



Duval County Public Schools

February 1, 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 THIS 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 Board members: Ms. Martha Barrett, Ms. Becki Couch, Mr. Tommy Hazouri, Mr. Fred "Fel" Lee and Ms. Paula D. Wright, present.

Call Meeting to Order

[CALL MEETING TO ORDER](#)

Minutes:

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

Invocation

[INVOCATION](#)

Minutes: The Invocation was led by Board Member Fel Lee.

Pledge of Allegiance

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Presentations

1. NATIONAL SCHOOL COUNSELING WEEK RECOGNITIONS

Minutes:

--Today, I would like to take a moment to recognize National School Counseling Week. Our School Counselors not only work hard during this week, but throughout the entire year to provide guidance and mentor our students. It is my honor to participate in this observance through the following Proclamation.

WHEREAS, school counselors are employed in public and private schools to help students reach their full potential; and

WHEREAS, school counselors are actively committed to helping students explore their abilities, strengths, interests, and talents as these traits relate to career awareness and development; and

WHEREAS, school counselors help parents focus on ways to further the educational, personal and social growth of their children; and

WHEREAS, school counselors work with teachers and other educators to help students explore their potential and set realistic goals for themselves; and

WHEREAS, school counselors seek to identify and utilize community resources that can enhance and complement comprehensive school counseling programs and help students become productive members of society; and

WHEREAS, comprehensive developmental school counseling programs are considered an integral part of the educational process that enables all students to achieve success in school;

Therefore, I, Superintendent Ed Pratt-Dannals do hereby proclaim February 7-11, 2011, as National School Counseling Week.

-- As we are approaching National School Counseling Week, our first presentation of the evening recognizes three Duval County Public School employees who have had a tremendous impact with counseling programs both inside and outside our schools.

--I would first like to ask Nan Worsowicz, supervisor of guidance services, to come forward.

--Nan was awarded the Supervisor Advocacy Award by the Florida School Counselor Association.

--Nan's commitment to improving the relationships between school counselors and principals, her dedication to preparing counselors to enter the workforce, and her role in developing the School Counselor Individual Professional Development Plan are just some of the reasons she was selected as the award winner.

--Nan, thank you for your outstanding work with our counseling programs.

-- Next I would like to recognize the winner of the Laurel Kaden Anderson Administrator Award.

--This award honors Laurel Kaden Anderson, former supervisor of guidance, whose initiatives and programs have shaped the focus of Duval County Public Schools' school counseling programs in the last decade.

--The Laurel Kaden Anderson Administrator Award was created to recognize administrators for outstanding support of school counselors and school counseling programs.

--Would Beverly Walker, principal at Chaffee Trail Elementary, please come to the front?

--Ms. Walker received this award for creating and maintaining a professional environment where her counselor feels valued, respected and appreciated.

--Congratulations on receiving this award Ms. Walker.

--The third honoree I would like to recognize is the winner of the Lucille Crysell Award.

--Lucille C. Crysell, a pioneer in the guidance profession, established our elementary, middle, and high school guidance programs.

--An award was established in Lucille Crysell's name to honor her dedication and to annually recognize a counselor who adheres to the high standards of professionalism exhibited by Lucille.

--Would this year's winner, Mike Rady, counselor at Mayport Middle, please come to the front?

--Mr. Rady established a collaboration with the guidance counselors of the neighboring high schools that had Opportunity Scholarship students, and initiated a mentoring program between staff and at-risk students at his school.

--Mr. Rady, your hard work and dedication to your students is truly appreciated.

--Finally, I'd like to give a special thanks to all our school counselors for their support

and guidance in enhancing school programs to better benefit our students.

--Without the devotion of our school counselors, we would not have reached the level of success we have in improving relationships among students, parents, teachers and principals.

2. PRESENTATION TO THE BOARD-GOVERNOR'S RECOGNITION SCHOLARSHIP ESSAY CONTEST WINNER

Minutes:

--For our next presentation I would like to recognize Danielle Cogdell, a student at James Weldon Johnson, for winning the Governor's Recognition Scholarship Essay Contest sponsored by the Florida Prepaid College Foundation.

--Here tonight to tell us more about this great achievement is Dwayne Ottenstroer (Ought-en-strau-er), Chairman of the Prepaid College Board, and Florida Representative Mike Weinstein.

--Mr. Ottenstroer has been a member of the Prepaid College Board for 10 years and currently serves on numerous other organizational boards. Additionally, he is active in higher education policies as a Board member for Flagler College.

--Representative Weinstein previously served as president of Take Stock in Children, a scholarship and mentoring program that has awarded more than \$90 million in scholarships.

--I would like to ask Danielle Cogdell to please come to the front and join Mr. Ottenstroer and Representative Weinstein.

--Thank you, Mr. Ottenstroer and Representative Weinstein. On behalf of the Board, congratulations to Danielle for winning this four-year scholarship plan. This is a tremendous accomplishment and we wish you luck in your future endeavors.

3. CFE RECOGNITION-HANDSON JACKSONVILLE

Minutes:

--Our final presentation of the evening recognizes one of our many community partners, HandsOn Jacksonville, for their numerous contributions to Duval County public schools.

--HandsOn Jacksonville continuously donates time and resources to improve our schools and enrich the lives of our students.

--Just before this school year started, HandsOn Jacksonville took part in the School

Transformation Day at Alfred duPont Middle.

--More than 100 volunteers donated time to help revitalize the learning environments of duPont Middle for the students to enjoy when they returned to school.

--Several projects were completed during this time, including creating a new reading space in the media center and designing a specially commissioned school mural.

--The volunteers also reupholstered chairs, refinished art tables, repainted several of the school's classrooms and completed other general beautification projects around the school's art room.

--In December, as part of the "Visit from St. Nicholas" project, HandsOn Jacksonville, with more than 600 volunteers, delivered 28,000 books and 28,000 toys to approximately 6,500 students in 12 Duval County elementary schools.

--This program is aimed to promote literacy among elementary school students in our turnaround schools.

--At this time I would like to ask Mary Jury, Jenny O'Donnell, Judy Smith and Jacqui Scuncio to please come to the front.

--On behalf of the Duval County School Board, I want to thank you for your contributions to Duval County students. We truly appreciate your support!

--These programs like many others have been a huge success and we look forward to continuing and growing our partnership in the future.

[4. SCHOOL RECOGNITION - DISTRICT 1 - TERRY PARKER HIGH SCHOOL](#)

Minutes:

Principal Addison Davis, said I was able to recruit Danielle who has a great IB program at Terry Parker. It's a great opportunity for us to celebrate some of the great things that are going on in Duval County, especially at Terry Parker High School. I've been there for the last 18 months and I've grown to love this institution.

In 2009-2010, upon entry to Terry Parker High School, we were classified as a "D" school which we were 9 points away from an "F" as it relates to the State of Florida Accountability System. After a year of great strategies ongoing in our institution, we gained enough points to be 10 points away from a "B" school and classified as a "C+" school, as outlined by the state. However, during this year, we failed to move one of our lowest quartiles in the area of reading in which the state has an opportunity to drop a grade in which they did; however, the amount of growth that we made in one year, was awesome. It was not because of the leadership...it's because all of the great instructional staff members that we have at Terry Parker along with the direction we received from our Cluster, Chiefs and Directors.

This year, we have a Strategic Plan to make sure that we're addressing all facets in the State's Accountability System to ensure that we'll become that systemic "B" and working closely with our students to make sure that we gain them in the ability with a different culture and mindset. We have been working with Tony Bellamy along with Mrs. Daniels and Elaine Mann to work collectively on both sides of the FCAT system to ensure that we accelerate student achievement and provide that development for our instructional staff along with our students.

Some of the great things happening at our institution is IB - as the district works toward making sure that the Acceleration Programs are present in all of our high schools, Terry Parker had the pleasure this year to launch an IB program. Going into this, we had to work closely with Dr. Carolyn Girardeau to make sure we had highly qualified individuals. In doing that, we hired Christy Thacker as our Coordinator who is doing a fantastic job; had a summer bridge and we had 48 students attending and currently, we have 53 students in our program. Next year, as we continue to push and have that aggressive stance, we hope to have 100 students in our program. We want to carefully select our teachers so that we can move our program forward. Some of the unique things happening in the IB program is to make sure you have that Coordinator in place and have a guidance counselor attached to these 53 students, currently. One thing we did at Terry Parker this year in working collectively with our Coordinator is to offer course that is an "inquiry base course" - inquiry skills which allows our kids to have an elective class to teach the strategies needed to be successful. They can quickly read, write and think and be organized which increases their study habits so they can be successful in this program as they transition to the 11th grade year. It's a really great program.

