

Comments From Parent Organizations

[COMMENTS FROM PARENT ORGANIZATIONS](#)

Minutes:

District Advisory Council - Rachel Raneri, Chair:

The District Advisory Council met on Monday, November 22. The Superintendent gave us an in-depth report on the challenges that the district is facing.

Mr. Paul Soares brought us an update on the ACE meetings progress.

Ms. Dawn Mills, School Liaison Officer from NAS JAX, explained some of the wonderful things that the Navy can do to help the schools. Some of this is directly related to funding and it was suggested that the district look into how the military students as well as the children of civilian employees may generate more funding to the schools.

Ms. Kathy LeRoy briefed us on the Superintendent's Reading Initiative. We would like everyone to encourage parents to support reading at home.

The DAC will not meet in December. Our next meeting will be on January 24th at 6:00pm in the 6th floor conference room.

I wish all of you a wonderful and peaceful holiday and a happy New Year!

PTA Report - Melissa Kicklighter, President:

Good evening! My name is Melissa Kicklighter, and I am President of the Duval County Council of PTAs. The month of November began with the disappointing news that

Amendment 8 failed and some of the new and returning elected legislative leaders of our State are were considering a reversal of the veto of Senate Bill 6. And, it seems that minimally, we are looking at a revised version of the bill during the upcoming legislative session. As an organization, we are committed to continuing our work to encourage legislators to find a sustainable source of funding for public Pre-K to 12 education and stop burdening our school district with more unfunded mandates.

In light of that commitment, I am pleased to announce that we will be kicking off our new student leadership workshop series this coming weekend. The Superintendents' Leadership Academy will provide training and leadership opportunities to students from our local high schools, so they can learn to use their own voices to advocate for themselves as students and for education as a whole. We are grateful to Superintendent Pratt-Dannals for taking his personal time on Saturday morning, December 11, to welcome the students to the program. The first session will also include teambuilding activities facilitated by Dr. Crystal Timmons from the Lastinger Center and education issue analysis and discussion led by Colleen Wood, Executive Director of SaveDuvalSchools.org.

In the spirit of the holidays, I am pleased to be able to represent our local units as we bring some of their charitable work to a close for the calendar year. I am thrilled to help with the distribution of the items collected during the Mister Rogers Sweater Drive at the Clare White Mission tomorrow. Our PTAs have done an amazing job collecting new and gently used clothing and accessories that we hope will help less fortunate members of our community stay warm this winter. Additionally, I am pleased to share the wallets that we have collected for our students exiting the Juvenile Justice Detention Centers with Dr. Stahlman, so she can make sure these students have something to call their own as they leave the program. This partnership has brought a heightened level of awareness to our school communities about the importance of reaching out and helping all the students in our district with their unique needs.

I would like to wish all the School Board members, the Superintendent, Deputy Superintendent and all district staff a happy holiday season, and I look forward to working with all of you in 2011!

Parent Advisory Council - Sharon Hodges, Chair:

To Chairman W.C. Gentry, board members, and superintendent this presented to you on behalf of the Duval County Public Schools Title I Parent Advisory Council.

Parent Advisory Council would like to welcome the new school board members to the Duval County Public School Board and congratulations to W.C. Gentry as Chairman and Betty Burney as Vice Chair. We look forward to working with each and every one of you.

Thanks to Chairman, W.C. Gentry who recognized at the October 27th PAC FORUM that we have a great number of students who are in need of computer access not only at school, but also at home. He has made it possible for 25 laptops to be distributed to Title I students. Dr. Stahlman and Mr. McDonald along with the PAC board are working on identifying students and distributing 25 laptops before the holiday break.

In October, PAC Board member Jerome Sanders and I were interviewed for a "Joy in our City" segment where Title I and the effects Parent Involvement were highlighted. This segment will be aired on WJEB TV 59 on December 9th at 3:30 am, December 10th at 1:30 PM and Dec 11 at 3:30 am.

On Friday, November 12th, Several Parent Advisory Council members had an opportunity to participate in a focus group centered on the Superintendent's Reading Initiative. We had great dialogue among our parents. The comments and suggestions were given to Ms Myrna Amos, Title I Director, to forward for consideration.

Parent Involvement is starting off the New Year with our PAC Regular Parents and Principals Meeting on Tuesday, January 11th at 9:30 am here at the School Board Building. Parents with students attending Title I schools are encouraged to attend and bring a parent with you.

In addition, DCPS Title I is conducting Parent University on Saturday, January 29th from 8:30 am until 2:30 pm at Florida State College of Jacksonville – North Campus (FSCJ). Parents and Care-Givers are invited to register and attend this free event. Parent University offers a series of workshops designed to provide helpful information for parents, so that they may better assist their child to be successful in school. Some featured workshops are: FCAT Reading, Math and Science, Family Literacy, Bullying and Preparing Your Child for College.

Registration starts December 10th by calling the DCPS Parent RSVP Line at 633-5356 or 630-6728. Early registration is encouraged, as seats are limited. Registration form will be available on the District's website starting Friday. Forms will also be available at local libraries and the main library. We have a flyer and registration form for each board member. Additional save the date flyers are available on the table outside the door.

Parents remember to Get up, Get out, Get involved with your child's education and be part of the spark!