Other great things happening is AVID and we're in our 6th year. Last year, we had 54 kids, our first graduating class of AVID. Of those 54 students, they generated over \$2,000,000 in academic scholarships and that's to be applied to the efforts my instructional staff member, Katrina Blakely along with Eddie Christian - they are doing wonderful things. I wish we could have AVID across every high school student, but I understand it is a funding issue. We take those strategies and incorporate in our classrooms so the kids can have an anchor for success.

Career Academies - we have our ACE Program which is a great program where we partnership with Jacksonville University and others in the community. We have many students going out into the field of environmental science and doing internships, locally. We have a student who has already been offered a job next year in which he can continue his education at the post-secondary level. We have a number of kids in the ACE Program that have continued their education at Florida State College and Jacksonville University seeking the environmental studies for their major.

We have a Culinary Program - we did an external event catering for a law firm so our kids are getting out there and are representing great things. They won a city-wide contest recently building a Gingerbread House which was about three feet tall which was excellent. The Career Academies give our students great exposure and we're thankful for the push piloted by Chris Force.

Challenge Day - at Terry Parker, we're pushing to change the culture and mindset of our building and that is expectations both externally and internally. It is a really rich

experience spending time and listening to our students and if you haven't attended one of the Challenge Days, I encourage you to do so and get involved. It's an awesome aspect.

ROTC is doing great and we just won our first Gateway Conference in basketball - first time, ever! You'd be amazed what those little things do catapult you in a way to get the spirit and pride back into your institution. Tonight, I brought some Terry Parker individuals and I'd like to introduce to you. Without individuals such as these, we wouldn't be able to celebrate student achievement and really appreciate their efforts and thanks for being here. Also, we can't thank you enough for the support we receive from the district and appreciate it - Tony Bellamy, Elaine Mann and everyone.

Mr. Gentry said that before you step down, you said one thing I don't agree with and you said it's not leadership and it has been leadership. I think all of these folks in the back will attest to what a huge change that you have been able to bring to Terry Parker and we really appreciate it.

Ms. Barrett told Mr. Davis that's he's doing a fantastic job at Terry Parker..your teachers and staff and I'm so proud to represent you on the School Board and all of your programs are tremendous. Your partnership with JU is unbelievable, IB and Culinary Arts. I attended the Tree Hill Day where the Culinary Arts students fixed a New Orleans cuisine - it about killed all of us but it was very, very good. I just wanted to congratulate you and your staff. We have some of the finest citizens who have graduated from Terry Parker High School as well as my fellow Board member Mr. Fel Lee, who is a Brave.

Mr. Pratt-Dannals said he had the privilege of being the principal of Addison Davis when he was a student at Lee High School...so, yes, I am that old. Even then, you could see from Addison's energy, his passion and leadership, that he would go very far in whatever area of occupation he chose and I'm just so happy that he chose education because you're doing a fantastic job!

Comments From Audience

[COMMENTS FROM AUDIENCE](#)

Minutes:

Mr. Edward Exson said while I may be undereducated, that in itself will not preclude me from speaking out honestly and vigorously, about the condition of African Americans and why. My greatest fear is I will foreclose my right to citizenship if I fail to speak! Anyone with a smidgen of intelligence should know that we have, have had, and will have great African Americans with exceptional and exemplary distinction. However, in spite of that fact, we have many woes. The people that are doing well will not sustain us as a part of the human race. Failing schools are developed by failing communities. Good communities save their community. Some of our destruction is perpetrated by

various entities, and some so-called "leaders":

Legislatures inadequately funding schools and early health programs; Banks redlining and not loaning in communities to have some vitality; just church loans; Organizations that fight a rhetorical fight again the "N" word, just pretentious, while renouncing and abdicating their responsibility with no assault on injustice, poverty, crime and ignorance; Black politicians from congress to city government, relegating our people lower than the 3/5 once adjudged us, to cater to the benefactors; Black pastors fleeing and deceiving their flock, literally leaving carcasses that the buzzard's can't devour; For profit (school) educational companies to make profits for the stockholders at the students expense. A company comes to mind, Edison School, Inc., however, they found out they could make more money managing public schools then building schools. Last night, a Board member eluded that alot of hedge fund money was put in privatized schools. Likewise, alot of pension fund money is invested. The last regular Board meeting I attended, one Board member kept asking questions about this Board continuing to pay a vendor with no results; he just got excuses. There is an interesting book entitled, "*Branded*" by Alissa Quarts. The buying and selling of teenagers which points out certain youth demographics that spotlight the nefarious predatory forms of corporate marketing that still makes us slaves. We, as black people, must "change our minds to change our brains" by George Lakoff. Last Sunday, I joined two men in picketing Greater Refuge Temple for alleged child molestation. The pastor's son and some members wanted us disbanded almost by force, but heeded their security to call the police. Police arrived only to find a protest for an abomination of what the church was covering up and left. As this the first day of Black History month, vast numbers of blacks are making permanent history...going backwards and doing nothing for lack of leadership.

Mr. John Turner said Jacksonville has a reading problem. Jacksonville has a reading problem. According to the most recent results from the college entrance exam known as the ACT, Florida ranks 48th in the nation. Only Mississippi and Kentucky scored lower than Florida on the ACT in 2010. If you break down Florida by its 67 school districts you will learn that Jacksonville ranks 48th out of the 67 districts based on ACT scores. The primary reason behind our low ACT scores is due to a reading problem. This problem is self-evident when you learn that at Raines High School, 70% of the 10th graders scored at the lowest reading level on FCAT. Although previous School Boards have made several attempts to fix the reading problem they have all failed. They failed for the same reason the newest plan called the "Comprehensive Blueprint for Reading" will also fail. They failed because the plans did not address the main reason behind our low reading scores. The main reason behind our reading problem is not due to a lack of motivation by the students, neglectful parents or lack of funding but simply in how we teach the students to read. This problem is not new and it has been well documented over the decades and the solution is equally well documented. Back in the 1950's Dr. Rudolph Flesh wrote a famous book titled "Why Johnny Can't Read. Turns out the reason why Johnny can't read was because public schools changed their method for reading from phonics to the whole word approach. As a quick reminder, phonics is based on pronouncing and spelling out words by the sounds that the letters make. In contrast, the whole word method is based on sight recognition by using flash cards or those famous Dick and Jane books where the students were taught to read not by sounding out the words but due to rote memory from seeing and repeating the same word and phrase over and over and over again. Over the decades many government

and independent research studies have tested both methods and the results keep coming back with the same conclusion. Dr. Flesh was right. A heavy emphasis on phonics in K-5th grade is the best way to improve reading scores. I will summarize with this. I have looked over your Comprehensive Blueprint for Reading and it appears to be very weak on phonics. So, I recommend that the School Board seek out phonetic experts to review your plan and make revisions accordingly. If you do that you will learn that phonics is the answer to our reading problem always has been and always will be. Thank you for listening and good night.

Ms. Connie Benham said I have written to all of you but have more communication to Mr. Hazouri and I went to him for help to lower the child/teacher ratio in elective classes at Mandarin High. Little did I know that Dr. Richardson and many other principals were blatantly breaking the law in overcrowded core classes with the Board's knowledge and approval. I have a list from the Florida Department of Education of Duval County being responsible for the fine. It's fine was a way for the Board to hurt the voters for not giving them the more flexibility of a law that they were already breaking. That I was informed that it was cheaper for the County to be fined than to hire more teachers but you can never be more wrong. The expense was the futility felt by the children unable to keep up with masses, living on the edge of failure by being in overcrowded classes, is apparent by the drop-out rate in the failing schools. Your choice of sacrificing children runs to the very core of their souls and is incorrigible. What makes matters worse is the information of where the top 307 administrative employees consume over \$50,000,000 of the budget and our tax money. Adding salt to the wound is the 33 that make over \$19,000,000 and administration has hundreds of over paid employees with benefits. It would be very wise for the Board not to minimize the gross exploitation of the budget by saying "*it costs money to have quality personnel*" because in case you haven't noticed, you have all failed. I ask all of you to consider selling this 99 room, 50 bathroom, water-front building to the highest bidder and apply the money to the schools and to the teachers and move the administration building off I-95. I ask that you find offices in the schools and the districts you represent to make yourselves more accessible and not appear as though you are pedestal but instead, I was made fun of and told it wouldn't work because it could cut down on the ability of team work but I asked, "*How's that working for you?*" Maybe you feel you're above us all. Maybe you have no need for the little man or the transparency or the Sunshine Laws that affect the rest of the government which I believe is answered by the difference between the City Hall website and the school website that is full of photo opportunities and fluff proven by an inability to find nothing more than a budget summary for a billion dollar budget for taxpayers to scrutinize and have input until after it's been approved. Responsibility of this Board is to make policy to improve this district but, again, you have failed miserably and you are the direct result of the failures of our schools and you should be removed from the pedestals you have placed yourselves on. With all due respect, I thank you for your time.

Ms. Michelle Tipton said that Jacksonville Beach Elementary parents that are members of our SAC and PTA are here this evening and I'd like to acknowledge them. We are here tonight to express a concern and our intent is to request that the Duval County Public School system review the current Magnet Priority Status system. I have three children in the public schools: a 4th grader at Jax Beach Elementary, 8th grader at Landon College Prep, and an 11th grader at Stanton College Prep. Duval County has a phenomenal magnet program that produces some of the top numbers, not only in the

state, but in the country. Congratulations on your achievement! Our concern in the Magnet Priority Status and its impact. My middle child enrolled at Landon during the inaugural year as an academic magnet. In its second year, we saw a substantial increase in the percentage of neighborhood students utilizing the neighborhood priority - 26%. This past year, with the notable success of Landon, the number of neighborhood students soared over 50% of the population of incoming 6th graders. We are very pleased with the accomplishment of Dr. Coker-Daniel and Landon College Prep. We are here tonight with concerns about the program continuity for middle school options. The percentage of neighborhood children continues to grow. For the first time, last year, some Jacksonville Beach students applied to Landon and could not get admitted. Is it feasible to give neighborhood and program continuity the same priority? As James Weldon Johnson makes the transition over to Paxon Middle, we once again, could have a similar situation with percentages of neighborhood priority impacting the program continuity priority. Please understand, we acknowledge and agree both groups deserve the option of access to these schools. Our request is that the ranking of the priority status needs to be reviewed because of recent additions to the Magnet Program. Never in magnet history has this situation come up; the Landon situation is an anomaly. We, as parents, ask that the School Board look at this situation closely to determine the best results possible. Thank you for your time and consideration of this matter!

Mr. Stanley Scott said I came here tonight because I was disappointed here at your place with the bamboozle of a community. The NAACP in the last minute...as long as this situation has been going on with these schools, wanted to have a press conference and bring the community together. I was disappointed in that. The trust factor - it's hard to trust the district and that was a profound statement because I have on this paper here that you're getting in your email, they talk about all of the failures that have taken place over on the northside and we continue going down that road. The NAACP came up and said to not close the schools; no charter schools and no management organizations to come in. Well, where is their plan? They do all kind of public school plan without work...point blank, it will not work. I'm going to write the Commissioner and ask him to give you up to June when the FCAT tests come back to come up with a better plan. We're going to take resources, have two principals and an administration...we don't have success with the ones we have! Come on, common sense here and common sense must take place sooner or later. Now, you have school on one side of town and the whole area on one side of town - an African American school and we have been mistreated and has a history with Duval County School system to having problems. I'm disappointed with the leaders in the community for not ringing the bell. Now, anybody can talk, Mr. Exson, John Turner and I have been coming to talk with the community. You show up, you put us in a little room like we're a bunch of chickens and give us a couple of minutes and talk about solving our problem. I want to know where are the people who say about the proposed plan for the people to give input to the Superintendent? Why is this at the last minute? That doesn't make sense. The kids out here are having a hard time. When cancer starts, it starts to spread everywhere and doesn't just spread in the black community; go into the white community. People without jobs or are not qualified to get jobs commit crimes and you're telling me you're not able to come up with a better plan because the plan will sell, point blank. Now, no one has called me and I asked Mr. Exson if anyone has called him from the School Board...we come, constantly and try to find ways to work with the School Board and nobody called me and it's a shame.

Ms. Kim Sheldon and also a Jacksonville Beach parent. I'm here pretty much to pick up where Michelle left off and here to support the request that the Board consider re-evaluating the priority levels for the magnet schools that promise program continuity. We're hearing from the community that parents are now very reluctant to apply for some of these magnet programs at schools such as Landon and Stanton because word on the street is that they have virtually no chance of getting in. For Landon, this is due to the huge increase of neighborhood students, many of whom were previously at private schools. Last year, for the first time, there were some Jacksonville Beach students who applied but did not get in to Landon College Prep. Is it feasible to give neighborhood students, again, many who come from not even Duval County Schools, to give the neighborhood students and the program continuity the same priority? Also, as James Weldon Johnson makes the transition over to Paxon Middle School this year, once again, we could have a similar situation with percentages of the neighborhood priority impacting the program continuity priority. So, basically, we are asking if you will consider, at the least, evening out the chances for neighborhood students and program continuity rather than have preference and perhaps, students coming from Duval County schools having a higher priority than those coming from other counties and private schools? There are thousands of grateful parents who really appreciate the magnet programs because for their children, it's the very best and we ask that consideration be made to ensure that these successful magnet programs retain their positive reputation. So, if you could put this on your future agenda, we'd appreciate it. Thank you.

Ysryl said Happy New Year to you all. You know, truly, I know we're aware of the fact that we have a problem in the school system and most of the schools are on the northside of town. Traditionally, the school system was teaching one way and we have come to the conclusion that we needed to change the way we were teaching. One thing we have to know that it is a community effort to bring on this change and if, we, as a community in the northside of town, is not willing to put forth the effort to get involved the other sides to town are, we're still going to have the same problem. My hat is off to you all about getting the community involved to participate in the four failing schools that has come into question for closing but it's going to take one strong effort with all of those problems that are going on in the community now and those schools' drop-out rate, teen pregnancy, Aids, and all of the problems going on in those schools that is not helping us to get involved to change the problems we're having in our schools, then we're going to have a problem. My suggestion would be this, because this other stuff is not working...I had an opportunity to work with Challenge Day for the first time and that was the most powerful thing I've experienced in some time. 75 children from all nationalities in total pain...I haven't shed a tear in years as I'm hard core, but my daughter saw me shed some tears today because these children were in pain from neglect, abandonment, no structure at home...all problems at home for a child to fail and I beg different, myself, when it comes down to what does it take for a child to become successful? A child must feel good about himself to be successful, loves himself, can adapt to any environment and be productive in that environment. If we don't create this for that child, then it won't happen. God forbid, if we don't step it up to make it happen or we'll continue to have a higher crime rate and a low graduation rate. We must not blame the child for the child's condition as he has no control of his future and only becomes a product of his environment. If we're really true to ourselves and the love of the children, it is our responsibility to do every single

thing within our power to see to it that these children get a fair opportunity at education and a must become the responsibility of the community that the schools are within. Thank you very much and have a good day.

Ms. Elizabeth Kearns and I work with the Museum of Contemporary Art. I'm their Associate Director of Education and I'm also a representative of the ACE Coalition (Arts for a Complete Education) and I'm not here tonight to address any concern or problem with you but I want to thank you on behalf of Cultural Resources of our community and, also, from ACE, for all that you do to support our education. I want to highlight some of the efforts for which your support assists with...one, of which is a program we call "Voice of the People". It's with the fourth grade students at S. P. Livingston Elementary School and I hope you'll be able to come out to MOCA and listen to the audio guides that they create. This program is a literacy based arts initiative and then we use the visual arts as a catalyst for learning. We find that it really is a universal language that can happen to any subject. If you can come by the museum and listen to their audio guides, it really instills in them a sense of pride to be able to see their voice or hear their voice next to an outstanding piece of art; it makes them quite proud. We also received funding for Title I scholarships so that we can bring students, who otherwise couldn't afford to go on a field trip, to be exposed to the arts and, lastly, we were nationally recognized at the CARD Conference (Center for Autism and Related Disorders). We were presenters this year. We were presenting on a program that you support - the Rainbow Artist Program which serves approximately 150 students with autism spectrum disorder and this program is in its second year of implementation and it continues to grow and without the resources and support of the Board and within our community, we wouldn't be able to have programs like this. So, I want to thank you and, hopefully, have a wonderful evening.

Comments From Parent Organizations

[COMMENTS FROM PARENT ORGANIZATIONS](#)

Minutes:

District Advisory Council - Rachel Raneri, Chair:

The District Advisory Council met last Monday, January 24th.

Superintendent Pratt-Dannals gave us an update on the progress that the Board was making in response to the Intervene schools.

Doug Ayars updated us on the ACE process and the Waterleaf K-5 project.

Myrna Amos shared with us the up coming Parent University on January 29th, which was, by the way, a huge success.

Colleen Wood and Deborah Gianoulis, from Save Duval Schools, shared how we can all help to save public schools.

Karen Lombardi told us about the scholarships that Chartwell Thompson School Dining Services are offering to high school seniors. The application deadline is April 1.

Contact Sara Murphy for more information.

I would like to remind all principals and School Advisory Councils that this is the time of year to be conducting your mid-year stakeholders school improvement plan review. The deadline will be announced shortly.

I would like to thank Board member Lee for joining us.

The next DAC meeting will be February 28th at 6:00pm in the 6th floor conference room. We normally meet the fourth Monday of the month, however in both March and April the fourth Monday is a non-school day. We will meet on March 21st and April 18th.

Parent Advisory Council - Sharon Hodges, Chair:

To chairman W.C. Gentry, board members, and Superintendent, I am reporting on behalf of the Duval County Public Schools Title I Parent Advisory Council.