This concludes our report. Thank you and have a good ni

Comments From Employee Organizations

[COMMENTS FROM EMPLOYEE ORGANIZATIONS](#)

Minutes: *No comments this evening.*

Student Achievement, Reform Activities, And Reports

1. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Minutes:

At this time, it's my privilege to deliver my first Chairman's Report. Before I do, Ms. Hodges, I want to thank you for giving me credit for those computers, but that credit really belongs to the staff and to the Board. We're constantly looking for ways to provide more technology to our children and identify that we have computers in surplus and when I brought that to the staff, they immediately started to figure out a way to get the computers that were still functional and usable into the hands of our children and I'm really excited about that and I think as we go forward, looking to the city and to ourselves, we can find all sorts of opportunities to do that sort of thing. So, I appreciate the staff and thank you for the credit. I was just the messenger; staff did the work.

It's my privilege to to have really my first comments to give congratulations to Andrew Jackson - Mr. Hazouri's and my alma mater and Raines and Ribault High Schools for improving their school grade, and Ms. Burney's alma mater and Ms. Priestly Jackson's alma mater. What an extraordinary accomplishment...the students, the principals, and the teachers at those schools have done a remarkable job. We have visited some of those schools and have said, repeatedly, the state may have branded the school with an "F", but these are not "F" students and they will improve and they have. I know we are all excited about what the future holds for these three historic schools and what a great day it is for the city with the help of the Superintendent and the direction he has undertaken to bring those schools back to the levels where they belong and where the students belong. So, this is an exciting day for all of us and congratulations, primarily, to the students who have worked so hard and I know they will continue to improve.

I'd like to welcome the new members to the Board: Ms. Couch, Ms. Wright and Mr. Lee. They bring a new perspective; they bring much needed energy and I know they will bring insight and we older members of the Board look forward to meeting with them next week and hearing their thoughts and ideas and share with us ideas that I know that they have from their long work in getting elected to this position.

To the community, I want to say that this Superintendent and this School Board has a vision. We want to build on the successes of this district and we want to go forward. Our vision and you may have heard a little about it and you'll hear alot more later, but I want to speak to it for just a moment. Our vision is that every child in this school district will read on grade at grade all the time. That is the only way that we're ever going to move forward with our graduation rate and be successful and deliver to our children the promise that they deserve and they will be allowed to fulfill their full potential. And, when we say on grade, at grade, all the time, we mean every course, every grade, on grade, at all times and they will read, write and speak appropriately and properly. If we can do that

and we will do that, we will become a successful school district in the state. Why do we have to do this? Well, if you look around, you'll see that in the state of Florida, more than 50% of our high school students are not reading on grade. Think about that...more than 50% are not reading on grade and the same is true in Duval. 30% of our third graders are not reading on grade and when you realize the FCAT is pegged at about the 40th percentile, so many of our children who we say are proficient, really aren't proficient. This is unacceptable for the state of Florida and it is certainly unacceptable for Jacksonville. I believe that the reason we're where we are today...where so many of our children, even those who have graduated and graduated with good grades, can't write effectively, can't read effectively and are not creative. It's a creation of this FCAT, high stakes driven mentality that excludes everything else in the zeal to try to pass the FCAT and so this district is going to change the way we do the work. The Superintendent and his staff have been working diligently and they are building the mechanism from which we will go forth and they are building the structure which we need to flush out with this community, but they are going to change the way that we do reading in this community from VPK, from the very beginning to the very end. So, we can build the fundamentals upon which our children must learn to read so they can be effective readers the rest of their lives and this will impact, obviously, not just reading but every aspect of education. We can do it, we will do it, we must do it, but to do it, we will need more than just the Superintendent's direction and the leadership of this Board, more than the teachers and principals and the folks in this building. We are going to have to have the total commitment and help of this city. This school district can not be successful without a very successful, prosperous community and this community can not be great without a great school district. We are a semiotic relationship and this city must help us because we can not do it ourselves and we must help the city if we're going to achieve the greatness that this city deserves in which our children deserve and we're going to that.

I've talked to the mayor and as I'm sure all of you appreciate, Mayor Peyton, the hallmark of his administration has been literacy and intervention and I can't tell you how excited he is to hear that the city is going to take on this great bold initiative and he is there and will be there to help us and I know that the mayors that will come behind him will be, as well, and he has offered the resources in his office and we are taking him up on it. I've talked with President Jack Webb and he is, likewise, fully on board and we're in the midst of talking with community organizations and we will be talking soon to our churches and nonprofits, to our business community...we need everyone involved and engaged. We need to provide access for our children just as we need to figure out ways to find computers for those kids that don't have them...we need to have access so we'll need to open up our schools in the afternoons. We have children that hang out in the parking lots because they have no place to go. We need to figure out a way to open the schools up so they can stay in our libraries and have a safe and secure place where they can learn. It will cost us money but some place we've got to find that money and hire someone to be there and we need the community to send volunteers to be there and help those children. We're going to ask the city to open up its

facilities, the community buildings, give us more hours in the libraries, more access to computers. This community needs to be wireless and we need access everywhere, particularly in our most disadvantaged communities. We need not only computers, we need access and we can do that. The business community can figure it out and with the city's help, we can get it done.