On January 25th, a group of Title I parents participated in the Title I Parent Involvement State interview to discuss the effectiveness of parent involvement at the schools that were represented.

At our January PAC meeting, Superintendent Pratt Dannals addressed the Title I PAC board and parents. Superintendent informed us that math training dates for parents were being established by Academic Services.

We are pleased to announce those dates, times and locations have been established. This information will be forwarded to the Title I Schools and are posted on the Title Parent Involvement Calendar.

Dates are Feb. 3: 4:00 – 5:00 and Feb. 9: 9:00 – 10:00 at Gilbert Middle, Feb. 15: 9:00 – 10:00 and Feb. 24: 3:00 – 4:00 at Woodland Acres, Feb. 9: 8:30 – 9:30 and Feb. 15: 4:00 – 5:00 at Andrew Robinson.

Our Parent Advisory Council will be partnering with Save Duval Schools.org and Deborah Gianolous to support their efforts.

This past weekend parents and caregivers had an opportunity to participate in Parent University which was sponsored by the District Title I Parent Involvement Department. Over 400 parents and caregivers registered and attended this event over the course of the entire day.

Our parents had a wonderful time at this event. They were given an opportunity to select 3 sessions from the 21 sessions available. There was something for everyone ranging from Early Childhood Education, FCAT 2.0 for Families, to College Choice Preparation and even Money Matters. A special presentation by Pat Willis, deputy superintendent on the Superintendent's Comprehensive Blueprint for Reading was presented.

It was a picture perfect moment when the PAC board presented the new adopted Parent Involvement pledge with parents stood up with their right hand raised and recited the pledge with great confidence; a commitment to stay involved in their child's education.

We commend Myrna Amos, Director of Title I Parent Involvement and her team and Academic Services coaches for a well planned and executed event and for listening to the comments from the parents and delivering over and beyond our expectations.

We want to thank the Honorable Paula Wright, as well as Mary Mickel, Executive Director of Academic Services, Jackie Byrd Cluster Chief, and other district staff for attending, supporting and participating in Parent University.

Overall, it was a great success and parents are looking forward to the next Parent University.

Title I PAC board will be facilitating a subcommittee meeting Tuesday, February 8,

2011, at 9:30 am here at the Cline Auditorium, that will consist of parents and the principal leadership team. We encourage all parents and caregivers of Title Schools to join us at this meeting.

This concludes our report.

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 good night!

PTA - Melissa Kicklighter, President:

Good evening! My name is Melissa Kicklighter, and I am President of the Duval County Council of PTAs. The month of February is always special to PTA as it is the time of year that we celebrate the founding of our organization. Well over 100 years ago, on February 17, 1897 our founders Phoebe Apperson Hearst and Alice McClellan Birney came together to create an organization that would focus on improving the education, health and safety of children. Today we have nationally over 6 million, in the State of Florida over 300,000 and at last count in Duval county over 30,000 members, and our advocacy mission is alive and strong. In fact, this month will be filled with activities focused on that mission.

I am pleased to report that today is the first day of Love Your Public School – a.k.a. Contact Your State Legislators month, and our local unit PTAs and PTSAs are already well into the legislative letter writing campaign. Between now and the end of the month, we will be working on several other related initiatives. First, on February 12, we will work with our students involved with the Superintendent's Leadership Academy to address issues that are especially important to them and have them write additional letters to their respective legislators addressing those items. We will also be working with Save Duval Schools, the Jacksonville Public Education Fund, WJCT, and our district staff to provide many of those same students the opportunity to participate in the Mayoral Candidate event which will be featured in a special segment of our own DCPS School Matters program. Our next County Council General meeting will be held on February 15, and we will be doing several exciting things that day. We will kickoff the morning with our Hospitality and Hot Topics training - featuring information about PTA Awards and History Books. We will also be celebrating Founder's Day during the meeting by honoring our Past County Council Presidents. After the business portion of the meeting, we will be serving lunch and hosting a special advocacy training event. We are inviting PTA and PTSA leaders from Duval County and surrounding counties to attend, so that we can help them increase their level of awareness of issues and develop a better understanding of the basic steps involved in advocacy. We hope that after they experience the training themselves, they will encourage others at their schools and within the community to participate as future training opportunities are offered. This is just another step in helping our community learn how they can take an active role in improving the world for all children.

Beyond legislative and advocacy programs, I do want to mention that the February PTA member incentive is now available at the Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens. PTA members who show their card will receive \$2.00 off the admission price for up to four family members. There are many other special programs and activities that the County Council is involved in and working on at this time, but I will not take the time now to list all of them. Rather I will ask that members of our school communities; students, parents,

teachers, staff and ...yes, even all of the school board members take a moment to go to our website at www.dccpta.org and check it out.

The Duval County Council is proud to be working with all of you and for all of you in supporting the mission and vision of Duval County Public Schools!

Comments From Employee Organizations

COMMENTS FROM EMPLOYEE ORGANIZATIONS

Minutes:

No comments from Employee Organizations at this meeting.

Student Achievement, Reform Activities, And Reports

1. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Minutes:

Comments from Board Chairman, W. C. Gentry:

At this time, it's my opportunity to give the Chairman's report and I do enjoy this opportunity to make a few comments and keep it rather brief as it is an important opportunity. First, I wanted to say that contrary to maybe some of the comments that we heard earlier, this school district is doing very well and every time I go out and meet with community groups, and as I have been going around the state in the last few months talking with leaders from other school districts, teachers and principals, it makes me realize even more how successful our school system is and how it is becoming to be perceived, certainly state-wide, as one of the leading school districts in the state. The Superintendent, Senator Stephen Wise, Ms. Terri Brady and I were invited to a conference in Tampa with the Hillsborough schools and speakers from all over the nation to speak about issues surrounding teacher assessment, collaboration with teachers and the best practices for moving students forward. In that conversation which was about the state of Florida, it became very clear from many comments and none of us were speaking, but from comments of others that Duval County and Hillsborough are seen as the two leaders in the state when it comes to being reform-minded and developing best practices and in fact, Hillsborough County, with its \$100,000,000 grant is doing alot to develop assessments which is a part of the practices we need to develop. Duval County leads the state in developing assessments for our teachers and ensuring that we support them in becoming effective and at the same time, teachers that are not being effective, moving them along. So, that

conference with a lot of people from around the country, it felt very good to me to hear Duval County spoken of again and again, not only by the people from the state but from some of the national authorities as a leader in this field.

I think it's also significant that the Secretary of Education has invited Duval County to attend the conference in Denver, Colorado this month where we will be present, the Superintendent, Ms. Brady and I, as Chair, will also be there, with representatives from some 150 school districts around the nation. There are over 2,000 school districts in the nation and here in Florida, I believe we were one of either six or seven school districts that were invited. Again, in recognition of the leadership that Duval County is taking in education reform and being a very viable and important partner in *Race to the Top* which is the program that the State of Florida, along with seven other states, have participated in or chosen to participate in which has resulted in an infusion of \$700,000,000 dollars to the state of Florida and our district was a leader in making that possible. So, I wanted to share those things because I'm not sure the people in the community appreciate not only that we try to talk about the things we're doing here in our schools that are positive, but you need to understand we're also becoming a leader state-wide and nationally and much of that is due to the work of our Superintendent who, himself, is recognized as one of the top Superintendents in the state.

I was out this morning speaking to Mr. Hazouri's Rotary Club and had a chance to tell them about some of the good things going on and I recited to them some of the things you heard before, but I want to say them, again. We are constantly pushing to improve our graduation rate and our graduation rate has increased by 9% over the last five years. What is also significant is what our children are graduating with and they're graduating ready to go on to college or to the work force, but they are all ready to go to college and in fact, our school district numbers four behind three suburban and wealthy communities, number four in terms of graduating students ready for college...number four in the state, number one urban school district in the state. We were number one in the state in terms of the number of our children who are graduating with Physics and Chemistry so we're doing a good job and a better job than most of anyone else in terms of having our children prepared to go on after high school.

We have 32 Career Academies and five of which already have national certification and five more coming on this year...that's a huge accomplishment and as our city moves forward with development of the port and other opportunities, these Career Academies are developing the workforce this community needs. It is an opportunity for students to graduate not only ready for college but ready to go to work and get a good paying job right out of high school and that is a very exciting program and we're expanding it. I'm very proud of what we're doing, there.

On the other end of the spectrum, we handed over 30 Volunteer Pre-K Centers in our public schools this last year in recognition, particularly in some of our most challenged neighborhoods. Children are coming to school not ready and we have partnered with NeMours to ensure that we are using the very best practices so these children are prepared to go to school. That is a huge first step for our children and although we have a very active VPK program in the city through the Early Learning Coalition, it's imperative that our schools be part of that in particular in our communities where the children are not having the opportunity to go to a quality center. 85% of our schools

this year either maintained or improved their school grade. Many of us are not big fans of the FCAT. It's a flawed system which is being phased out, but it's what we work with and our schools are doing well under the system. You've heard us talk about the Reading Initiative before and I'm excited about that and, notwithstanding, the comments by one of our speakers, not all children read the same way and that is something we know and that's one reason our children who are most challenged, come from poverty and communities that are not receiving this sort of enrichment that they need; special attention and taught differently. One of the things that we are doing better is identifying the children with different challenges and need to be taught differently. There is not *"one shoe fits all"* when it comes to reading but we're identifying the children that need more intensive help and our reading initiative will train our K-3 teachers to be reading teachers, highly skilled and to identify children who need extra help. It's a very exciting program and the mayor and city will be engaged and we will be kicking that off starting next year.

Finally, let me say, yes, we are doing very, very well and we have many centers of excellence. We have three of the top high schools in the nation - more than any other school district. By the same token, we have our challenges and we have four Intervene Schools from our communities that are our most challenged communities in terms of poverty and social issues. We have had to make decisions about how we will proceed with those schools and I know those communities are very concerned about what is going to happen. We met yesterday and I just want to address that very briefly, again, so, hopefully, we can avoid any confusion. The communities involved with these schools have been left behind by this city and this district many times before and this School Board will do the right thing by these children and we will go forward and see that they succeed. The Department of Education has asked that we respond and advise what option the district would choose under a rather arbitrary formulation created by the Board of Education. If these schools do not succeed, none of those options are acceptable and in reality, there are not three options; there are four. The fourth option is two-part. The fourth option is that if these schools meet the exit criteria set up by the State of Florida, if they will then not be under this Intervene status any more, and we are very hopeful that one or more of these schools will exit that criteria. The other part of the fourth option is that if they don't exit, that this district can demonstrate that after those most recent tests, that the school is likely to move from the lowest performing category, if additional time is provided, then we will be permitted to continue on. That is the fourth option that we have chosen. That is the option for success and so we are not going to talk about options that we know will fail. We are going to do our very best to commit this district to provide the stability and continuity that these schools need. We made significant progress last year and we will make significant progress this year and when we do, then we will continue on this successful approach and we are confident that we will be successful. So, we choose the option of success; not the option of failure that was being proposed by the Department of Education.

Having said that we have chosen the option of success, we have staked out the high ground and now we have to perform and there were a lot of people here last night from the community and I hope everyone that was here last night has called their schools because they need to be calling the schools, volunteering and tutoring these children to get involved and make sure that the kids succeed and our schools need to be prepared to let them come in and provide the help. The district staff is here, Mr. Superintendent,

and we're going to hear from them and we have a heavy burden - two months and we must succeed. The teachers and principals - they must succeed because if they succeed, then there will be no question that we will be entitled and allowed and permitted to go forward with our program which is in the best interest of our children. There is no option to not succeed and so we have, as a Board and as the Superintendent, we have staked out that ground. We said, "*We believe in our schools, our teachers, principals and students in what they are doing and we're going to support them and we will be successful.*" Now, we've said it, now we've got to step up and do it and it will take all of our efforts and time is "awasting". I've had a number of people say, "*What did you decide?*" We decided to choose the option for success! The option that is provided by the law and the one that will assure success for our students. We will not go backwards and we will succeed. Having staked out that ground, we've got to get the job done. Thank you.

2. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Minutes:

Comments from Superintendent, Ed Pratt-Dannals:

I'd like to add a few specifics to the Chairman's comments on the Intervene Schools, in part, just to clear up some information that came out earlier. One is as we look at the programs for each of the four Intervene Schools, we're looking for a single school and I know we talked about "splitting the schools"; it probably would be better if we talked about "creating successful programs within those schools". So, we still have to discuss with the Board as far as how those would be administered but we vision those as a single school with specialized programs within the school. We still have to work on what the scope of those programs are; how quickly we will implement them; what's the timeline and what are the costs and we will begin that process this next Tuesday in a workshop and make some decisions quickly because time is of the essence. In part, what we're trying to do is create a sense of connection for all students in the school. Many of the students currently have that and they're in one of the acceleration programs or Career Academies. They have it a sense of connection and the purpose of this is for all the students to have that sense of connection. The other purpose is to have a massive effort to attract back to, particularly, the high schools, students who have chosen another opportunity here in the district. Sometimes, we're accused of not offering choice. I don't know what more choice would look like...20% of our students are choosing a school outside of their zoned school. If anything, we might be accused of having too much choice, to the detriment in some cases, to our neighborhood schools and so there is going to be a full court press and, again, in addition to tutors, mentors and asking what the school can do, if we had everybody from last night to find 10 people to say, "*Come back to Raines, Ribault, and Jackson to participate in the Acceleration Program and the Career Academies!*" that would be a great first effort. Not only would we have more students so we could have more programs, the extra money we provide to the schools could go more into programs than just overhead and there would be alot of new faces and new energy which is necessary at this point in order to move the schools forward. So, I appreciate the ideas that have been presented by Board Members and the community. We want to continue to receive those and move

forward together.

Budget - we still envision at this point a \$90,000,000 shortfall. We'll have a better idea on February 7 when the Governor's budget is produced and also when a Revenue Estimating Conference will come out with the revenue. At this point, we've not been given any assurances that the \$46,000,000 in federal ARRA funds will be backfilled by the state. So, automatically, we're about 5% down on our budget. We are looking at controlling costs and cutting back on those things that ordinarily would be escalator areas. We've done a full internal review over the last three months on where we can reduce expenses while not impacting student achievement or at least minimizing the impact on student achievement and we'll be presenting those findings to the Board next month. In addition, we are beginning to receive our first reports from an outside organization that's been contracted to look at us from top to bottom in terms on how we spend money, our effectiveness, how it supports our Strategic Plan - that groups is called ERS and so we will begin some very detailed information comparing our district to other similar school districts and we look forward to a very strong engagement with our Board. It will be extremely challenging to balance our budget, but balance, we will and our hopes is that it's not any more than it has to be on the instructional program of students. We are following the new Senate Bill that is called "*Race to the top for Student Success*". This is the Teacher Quality Bill that is under Senator Wise's committee; Senate Bill 736. We appreciate very much that Senator Wise has broad input before crafting this bill. I had the opportunity last week to testify before the Senate Committee and they were very receptive and as Mr. Gentry said, the experience of Duval and Hillsborough not only is being used on how to frame it but, also, what pitfalls to avoid because for as long as we've been at this, we know we're not at the point where we need to be, yet. So, we continue to work on that and we're working with Mrs. Brady, Duval Teachers United, on contractual language for the *RttT Grant* that is due in May, for the TIF Grant (Teacher Incentive Fund) and also we've been working on the School Improvement Grant funds which is really the first infusion of any kind of funds we've had for the Turnaround schools. As long as we've been at this, I find it very interesting that some quote the extended problem in some of our schools, which is true, in terms of our not moving as far forward as we need to academically, and yet this last year, it's the first time we've ever received any funds from the state through the feds to have any significant impact. So, it's about building capacity and just not about accountability...accountability, we need, but the biggest issue is building the kind of capacity that is necessary and having the highest quality teachers, principals and other support staff with more time with students, a high powered, high expectation curriculum aligned with the assessments and professional development, the research shows that's how to improve schools. That was the path we chose when we looked at the other options. I'm not personally against looking at other options. However, I also look at the research and not just my research but if you look at countless numbers of people that I've talked to, they are not viable options that are within the statute and so we will be successful, Mr. Chairman and members of the Board. We are going to move forward and what we are going to need is more time in order to be more successful.

Class Size - again, the district used all of the money that was given to us for the Class Size Amendment. We got very close in the end and we're only being penalized about \$300,000 dollars and would have taken us about \$12-\$15,000,000 more to reach that final leg. Again, we did our obligation which was to spend all of the funds and do the very best we can. In fact, we spent other funds that we would have put into the

programs to move as close as we could to comply with the Class Size Amendment. So, we are working with our Legislature on looking on how they craft the penalty; how they define "core" classes; and to minimize negative impact the Class Size will have on our district. This completes my report.

Reports

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

Minutes: *No Operations Report this evening.*

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

Minutes:

Comments by Deputy Superintendent, Ms. Pat Willis:

Thank You Mr. Chairman, Tonight we would like to give a report on the success of our schools participation in CELEBRATE LITERACY WEEK and the Upcoming Activities & Programs for Black History Month. Mr. Bellamy will follow with the Turnaround Schools Report.

Our Schools participated in a very successful statewide Celebrate Literacy Week which was January 24-28.