There are many areas where this community can intersect with the school district and we, as a Board, are all committed to the collaboration in working with our community partners to build this bold initiative. I've asked each of the Board members to take on individual responsibilities where they will intersect with the school system and with the city and start looking at the barriers that we have to being most effective and then come back to the Board and Superintendent, and we will break them down wherever they exist because we will succeed because we must succeed. Our children must read, write and speak well all the time; not just in our schools, but outside the community and it's going to take the community to help us get there. We will get there. We're going to do it and I'm very excited and I know the Board members are...this is our vision and we're going to be setting out on this road in great haste. The Superintendent has been building the skeleton and we met 1 1/2 weeks ago and we looked at the academic body and there's a lot to it but once we have that built out, we'll call on our community partners to come in and give us their thoughts and figure out how to build this so the whole community could come together behind our kids. So, I'm excited about it and I hope everyone out there will be excited and we ask for everyone's help. We can and we must do this. Thank you.

2. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Minutes:

Thank you, Mr. Gentry, I look forward to working with not only with the Board Chairman, but the rest of the Board and our community partners in flushing this out. As we look at our data and I have shared this with principals, we saw that the students who are not reading effectively in third grade, we track those students to see how they were doing in sixth grade. A very high percentage of those students either have been held back a year or were still at Level I in sixth grade. We, then, looked at those students who were Level I readers in sixth grade to see what happened to them by ninth grade and a very high percent of them either had been held back a year and/or were still performing at the lowest level and it has been pointed out many times the proficiency level in third grade is probably too low, high school may be too high, but there's definitely a grade variation where you can be proficient in third and still grow and not be proficient by the time you get to middle and high school. We're going to have to focus on K-3 but not ending there, continue on through grade 12 in terms of our reading focus. It will have a dramatic impact on our achievement gaps, a dramatic affect on our graduation rates and while we must continue working with those students who are over age, we can't

leave them behind and continue to work with our partners in developing positive alternatives for that. In the long run, we don't have the resources to play "catch up" for all the students who are two or more years over age and those students are, basically, a drop-out ready to happen. While we have to do that rescue work, we have to make sure we have fewer students who must be rescued later and this is the plan that's going to do this. Looking forward to working with all of you and as we roll that out as Mr. Gentry said, not just to the school district, but to the community at-large and make this a community-wide effort.

I'd like to join Mr. Gentry in congratulating those schools who made progress in their school grades. This is the first year that at the high school level, other factors were included. Before, the whole high school grade was dependent on their FCAT scores in reading, math, science and writing primarily for 9th and 10th graders. 11th graders took the science but as of next year, that will be a Biology I in the course assessment and so that won't be counted at the 11th grade. What was not counted before but is counted into the school grade is graduation rates...a huge issue in our community. The graduation rate of our students who are the lowest performing when they come into the 9th grade. Our students readiness for post-secondary education without need of remediation so that they have requisite ACT, SAT or College Placement Test Scores (CPTS). They don't have to remediate courses when they go into community colleges and universities. The number of students who are taking advanced coursework, AP, IB, ACE or Dual Enrollment courses, for instance, through Early College and how are those students performing in those courses? So, those factors are now added to what we had before and are half of the criteria. Have come from what we had prior with the FCAT and half of it is now are these other factors and in my opinion, it is a better way of measuring how high schools are not just measuring basic skills but preparing students for post-secondary readiness. I think the fact that many more of our schools went up when we added in these factors is a tribute to our School Board that work they began four years ago in raising the floor of expectations for all students to take a post-secondary ready curriculum. We still have the most rigorous graduation criteria in the state of Florida and so raising the floor so all students would have to participate in that curriculum. There wasn't an opt out. I couldn't take easier courses so that was a real challenge. There was a lot of criticism of our Board at that time and people asked why you would raise the bar when there's many students who aren't jumping over it? Your graduation rate is going to plummet. It's the right thing to do from an equity standpoint from to be viable in the job market...all of our students need that basic curriculum in order to be successful. It particularly extended the math and science criteria that is so important for our students to have access to technical jobs which is where the greatest growth is going to be in the future. During those same four years as we were putting those in place, our graduation rate has gone up each year. So, again, that took courage on the part of this School Board to make that decision to do that. The second thing they did was support moving forward on dramatically expanding the number of students participating in college level courses while in high school. Now, while the first year, that was kind of bumpy, our teachers and principals have now regrouped and

have training and support, much collaboration between schools and now we have many more students participating in those acceleration programs. The goal now is to continue to improve our performance on those because over the next few years, participation and performance will be equal. Right now, the school grade gives a little more credit for participation and the data shows that the students who take one of these courses while in high school, regardless whether or not they receive the requisite score for the college credit, they do much better in college. The students tell us that they were so much better prepared while attending college having taken the courses while in high school. We have to be smart at who we put in which courses and making sure we continue to identify the teachers, training and supporting them, look at the data and get better about that, but, again, that took much courage on the part of this Board to lean out in those two major areas. That's why we had so many schools doing much better with that criteria added than we did before.

The schools that went up...Sandalwood High School went from a "C" to an "A"; great celebration out there today and received much media attention - congratulations to Vickie Schultz and her staff. About 4-5 years ago, they were featured in the Times-Union in an unfavorable way regarding some of their issues and concerns. Ms. Schultz, her faculty, students and parents have banded together. Just through sheer collaboration and team work, they have pulled that school up to an "A" and that is a very difficult challenge to get a high school to an "A"...much more difficult than an elementary school. Cudos to them for all of their work and a great job well done!

We also had 7 high schools who improved a letter grade: Andrew Jackson, William Raines, Ribault went up to a "D". Their work is finally showing and it's a step up and a sense of hope and this gives us more leverage with the state as we discuss the fate of these three high schools and NorthShore K-8. The first FCAT data still impacts a differentiated accountability model. Other schools that went up: Baldwin from a "C" to a "B"; Englewood High from a "D" to a "C"; Douglas Anderson from a "B" to an "A"; First Coast from an "F" to a "D". Eight schools stayed the same and Fletcher would have been an "A" except for a criteria in the grading system that if you're an "A" school and your lowest quartile didn't hit 75% graduation rate, it lowered you to a "B". So, that's something we need to work on but they did great work and went up in points. Three schools did go backwards which is primarily due to a factor that is in the grading system that if your lowest quartile students and at least half of them don't reach reading gains, then they drop you a letter grade. In some cases, they were one point away from it and we do need to work on that. Lee High went from a "C" to a "D" was almost a "B"...they were two points away from a "B". I'm part of a committee with other superintendents to advise the Commissioner on what the new accountability system ought to look like. There are a number of things that need to be fixed. Mandarin was also hit by this lower quartile and went from an "A" to a "B" and Frank Peterson went from a "C" to a "D". They both would have kept their higher grades had it not been for that. So, overall, a positive growth and a way to go and cudos to our principals,

teachers and students for the hard work they've done over a number of years to get us to this point.

Class Size Amendment - we did not completely make it but we made a very good faith effort based on the funding that was provided by the state. We are going to submit a plan to the Commissioner and based on the acceptance of that plan anticipated that we may have to pay a little bit less than \$2 million dollars in a penalty. This was a decision on the part of the Board after seeing that we had more than paid the amount of money we received over the last eight years for Class Size Amendment and the fact that we spent over \$30 million extra dollars beyond what the state has given us and we would have had to spend another \$12-15 million dollars to reach that last little level. So, we've made a good faith effort and we didn't ignore but really tried hard on this, but in some cases, if you had 19 in an elementary K-3 class and you couldn't figure out any other way to get it to 18, you would have had to add a whole teacher for that 1 student. Those were the cases that we said this didn't make sense because it would cause us to have to do other things like do away with art, music and physical education in elementary or other catastrophic decisions. We'll see what the impact is down the road and one of our requests to our Legislative Delegation is to minimize the penalty at least until such a time until the legislature can demonstrate that they have fully paid to implement the Class Size Amendment.

The Chairman said, "Congratulations to you and your staff for the tremendous amount of work you've done this year and the accomplishments of our school district. Let me follow on what the Superintendent just said about the Class Size so that it's very clear. The Constitutional Amendment that was passed setting class size parameters expressly provided that the legislature, not the local school districts, would be responsible for funding what was known at that time, would be a multi-billion dollar cost. They did that so that the legislature would fund it and that those costs would not be passed on to the school districts. This school district has spent every penny that has been allocated to it for Class Size and more and in this last legislative session, the Legislature intentionally and openly allocated monies that were not adequate to implement the remainder of Class Size. This Board determined that after making a good faith effort, we were not going to continue going into the pocket the millions and millions of dollars it would take in order to do the Legislature's job..and, so that's where we stand now and, hopefully, the penalties...there will not be any, and if there are, this Board will sign out to address it.

Reports

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

Minutes:

We have had two state reviews recently; first, the Florida Department of Education Transportation group is taking a look at how we administer our standards and processes in our transportation management. I just wanted to share that. In that review, they came away with no findings which is, obviously, good news that we are complying and working hard to provide a level of service that we do to our students and families in the county.

Secondly, the State Auditor General took a look at our operational audit on our Food Service Program and came away with no significant or no material findings in our federal funding side. That's an achievement. Both of those programs, together, are a very large and significant part of school support which total approximately \$100 million dollars between them. I want to share with you from the ground work level, people are working hard to make sure that we're doing the best we can to run the programs well and provide the service that we like to provide.

Saturday, January 8, 2011 from 11:00-3:00 at the Jacksonville Fair Grounds is Magnet Mania. I wanted to mention it, tonight, because we won't meet until January 10th. You can go to magnetprograms.com for additional information about Magnet Mania.

Mr. Hazouri asked for the date of the topping off for Waterleaf K-5. Mr. Ayars replied January 27, 2011.

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

Minutes:

I'd like to announce tonight, as the Superintendent's mentioned, that within discussion with the community around our Intervene Schools and options, we'd like to announce that the meeting will be on December 16, 5:30 pm at Raines High School. There will be communication coming out to the community from the principals of our Intervene Schools.

Also, tonight, we will give a brief update on where we are as far as our interim assessments on FAIR and Benchmarks are as well as information to our schools and our community concerning our winter academic packets that are available. Ms. LeRoy will be giving that brief report and followed by Mr. Bellamy with our Turnaround Schools.

Academic Report - Ms. Kathy LeRoy:

The District is currently in the second administration of FAIR and Interim Benchmark exams to monitor student progress up to this point. This data will help teachers make adjustments in instruction to ensure that our students are meeting mastery of the standards. FAIR tests students in grades K-10 and grade 11-12 students that have not passed the FCAT. The test administration window is from December 2nd through February 3rd. The Interim Benchmarks are given in Reading, grades 3-10; in Mathematics, grades 3-8 and 10 and the Algebra I test in grade 9 to monitor progress toward the new State End-Of-Course Exam; and Science in grades 5, 8 and 11. The test administration window is from December 1-9. Because of the newly acquired district data system, Pearson Inform, the data will be readily available to teachers before they leave on Winter Break.