- Our Schools participated in various activities planned for every day of the week to include book fairs, guest author visits, parent activities, and reading rallies.
- The District employees also participated with activities every day, including the Superintendent's Reading Pledge Day. So far, we have received pledges from students and adults to read more than 452,000 books by the end of this school year.
- On Tuesday, January 25, Florida First Lady Ann Scott came to Kirby Smith Middle School to kick off the Million Minute Marathon where she expressed the importance reading has been in her life and she also took the time to read to students in the media center. "The important thing is to just find something you enjoy reading," said Mrs. Scott, "and read it. It makes a difference in your whole life."
- Also joining this Literacy Week kickoff were Ms. Delores Weaver, head of the Jaguars Foundation, and Mr. Stuart Greenberg, Executive Director of Just Read, Florida!
- Duval students read more than 1.3 million minutes on January 25th, exceeding our goal of one million minutes. We contributed to the state total of 16 million minutes – a new state record!

Black History Month –Also February is Black History Month, when we recognize the accomplishments and contributions of African American Citizens.

- Included in this year's celebrations are school-based activities, such as assemblies with guest speakers, daily spotlight/facts, contests, reading selections, and writing prompts,

which will be accessible via a website link.

- Secondary students are encouraged to participate in a Black History Month essay contest.
- Parents, students, and teachers are invited to participate in the Kingsley Heritage Celebration presented by the National Park Service on February 19th and 26th.
- Teachers will receive resources and professional development, including a Teaching American History Grant --workshop at the LaVilla Museum and Ritz Theater.
- District staff will participate in a "lunch and learn" presentation by Community Advocate and Author Rodney Hurst.

I now turn it over to Mr. Tony Bellamy for the Turnaround Schools report.

Turnaround School Report - Mr. Tony Bellamy:

Tonight, I want to give you the Academic Area Focus for our Turnaround Schools as now begin the second semester of school, as well as a School Improvement, our Instructional Vacancies and the State Instructional Review update.

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT

- Instructionally in our Turnaround Schools, we are focused on increasing the level of rigor for our students by looking at the tasks we are asking students to perform. We are also focusing on writing with our 10th students by looking at the effective use supporting details within an essay, conventions, transitions and elaboration. There is a concentration on increasing the Reading Comprehension levels of students by using effective Researched Based Reading Strategies daily - school wide. Based on the results from the benchmark data, adjustments are currently being made to Individual Student Academic Plans as well as School Wide Academic Plans.

- In the area of School Improvement, the Community Assessment Team meeting was held on Thursday, January 13th at 2pm at Jackson High School. The principal, Mrs. Iranetta Wright toured the school prior to the meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for February 17, 2011. Team members will be notified of the time and location of the meeting.

- The fifth Saturday Professional Development Training will be held this Saturday from 8:00 – 12:00. Secondary training was held at Forrest High and Elementary training at S.P. Livingston Elementary.

INSTRUCTIONAL VACANCIES

- In the area of Instructional Vacancies, we are currently showing 2 vacancies in our Elementary Turnaround Cluster and 6 vacancies in our Secondary Turnaround Cluster. Out of the 8 total vacancies (4) are from resignations that were submitted in January, (3) from schools creating new positions, and just (1) 97 day dismissals. 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

- And finally tonight, the State Regional Executive Director, Dr. Gina Eyerman and her team are in the process of completing their second Instructional Review Visits to our School Improvement Schools. Ribault Middle, First Coast High and Andrew Jackson

High are the last schools to receive a second visit for the month of February.

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

Speakers:

Ms. Betty Burney, Board Vice Chair
Ms. Jackie Byrd, Elementary Turnaround Chief Officer
Ms. Kathy LeRoy, Chief Academics Officer
Mr. W. C. Gentry, Board Chairman
Mr. Fred "Fel" Lee, Board Member
Ms. Paula D. Wright, Board Member
Mr. Ed Pratt-Dannals, Superintendent of Schools
Mr. Tommy Hazouri, Board Member

Approval of Agenda

[APPROVAL OF THE FEBRUARY 1, 2011, AGENDA](#)

Motions:

That the Duval County School Board approve the February 1, 2011, Agenda as submitted on January 25, 2011, with the following changes:

1. Human Resource Services - Staffing - - PASS
Item 1 - Human Resource Services
Employee Transactions - Revised
Attachment
2. Board Members Travel - Revised
Agenda Item

Vote Results

Motion: Thomas Hazouri

Second: Fred Lee

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:

- December 16, 2010 - Board Retreat
- January 10, 2011 - Regular Board Meeting
- January 11, 2011 - Board Workshop
- January 18, 2011 - Grievance Committee Meeting
- January 18, 2011 - Special Meeting - Student Expulsioin Hearing

Motions:

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

- December 16, 2010 - Board Retreat
- January 10, 2011 - Regular Board Meeting - PASS
- January 11, 2011 - Board Workshop
- January 18, 2011 - Grievance Committee Meeting
- January 18, 2011 - Special Meeting - Student Expulsion Hearing

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

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: 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. OUT-OF-COUNTRY FIELD TRIP REQUEST-LAVILLA SCHOOL OF THE ARTS VOCAL MUSIC DEPARTMENT](#)

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

Human Resource Services - Labor Relations

[1. SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT WITH MAINTENANCE EMPLOYEES](#)

Attachment: [Maint econ lang ta.pdf](#)

Human Resource Services - Professional Standards

[2. SUSPENSIONS WITHOUT PAY](#)

Attachment: [HRS_attach_02-01-11_susp.pdf](#)

Administration and Business Services - Budget and Financial

[1. MONTHLY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS](#)

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

[2. ADOPTION OF BUDGET RESOLUTIONS](#)

Attachment: [Feburary 2011 Narritives.pdf](#)

Attachment: [February 2011 Spreadsheet.pdf](#)

[3. 2010-2011 CLASS SIZE COMPLIANCE PLAN](#)

Attachment: [Duval County Public Schools Compliance Plan v1 1.pdf](#)

Operations - School Choice and Pupil Assignment

[1. MAGNET SCHOOLS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM \(MSAP\) GRANT EVALUATION](#)

Operations - Facilities Project Design, Construction and Maintenance

[1. APPROVAL OF ANNUAL CERTIFICATION OF FISH DATA](#)

Attachment: [Feb 1 2011 Agenda Item FISH Certification Benefits and Challenge \(2\).pdf](#)

Attachment: [Annual-Certification-of-Accuracy-Attachment-2011.pdf](#)

[2. DISTRICTWIDE BUILDING SYSTEM FUNCTIONAL PERFORMANCE ASSURANCE SERVICES CONTINUING CONTRACT: SELECTION AND CONTRACT AWARD/ OFDC-RFQ-001-11](#)

Attachment: [Feb 1 2011 B-C DW Building Systems Functional Performance Assurance Services Annual Contract Award PLACEMENT 01 05 11.pdf](#)

Attachment: [OFDC RFQ-001-11 Selection Matrix for Bdg Sys Func Perf Assur Srvcs Prof Srvcs Contract 01 14 11.pdf](#)

Attachment: [OFDC RFQ-001-11 MBE Recommendation Memo to DCSB for Bdg Sys Func Perf Assur Srvcs Prof Srvcs Contract 01 19 11.pdf](#)

Attachment: [OFDC RFQ-001-11 Ayars Memo to DCSB for Bdg Sys Func Perf](#)

[Assur Srvcs Prof Srvcs Contract 01 14 11.pdf](#)

3. 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: [Feb 1 2011 B-C Agenda Item Periodic Report of Subs Comp-Final Insp-Cont Sav on Projects under \\$1M 01 05 11.pdf](#)

Attachment: [Feb 1 2011 Agenda Item Subs Comp Final Comp Chart for January 2011 revised 01 19 11.pdf](#)

Operations - Purchasing and Logistics

1. BULK COMMODITY PROCESSING

Attachment: [BULK COMMODITY PROCESSING BID TAB SHEET ITB-021-11-CP Revised 1-14-2011.pdf](#)

Attachment: [Bid Recommendations Bulk Commodity Processing ITB-021-11-CP-Revised 1-14-2011.pdf](#)

Attachment: [BENEFITS AND CHALLENGES FORM -Commodity Bid.pdf](#)

2. CUSTODIAL SERVICES MANAGEMENT, RFP NO. 08-01/LG, RENEWAL AND ADDITION OF LAST YEAR INCENTIVE OPTION YEAR RENEWAL TERM

Attachment: [Custodial Services Board Workshop Feb 1 Board Mtg.pdf](#)

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

3. FOOD SERVICE DEPARTMENT MANAGEMENT AND OPERATION, RFP No. 3-09/LG, RENEWAL

Attachment: [Food Services Board Workshop - 1 Feb Board Mtg.pdf](#)

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

Minutes: *No comments on this item.*

4. SURPLUS PROPERTY RETIREMENT REPORT

Attachment: [06Feb11.doc.pdf](#)

Attachment: [RORET FY11 \(3\).pdf](#)

Attachment: [05Feb11.doc.pdf](#)

Attachment: [February 2011.pdf](#)

Attachment: [ROSUMFY11.pdf](#)

Attachment: [04Feb.doc.pdf](#)

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

Attachment: [07Feb11.pdf](#)

5. ROOFING REPAIR

Attachment: [BENEFITS AND CHALLENGES FORM - Roofing Repair.pdf](#)

Attachment: [ROOFING REPAIRS.pdf](#)

6. GROUP HEALTH PLAN CONSULTANT SERVICES

Attachment: [B & C - Health Plan Consultant Services.pdf](#)

Attachment: [HEALTH PLAN CONSULTANT EVALUATION SUMMARY.pdf](#)

7. AMENDMENT TO FINANCIAL AGREEMENT WITH BLUE CROSS BLUE SHIELD OF FLORIDA

Attachment: [ASO Fee Modification Analysis.pdf](#)

Attachment: [BENEFITS AND CHALLENGES - amendment to Financial Agreement with BCBS.pdf](#)

Attachment: [Blue Cross Blue Shield - Exhibit B.pdf](#)

Minutes:

Board Member Betty Burney requested that a staff member explain how this item relates to our employees and what affects and impact it has on them, if any.