Additionally, Academic Services has created Winter Holiday Student Activity packets again this year for grades K through 8 in Reading, Mathematics and Science. Each grade-specific packet was developed to support these content areas and to make a connection between the classroom and home, using fun and enjoyable student and family activities. Additionally, the Florida Department of Education has developed web-based support for the tested grades on FCAT. These activities will provide valuable practice for students after the holiday packets are completed. The winter packets can be accessed on the Duval homepage at duvalschools.org under the Winter Packets icon.

Turnaround Schools Report - Mr. Tony Bellamy:

Tonight, I will give the Turnaround School update on behalf of our Elementary and Secondary Turnaround Clusters.

There will be 3 areas that I will cover:

1. School Improvement
2. Instructional Vacancies (and)
3. State and District Instructional Review Visits

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT

- Our Second Community Assessment Team Meeting (CAT) was held on November 16th at 2:00 pm at Raines High School. The Superintendent and Deputy Superintendent reviewed the Intervene School status and discussions were held on how the community can offer support to schools. The next Community Assessment Team meeting will be on Thursday, January 13th at 2pm at Jackson High School. The principal, Iranetta Wright will tour Jackson High prior to the 2:00 pm meeting.

- Schools are currently preparing to review District Benchmark and FAIR assessments data results. They will use this data readjust instruction and realign Instructional Focus Calendars that address tested benchmarks.

INSTRUCTIONAL VACANCIES

- In the area of Instructional Vacancies, we are currently showing 4 vacancies in our Elementary Turnaround Cluster and 8 vacancies in our Secondary Turnaround Cluster. Out of the 12 total vacancies combining Elementary and Secondary, (7) are from

resignations that were submitted late October and November, (2) from schools creating new positions, (2) 97 day dismissals and (1) retirement. As we continue to work with our Human Resource Department, we are confident that the positions will be filled with qualified applicants as soon as possible.

STATE INSTRUCTIONAL REVIEW VISITS

- Finally, the Regional Executive Director, Dr. Gina Eyerman and her team completed the second Instructional Review Visits to our Intervene Schools. Next steps and recommendations were added to the action steps within the plan. The next scheduled visits will begin with Ed White in January.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes our Turnaround Report for the Month of December.

Approval of Agenda

[APPROVAL OF THE DECEMBER 7, 2010, AGENDA](#)

Motions:

That the Duval County School Board approve the December 7, 2010, Agenda as submitted on November 30, 2010, with the following changes:

1. Human Resource Services - Item 1 - Human Resource Services Employee Transactions - Revised Attachment
2. Operations - Facilities Project - PASS
Design, Construction, and Maintenance - Item 2 - Pre- Qualification of Construction Contractors for Educational Projects - Revised Attachment
3. Superintendent's Travel - Revised Agenda Item

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

Approval of Minutes

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes:

That the Duval County School Board approve the following minutes:

- October 26, 2010 - Board Workshop
- November 1, 2010 - Regular Board Meeting
- November 16, 2010 - Organizational Meeting
- November 16, 2010 - Leasing Corporation Meeting

Motions:	
That the Duval County School Board approve the Minutes for the Meetings listed in the Agenda Item.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • October 26, 2010 - Board Workshop • November 1, 2010 - Regular Board Meeting • November 16, 2010 - Organizational Meeting • November 16, 2010 - Leasing 	- PASS

Corporation Meeting

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](#)

Minutes: Mr. Pratt-Dannals said since the Human Resource Services agenda is now on consent, I'd like to introduce to you our new principal at Central Riverside Elementary, Donna Stewart; and principal of our Virtual Education which is a rapidly growing school, Dr. Marilyn Myers. Welcome aboard!

Motions:

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

Vote Results

Motion: Betty Burney

Second: Martha Barrett

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. 2010-2011 STATE DIFFERENTIATED ACCOUNTABILITY PLAN REGION 2 SUPPORT](#)

Attachment: [2010-11 RTTT DAP Duval Agreement - 11-1-10.pdf](#)

Attachment: [BENEFITS AND CHALLENGES FORM- DA RTTT.pdf](#)

[2. BOARD APPROVAL OF 2010-2011 DISTRICT AND STATE SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLANS AND 2010-2011 DISTRICT SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCILS](#)

Attachment: [Benefits and Challenges School Improvement Plan 2010-2011.pdf](#)

[3. CONTRACT BETWEEN THE DUVAL COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD AND VYSTAR CREDIT UNION](#)

Attachment: [Revised Challenges and Benefits VyStar 2010.pdf](#)

Attachment: [Duval County High School Branch Presentation JW.pdf](#)

Minutes:

Ms. Couch said I wanted to congratulate Wolfson High School and say thank you to VyStar. Coming from current technical education myself, I know how important it is to have business partners partnering with your school so that the students get that "real world" experience in what they've been going through for four years. I wanted to say thank you to Chris Force and her staff for all of their hard work. They have done an amazing job and also to the lead teacher, Ms. Diedra Pickney of Wolfson's Finance Academy, who has worked tirelessly to ensure that students will be provided with "real world" experiences and are able to apply the knowledge they've gained in class to possible careers in the finance industry. Thank you so much to VyStar and you're really setting a precedent for other businesses to come on board and help our schools with their current technical education. Thank you.

Ms. Wright said I, also, wanted to take this opportunity to commend Chris Force. I had an opportunity to work with her in the high school Acceleration Office and to Ms. Pickney who I had

an opportunity to work with at Northwestern Middle School and for all of your hard work to pull this together because this is certainly an example of true partnership and for the students, city and our community...hats off to you!

Ms. Barrett said "ditto" to what Ms. Couch and Ms. Wright have said. VyStar has shown a great partnership with Wolfson and Ms. Force has done a great job, as well, and the principal. The idea that they are spending about \$175,000 for startup costs plus about \$48,000 for annual operations is a tremendous partnership and dedication. We thank Terry West and his people at VyStar for being such great partners and, hopefully, others will step forward to do the same. Thank you.

Ms. Burney said, I, too, would like to thank first of all, Chris Force for her hard work and dedication in putting this together because we know that she was the glue between Wolfson High School and especially VyStar. These are the kinds of partnerships that all of our Career Technical Academies can use. If others follow VyStar's lead, I think we're going to see some tremendous work and just for the community and public's understanding, there are two things that will come out of this...they will improve financial literacy for students and that in itself is a plus and then they will improve the student's societal skills and knowledge. For that, we say a tremendous thank you so very much. I'm looking forward to it and I'll be over there when it opens. Thank you.

Ms. Willis said I would like to say that I know that Mr. Randy Swift, the Vice President for VyStar is with us tonight and I'd like to also commend Ms. Force. Mr. Swift and his staff have been most diligent and pleasant to work with as we've had to change dates and times and they've been very dedicated to this work and mirror what we see in three schools already in St. Johns and Clay County. Thank you Ms. Force and thank you for your patience and diligence in this effort.

Human Resource Services - Staffing

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

Attachment: [HRS Attach 12-07-10 TRANS.pdf](#)

Administration and Business Services - Budget and Financial

[1. MONTHLY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS](#)

Attachment: [September 2010 Board Statement Worksheet.pdf](#)

2. ADOPTION OF BUDGET RESOLUTIONS

Attachment: [December budget resolutions narative.pdf](#)

Attachment: [December budget resolutions spreadsheet.pdf](#)

Operations - School Choice and Pupil Assignment

4. CHARTER SCHOOL AMENDMENT FOR RIVER CITY EDUCATIONAL SERVICES, INC.

Operations - Facilities Project Design, Construction and Maintenance

1. PERIODIC REPORT OF SUBSTANTIAL COMPLETIONS AND FINAL INSPECTIONS ON MAJOR MAINTENANCE PROJECTS UNDER \$1,000,000

Attachment: [Dec 10 B-C Agenda Item Periodic Report of CSC and CFIs 10 29 10.pdf](#)

Attachment: [Dec 10 Agenda Item Subs Comp Final Comp Chart for November 2010 revised 11 18 10.pdf](#)

Operations - Purchasing and Logistics

1. SURPLUS PROPERTY RETIREMENT REPORT

Attachment: [05Dec10.pdf](#)

Attachment: [07Dec10.pdf](#)

Attachment: [December 2010.pdf](#)

Attachment: [04Dec10.pdf](#)

Attachment: [NEW BENEFITS AND CHALLENGES FORM 10-11-10.pdf](#)

Attachment: [ROSUMFY11DEC.pdf](#)

Attachment: [06Dec10.pdf](#)

Attachment: [RORET FY11 \(2\).pdf](#)

2. PER CAPITA AND EXAMINATION FEES

Attachment: [BENEFITS AND CHALLENGES- 12-7-2010 Board IB PerCapita and Examination Fees.pdf](#)

3. LIABILITY CLAIM SETTLEMENT (KATHY WILLIAMS, ON BEHALF OF TEDDY WILLIAMS)

Attachment: [BENEFITS AND CHALLENGES FORM Williams Claim settlement.pdf](#)

4. INDEPENDENT AUDITING SERVICES

Attachment: [AUDITOR BENEFITS AND CHALLENGES FORM.pdf](#)

Attachment: [INDEPENDENT AUDITOR FINAL COMMITTEE SUMMARY.pdf](#)

Discussion

Operations - School Choice and Pupil Assignment

[1. PUBLIC HEARING AND VOTE FOR BOUNDARY ESTABLISHMENT FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL PORTION OF WESTVIEW K-8 #274](#)

- Attachment: [274_Westview_K8_\(3\).pdf](#)
- Attachment: [216_JeffDavis_MS.pdf](#)
- Attachment: [219_Stilwell_MS.pdf](#)
- Attachment: [Westview_Enrollment_Chartv2_110310.pdf](#)

Minutes:

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

Boundary establishment for middle school portion of Westview K-8, #274

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.

Motions:

1. That the Duval County School Board conduct a Public Hearing for the proposed boundary establishment for the middle school component of Westview K-8 #274 and proposed boundary changes for Jefferson Davis Middle School #216 and Joseph Stilwell Middle School #219.

- PASS

2. That the Duval County School Board approve the proposed boundary establishment for the middle school component of Westview K-8 #274 and proposed boundary changes for Jefferson Davis Middle School #216 and Joseph Stilwell Middle School #219.

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

[2. PUBLIC HEARING AND VOTE FOR RELOCATION OF PROGRAMS AND CONSOLIDATION OF THE EUGENE BUTLER MIDDLE SCHOOL #168 AND PAXON MIDDLE SCHOOL #92 BOUNDARIES](#)

Attachment: [168 Butler MS.pdf](#)

Attachment: [Paxon Butler Enrollment Chart \(2\)110110.pdf](#)

Minutes:

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

Relocation of programs and consolidation of the Eugene Butler Middle School #168 and Paxon Middle School #92 boundaries

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.