Mr. David Ford, Executive Director, General Services, said it freezes future increases that Blue Cross Blue Shield charges for their administrative services to the district's health plan through September 30, 2016. This will avoid \$3.46 million dollars of future increase costs that were built in to the contract. Employees will avoid an average increase of about \$4.60 per month over that five-year period. That, however, only represents about 4% of our total health care dollars that we spend with the other 96% is spent on health care services to the practitioners of which that does contain an increase as we have an aging population and there's still some inflation to the medical community and we also have many changes in the types of diseases that are out there; diabetes being a major contributor to increasing costs. This doesn't mean that our health care costs will go down. It just means that we avoided some of the cost that we would normally see.

Speakers:

Ms. Betty Burney, Board Vice Chair

Mr. W. C. Gentry, Board Chairman

Discussion

Academic Services

2. SEEDS FOR SCIENCE & ROOTS OF READING

Attachment: [BENEFITS AND CHALLENGES for Seeds of Science - Roots of Reading 1-18-11.pdf](#)

Attachment: [Efficacy Studies-Seeds and Roots.pdf](#)

Minutes: Speakers:

Ms. Paula Wright, Board Member

Ms. Kathy LeRoy, Chief Officer of Academic Services
Ms. Becki Couch, Board Member

Motions:

That Seeds of Science and Roots of Reading books be purchased for grades 2-5 to support improved literacy and science achievement. - PASS

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

Human Resource Services - Staffing

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

Attachment: [HRS Attach 02-01-11 TRANS.pdf](#)

Minutes:

Speakers:

Ms. Betty Burney, Board Vice Chair

Ms. Vicki Reynolds, Chief Officer of Human Resource Services

Mr. Ed Pratt-Dannals, Superintendent of Schools

Mr. Tony Bellamy, Secondary Turnaround Chief Officer

The Superintendent said now, that the Board has approved it, I'd like to have Viveca Brown stand up and let's welcome her as the principal, District Multiple Pathways Programs. I would echo all of the things Ms. Burney has said. Ms. Brown has been in a rather unique position basically supervising all of these programs but at that point, she had not done all of the hurdles for a principalship and now, she's accomplished that, has gone through the screenings and so, in her case, she's doing what she did before but now she's recognized with the title. Also, not only in the area of compliance where we needed some work, she is also moving into alot of areas of

effectiveness in terms of teacher quality and support, making sure the programs are truly responsive to the needs of the students and, unfortunately, it is a growing population. Many more students who are committing criminal violations are being charged as adults and so the program at the Pretrial Detention Center has grown with five teachers there, now, and it is a challenge but she is taking it on full force and is doing a superior job.

Ms. Burney added that these are students from just about every one of our high schools. It's not just 2, 3 or 4 schools and I would encourage Board members to actually ask Ms. Brown allow for a visit at either of those centers because these are our children and you'll have an opportunity to hear from them and find out what is happening and what is causing some of our children to be placed in a situation where they are confined, possibly sometimes, for the rest of their lives.

Motions:

That the Duval County School Board approve the Human Resource Services employee transactions listed on the attachment. - PASS

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

Human Resource Services - Professional Standards

[1. APPROVAL OF OUT-OF-FIELD TEACHERS](#)

Motions:

That the Duval County School Board approve the *list of teachers to teach out-of-field for the 2010-2011 school year. Florida law requires the Board to approve any teacher teaching out-of-field each year. An out-of-field designation does not necessarily mean that the teacher is not effective or highly qualified. Many out-of-field teachers have students with outstanding learning gains. An out-of-field designation simply denotes that the teacher is teaching a different subject area than what appears on the certificate. - PASS

*The list is available for review in the Board Office.

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

Board Member Travel

[BOARD MEMBERS TRAVEL](#)

Minutes:

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

2011 Legislative Session - Tallahassee, FL - Barrett, Burney, Couch, Gentry, Hazouri, Lee, Wright

February 2011 - December 2011 - Northeast Florida School Boards coalition Meetings - St. Augustine, FL - Couch, Wright

February 15-16, 2011 - Conference on Advancing Student Achievement through Labor-Management Collaboration - Denver, CO - Gentry

(NOTE: Travel expenses paid by the U.S. Department of Education)

February 16-18, 2011 - FSBA Certified Board Members Forum - Gainesville, FL
Couch, Lee, Wright

Motions:

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

- 2011 Legislative Session -
Tallahassee, FL - Barrett, Burney,
Couch, Gentry, Hazouri, Lee, Wright
- February 2011 - December 2011 -
Northeast Florida School Boards
Coalition Meetings - St. Augustine, FL
- Couch, Wright - PASS
- February 15-16, 2011 - Conference
on Advancing Student Achievement
through Labor-Management
Collaboration - Denver, CO - Gentry
(Note: Travel expenses will be paid
by the United States Department of
Education.)
- February 16-18, 2011 - FSBA
Certified Board Members Forum -
Gainesville, FL - Couch, Lee, Wright

Vote Results

Motion: Martha Barrett

Second: Thomas Hazouri

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 following travel for the Superintendent:

2011 Legislative Session - Tallahassee, FL

February 7, 2011 - Leadership Policy Advisory Committee on Assessment and Accountability (LPAC) - Tallahassee, FL

February 15-16, 2011 - Conference on Advancing Student Achievement through Labor-Management Collaboration - Denver, CO
(NOTE: Travel expenses paid by the U.S. Department of Education)

Motions:

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

- 2011 Legislative Session - Tallahassee, FL
- February 7, 2011 - Leadership Policy Advisory Committee on Assessment and Accountability (LPAC) - Tallahassee, FL - PASS
- February 15-16, 2011 - Conference on Advancing Student Achievement through Labor-Management Collaboration - Denver, CO (Note: Travel expenses will be paid by the United States Department of Education)

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

For The Record

[FOR THE RECORD](#)

Minutes:

Mr. Hazouri said I wanted to mention the North Shore meeting at 8:00 a.m. on Friday, February 4, morning with Commissioner Eric Smith and then his coming here in the Cline Auditorium at 2:00 pm; I don't think we mentioned that earlier. I just wanted to remind everybody in case you'd like to attend. Mr. Gentry said, yes, that he will be visiting North Shore at 8:00 am and presently there will be an opportunity to meet with him at 2:00 o'clock, in this building somewhere.

Mr. Hazouri mentioned that the Douglas Anderson School of the Arts Extravaganza is Saturday, February 12 at the Times Union Center for Performing Arts. Just for our Governance conversation, Mr. Ayars and the Superintendent, you heard Mr. Lee and the Jacksonville Beach parents about Priority One. Doug Ayars and I had an extensive meeting and the principal from Stockton Elementary a couple of weeks ago We outlined to them that they were expected (and Mrs. Burney has been involved in meetings in the past) and they expect us to have some community meetings. There are some legitimate concerns other than what we discussed and I feel this needs to be addressed as far as the students who get the opportunity to go there...black and white, others. These schools are James Weldon Johnson and Landon and let the community know that we do listen to them and there were a number of people here tonight from Jacksonville Beach Elementary and it's the same consistent message that we're hearing. I'd like to know, on the record, if we plan on having some community meetings on this subject over the next year? I made a commitment for myself but they are asking for the Board to do it.

Mr. Pratt-Dannals said I think we could discuss it during Governance in terms of where we move from there, so, whatever the pleasure of the majority of the Board is. We

have discussed it some, as you know and at that point, said we would monitor and look at the data in terms of what might need to be changed, so, certainly in Governance, we could talk more.

Mr. Hazouri said somehow, somewhere, somebody thought back in December that we were going to have some community meetings and I know we haven't and I do hope we'll have some conversation on it and have the meetings all over the community

Mr. Gentry said, as a point of order, it was brought up at a workshop; Mr. Ayars presented on it and the Board determined not to proceed with it because it has come up over and over, again, but if you want to put it on the agenda for another workshop for us to discuss it, then we will but it has been discussed approximately a month ago and that decision was made but we can always...