Motions:

1. That the Duval County School Board conduct a Public Hearing for the proposed relocation of the Paxon Middle School #92 programs to Eugene Butler Middle School #168 and the consolidation of the Paxon Middle School #92 and Eugene Butler Middle School #168 boundaries.

- PASS

2. That the Duval County School Board approve the proposed relocation of the Paxon Middle School #92 programs to Eugene Butler Middle School #168 and the consolidation of the Paxon Middle School #92 and Eugene Butler Middle School #168 boundaries.

Vote Results

Motion: Fred Lee

Second: Betty Burney

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

[3. PUBLIC HEARING AND VOTE FOR RELOCATION OF THE CURRENT JAMES WELDON JOHNSON #152 PROGRAM TO PAXON MIDDLE SCHOOL #92 AND THE CLOSURE OF THE JAMES WELDON JOHNSON FACILITY #152](#)

Attachment: [JWJ Paxon Enrollment Chart 110110.pdf](#)

Minutes:

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

Relocation of the current James Weldon Johnson #152 program to Paxon Middle School #92 and the closure of the James Weldon Johnson facility #152

The Chairman asked if anyone in the audience wished to speak to the Board and the following person spoke:

Ms. Melissa Kicklighter said this is in regard to all of the public hearing items but in particular, this one and I'm taking off my badge and speaking as a parent. I want to thank Mr. Ayars, his staff and the Board for your support of the ACE process that we've gone through in establishing these changes. I've been part of several processes over the past few years and this has been bittersweet. The bitter part is that it changed and with change comes emotion but with change also comes opportunity and hope. I want to say thank you to everyone who has been involved in this and the public who has come out to share their thoughts and concerns and to say to all of you, I hope that in asking for community involvement and to share their voices, will be part of something our Board is committed to and will continue to do in the future. As a parent at James Weldon Johnson of two 6th graders and will go through this change, they are very

excited about it because it's a new opportunity for them and the school has done a tremendous job to frame this opportunity for them, and I'd like to reiterate the fact that when this whole process started, the children were asked at the school what was the most important to them and they all said, "We want to keep our school name". They get us and say, "I am James Weldon Johnson". Thank you very much for everything we've done and we look forward to it.

No further discussion, the Chairman closed the public hearing.

Speakers:

- Mr. Tommy Hazouri, Board Member
- Ms. Karen Chastain, Office of General Counsel
- Mr. Doug Ayars, Chief Operating Officer
- Mr. W. C. Gentry, Board Chairman
- Mr. Ed Pratt-Dannals, Superintendent of Schools
- Ms. Betty Burney, Vice Chair

Motions:

1. That the Duval County School Board conduct a Public Hearing for the proposed relocation of the James Weldon Johnson #152 program to Paxon Middle School #92 facility and the closure of the current James Weldon Johnson #152 facility.

- PASS

2. That the Duval County School Board approve the proposed relocation of the James Weldon Johnson #152 program to Paxon Middle School #92 facility and the closure of the current James Weldon Johnson #152 facility.

Vote Results

Motion: Martha Barrett

Second: Betty Burney

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

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

Attachment: [Board Approval - New 12-2010.pdf](#)

Attachment: [Board Approval - Renewals 12-2010.pdf](#)

Minutes:

Ms. Couch said I have asked that this item be placed on the Discussion list so that I could make the following disclosures:

This agenda item establishes a list of prequalified contractors who may provide work to the district. My husband has ownership interests and is employed by certain companies that from time to time submit bids to be a subcontractor to certain of the vendors prequalified in this agenda item. I have consulted with Ms. Chastain of the Office of General Counsel and determined that a subcontract, if any occurred, could be permissible. There are circumstances where the approval of this agenda item is the last approval by the Board specifically and pursuant to Board policy, contracts or work orders below a certain dollar amount can be issued by the district without further approval by the Board. Because of these circumstances, Ms. Chastain advised me that I need to make these disclosures on the record now because I would not have a subsequent opportunity to do so. Accordingly, the approval of this agenda item could inure to the benefit of my husband under certain circumstances. 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: Thomas Hazouri
Second: Betty Burney
Martha Barrett - Aye
Betty Burney - Aye
Rebecca Couch - Abstain
William Gentry - Aye
Thomas Hazouri - Aye
Fred Lee - Aye
Paula Wright - Aye

General

[1. PUBLIC HEARING AND VOTE: DUVAL COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL POLICE POLICY](#)

Attachment: [School Police DRAFT.pdf.pdf](#)

Minutes:

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

Duval County Public School Police Policy

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.

Speakers:

Ms. Betty Burney, Vice Chair
Mr. Doug Ayars, Chief Operating Officer

Motions:

That the Duval County School Board conduct a Public Hearing and approve Policy 8.12, Duval County Public School Police. - PASS

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

Board Member Travel

[BOARD MEMBERS TRAVEL](#)

Minutes:

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

December 9, 2010 - Florida's Task Force on Educational Excellence - Orlando, FL - W. C. Gentry

Motions:

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

- PASS

- There is no Board Member travel for the December 7, 2010, Agenda.

Vote Results

Motion: Martha Barrett

Second: Betty Burney

Martha Barrett	- Aye
Betty Burney	- Aye
Rebecca Couch	- Aye
William Gentry	- Aye

Thomas Hazouri	- Aye
Fred Lee	- Aye
Paula Wright	- Aye

Superintendent's Travel

[SUPERINTENDENT'S TRAVEL](#)

Minutes:

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

December 9, 2010 - Florida's Task Force on Educational Excellence - Orlando, FL

January 19-20, 2011 - Leading the Way - Strategies for Transforming Florida Schools Conference (Co-sponsored by FADSS, Hillsborough County Public Schools and Hillsborough Classroom Teachers Association) - Tampa, FL

Motions:

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

- December 9, 2010 - Florida's Task Force on Educational Excellence - Orlando, FL
- January 19-20, 2011 - Leading the Way - Strategies for Transforming Florida Schools Conference (co-sponsored by FADSS, Hillsborough County Public Schools, and Hillsborough Classroom Teachers Association) - Tampa, FL - PASS

Vote Results

Motion: Martha Barrett

Second: Betty Burney

Thomas Hazouri - Aye

Fred Lee - Aye

Paula Wright - Aye

William Gentry - Aye

Martha Barrett - Aye

Betty Burney - Aye

Rebecca Couch - Aye

For The Record

[FOR THE RECORD](#)

Minutes:

Mr. Hazouri said I think this has been a very good year for our Board and the children of Duval County and to wish everyone a very happy holiday, Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah and a very, very happy, prosperous and safe New Year!

Ms. Barrett said I attended the Flamingo Fete in November. Jack Matthews and the Duval County Art Teachers Association do a wonderful job. The Superintendent and Ms. Couch were there and it is really a wonderful event. I bought three pieces of art: tree, wreath and a stool. If you've never attended, everyone must go as it's a great evening. They raise money for the art teachers scholarship fund. It's a beautiful setting and we have very talented teachers.

Mr. Lee said I want to thank everyone for their kind remarks in welcoming each of the new Board members. I want to say thank you to the current Board members for welcoming us, Superintendent and the staff. I'm definitely looking forward to this coming year working with the community...we need your help and I hope and wish that you have a wonderful holiday season.

Ms. Burney said this past Saturday, Mr. Lawrence Dennis and I had the pleasure of being over at Jefferson Davis Middle School. They had a wonderful program which was really getting parents and kids getting ready for college and it was well attended. The most important thing that comes out every time I attend that school is the love the children have for that principal and the love the principal has for the teachers.

Ms. Couch said I would like to remind everyone about Magnet Mania on January 8, 2011 from 11:00 am - 3:00 pm. It's a great event and I had the privilege of being part of it last year and I encourage everyone to come out to the Jacksonville Fairgrounds. It's amazing to see the work the children put into each of the booths.

Ms. Wright said I'd like to take the opportunity to say that I'm appreciative to be on the Board and look forward to a prosperous and good four year term with all of you. Secondly, I would like to thank Jackie Byrd, Cluster Chief. She allowed me to tag along to Justina Elementary and Long Branch Elementary and I had an opportunity not to only talk to the principals but some teachers, staff and students and it was a good opportunity to learn from the ones who are actually at the schools...the positive and good things that are going on. Also, last week all of us attended the Florida School Boards Association in Tampa where we had an opportunity to learn about many different things. And last, but not least, I want to take this opportunity to thank Ms. Willis, Mr. Bellamy, Ms. LeRoy for all of the hard work to help our schools improve. I was elated and my soul rejoiced when I received that email last night and as I said to Mr. Young, the first thing that came to my mind was a reflection on what some of the students from Ribault said when we were at that Lunch and Learn and they said that the school grade does not define us. I am so happy and appreciative for all of your hard work because I know it takes team work and I know that on paper, it's just one move to the left but in the hearts of the students, the teachers, the staff and all of you, it's a major step and I just look forward to being a part of moving forward but, again, we're going to move to the left of the alphabet scale. Thank you so much.

Mr. Gentry said to follow up on Ms. Wright's comments, when you look at the numbers, you will see that Jackson and Ribault actually would have moved to a "C" school but for the lower quartile numbers that the Superintendent explained earlier, so extraordinary achievement, particularly for those two schools.

I want to thank the Board for the privilege of serving as Chair this year. One of the things I learned down in Tampa when we went to the Florida School Boards Association conference, I was privileged to attend a new Chairs meeting and hear from other Chairmen and one thing they asked us to do was to write down what we wanted to accomplish. I was sitting at a table with about 5-6 chairmen from around the state and everyone of those people at that table was talking about hoping that they could have better relationships with their Superintendent and hoping that their Board members to start talking to one another and be more collegial and it made me really appreciate what an exceptional group of people that we have had on this Board since I've come on and which we presently have where we can focus on student achievement and what we really need to move this district forward because we have a collegial body; we have the collaboration; friendship, trust and relationship with our Superintendent. I'm very proud of that and when you see the rest of the state, you'll realize that is very unique and to you older Board members, that is a tribute to what you've built over the years.

Ms. Barrett said we always want to congratulate our new Board members but I also want to thank our former members who just retired, Brenda Priestly Jackson, Nancy Broner and Vicki Drake because their vision is getting us where we are tonight. They are as much a part of this as anyone. We need to thank them and remember them for their vision and courage.

Adjournment

[ADJOURNMENT](#)

Minutes:

The meeting adjourned at 7:57 p.m.

Isd

Superintendent

Chairman