Mr. Hazouri said I remember the workshop, well, and as the Superintendent indicated, we'll try to gather some data. I know we can do anything if we do anything at all, for this year but I think we owe it to all of the parents to at least go back and review where we are and see if there are some issues for example: the number of minority students at a particular school is not very high. Things of this nature should be addressed and that's just a piece of the general question and it goes back to the neighborhood participation and those feeling comfortable they'll be moving along in the process and then find themselves looking elsewhere. I'm still trying to encourage people to attend our public schools and we have done that and I know we have some very good private schools but I still want to see our students coming back to our schools and I don't want to shut the doors on them.

Ms. Barrett said I want to thank Mr. Ayars and Mr. Soares and everyone for the wonderful event at the new Waterleaf Elementary school. The Topping Off Ceremony was last Thursday morning and we appreciate it. I'd like to say to all of the children who have the opportunity to attend that it is a beautiful school and we look forward to the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony. I want to thank all of the folks who have been involved in this project.

Mr. Lee wanted to extend his thanks to Mr. Ayars and his staff. We had a wonderful time at Waterleaf. The opening of that school will affect several schools in my district and we're moving in the right direction, so thank you to that. Also, I'd like to echo Mr. Hazouri's comments and I'd like to see that back on the agenda as far as Priority One.

Ms. Burney said I'd like to commend Mr. Lawrence Dennis and staff for what they are doing with regards to developing a Transition Team in order to make the transition smooth for the students who will be transferring to Eugene Butler, out of James Weldon Johnson. What they are doing is something that should have been done so many years ago when schools were merged. They are doing a great job of it. I also want to commend those principals, especially, Mr. Perry whose school took a hit more so than anyone else's and he's been very gracious about it and whatever comes out of this, to be used as a model.

I also had the pleasure of reading to Ms. Thomas' 4th grade class at Highland's Elementary School and you talk about rigor and critical thinking; they kept me on my toes. She has done an outstanding job with those children.

I'd like to say to Ms. Pat Willis, Ms. Jackie Byrd and Mr. Tony Bellamy - you have a tough road of hope for the next few months and we don't take it lightly. You are the ones who are shepherding on these two individuals and everything is on their shoulders right about now. I really do appreciate the hard work that you all do. I remember, Mr. Bellamy, when you had a head full of black hair...and I do thank you for what you are doing!

Ms. Wright said I'd like to wish each of the 15 Teacher of the Year finalists the very best as they go to the next stage and we'll know our winner soon.

I also had the opportunity to participate in the Amity Turkish Cultural Center Art & Essay Contest. It was a wonderful event and over 20 teachers and students walked away with iPads. For every 1st Place student, they received an iPad and the teacher received one so I thought that was a very good event.

I also enjoyed a delightful morning at Biscayne Elementary School as I read to Ms. Barnes' kindergarten class and they were typical kindergarten students. It was good and I appreciate the invitation from the principal, Ms. Stroy.

I'd like to thank the First Coast News for allowing their report and anchor, Chauncy Glover. He was the speaker at Raines' Martin Luther King Observance Day program and he is a dynamic young man. The students not only enjoyed him but could relate to him. We appreciate First Coast News for their partnership.

I'd like to thank Civil Services Engineer - they are going to partner with Sallye Mathis Elementary School to be their engineer partner. Sallye Mathis is an Engineering Magnet and one of my schools. A couple of weeks ago, I found out that they did not have a partner and when I called Bill Price (who was here earlier), the president of Civil Services Engineer, he said, "*Whatever I can do!*" and I appreciate that and he also partnered with them at Raines, in the past. He's a long time friend of Duval County, he and the company.

I'd like to thank Myrna Amos for the Parent University Workshop. I think you heard earlier our very own Deputy Superintendent was one of the speakers, Deborah Gianoulis from Save Duval Schools was a speaker and Jackie Byrd, Cluster Chief and I believe the entire Academic Services staff, Ms. LeRoy, was there for all of the various workshops. Over 400 parents and they say parents aren't involved, aren't concerned, won't participate - they came for a full day. When I left at 3:45 p.m., they were still there from 8:30 that morning. The parents participated in order to improve themselves in order to help their children learn both in and out of schools. I think that was a marvelous day. I'd also like to give thanks to Dr. Barbara Darby. The event was held at FSCJ North Campus and Bono's provided lunch and Famous Amos provided breakfast; WJCT held the workshops - you're talking about true collaboration within this community and everyone participated. I appreciate, again, all of the hard work that this day involved for Myrna Amos and the entire team.

I am so proud to be a part of the Duval County School Board because this Board, as the Chairman stated earlier, decided to do the right thing in terms of what we're going to provide for the students in these Intervene schools. I'd also like to say to the

community, *"I thank you for all of your efforts, participation, but the battle is not over. This is step one and we're going to have to pull together and stay together. I'm going to ask if Paula Wright did not ask you to volunteer or help in one of the Intervene schools, I'm asking you now...and if I didn't before, forgive me but don't stop supporting the students. Schools don't exist without students; it's just a building but the students who are in those buildings, need your help. Thank you."*

Ms. Couch said thank you for the invitation to Kirby Smith Middle School for the Million Minute Marathon KickOff. It was a fantastic event and presentation by the students.

I also want to say thank you to Dr. Sally Hague and her staff for the magnificent job they did putting on Magnet Mania as it was a huge success. I couldn't brag more on Magnet Mania.

I'd also like to thank Baldwin Middle/Senior High School for inviting me to read to the middle school students and participate in the Celebrate Literacy Week as I had a great time.

Mr. Gentry said we have a real tension between the perception of magnet schools being so much better than our other schools and the desire of parents to send their children to a magnet school in order to get the best education for their children and trying to maintain and develop our neighborhood schools. We've seen the consequences of this magnet philosophy on our Raines, Ribault and Andrew Jackson schools and for example, in the instance of Landon Middle School, it is a neighborhood school and one of the things I know the principal is most proud of is that they do have a significant number of low income students, both white and black, and they are in the accelerated program and they are excelling and doing great. Yes, people are actually moving into that community so they can send their kids to that neighborhood school and yes, people have moved out of private schools to attend that neighborhood school and it has an incredible community organization and it is being extraordinarily successful. The last time I checked, this is what we want for our neighborhood schools and so I think we're going to have to really decide and make some hard decisions if we start talking about squeezing those children out of their neighborhood school; requiring them to go somewhere else and undermine the community so that folks from the beaches or some place else can come across town and go to that magnet school. I look at Fletcher Middle School which has been an "A" school for as long as I can remember and I wonder, "Why is it that the folks at the beach don't think that Fletcher is really a good school?" I look at Mayport Middle and it is not an "A" school but it has some great programs going on and it would be an "A" school if the folks around Mayport Middle believed in it instead of traveling across town to go to a "magnet" school. I think the discussion that we need to have is really, What are we going to do about this perception that a school has to have the word 'magnet' in front or behind it in order to get people to go there? "What do we have to do to enhance our neighborhood schools as we have with our high schools Accelerated Programs so the parents would feel confident that they can get the highest quality education for their children?" Those discussions need to be had because there is this constant tension and we all understand the desire of every parent to make sure their child receives the very best education. We've got to figure out how to offer it in more locations that people perceive are high quality so that every child and every parent believes that one in reality, they are receiving and they believe they are. So, there are no lotteries any more and people won't have to worry

any longer. To me, that's the challenge for this Board and, obviously, we need to discuss it, again.

I really enjoyed meeting the First Lady, Mrs. Scott...I appreciate her coming to Kirby-Smith...what a great thing that Kirby-Smith was chosen to be the site of all the schools in the state of Florida that was chosen by the Governor's office to be the place where they were going to launch the Literacy.

I commend the school system...it was supposed to be state-wide Million Minute Marathon and we did the million minutes right here so congratulations to all our students who participated in that.

I did get to go out this morning to the Mandarin Rotary and Mr. Hazouri, they said some very kind things about you. They asked me to come and report as Chairman and one of the things I'm excited about is I did mention our reading plan during the last few minutes of our conversation. Mrs. LeRoy had given me some materials to take with me, because everywhere I go now, I'm taking an "ASK" - an "ASK for Money" and I told them about the opportunity to buy a library for a classroom and as of right now, I have two people who are ready to write checks to fund a library just from that brief conversation. Here's enthusiasm and I'm convinced as we go out as Board members and Superintendent, if we will take along with us the "ASK", people will respond and the Superintendent is setting up the accounts so we will have a place to put the money. So, it's very exciting and I'm happy to say that the Mandarin Rotary is, as far as I know, the first to contribute to providing these new libraries for our schools. I'm very proud of their effort.

Adjournment

[ADJOURNMENT](#)

Minutes:

The meeting adjourned at 8:39 p.m.

Isd

Superintendent

Chairman