



## Duval County Public Schools

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February 5, 2013, Regular Board Meeting

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

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

Call Meeting to Order

[CALL MEETING TO ORDER](#)

Minutes:

James Justice, an 11th grade student at Baldwin Middle/Senior High School played the Euphonium, a wind brass instrument, known as the little brother of the tuba. James won a position with the Boston Crusaders, a World Class Drum and Bugle Corps, who marched in the Presidential Inaugural Parade on January 21, 2013. When James switched from playing the alto saxophone to the euphonium, he advanced from a beginner to a member of a World Class Drum and bugle Corps in less than one year. James will perform at the Drum Corps International World Championships this summer in Indianapolis.

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

## Invocation

### [INVOCATION](#)

Minutes: Pastor Ted Corley gave the Invocation.

## Pledge of Allegiance

### [PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE](#)

## Presentations

### Communications

#### [1. NATIONAL SCHOOL COUNSELING WEEK RECOGNITIONS](#)

##### Minutes:

- This week (Feb. 4 – 8) is National School Counseling Week
- Added guidance counselors back into the district this year
- Ratio changed from 612:1 guidance counselors to students in 2011-12 to 471:1 in 2012-13
- Number of counselors increased from 196 to 242 in 2012-13
- Because of the efforts to increase the presence of guidance counselors, the district received the Eve Award for advocacy on legislation and advocacy on positions and services
- Guidance Dept. also received the Administrator Advocacy Award from the Florida School Counseling Association in 2011.
- Lucille Crysell Award Winner for 2013 is Ella "Pat" Warren, a school counselor at Highlands Middle School
  - o This award was created to recognize outstanding school counselors for implementing a comprehensive school counseling program and going above and beyond in serving Duval County students
  - o She has been a school counselor in the district for 15 years

- o Transformed Highlands' counseling program into a place that encourages a college-going culture for students
- o Active advocator for Jacksonville Goes to College Week
- Laurel Kaden Anderson Administrator Award Winners
- o This award was created to recognize administrators for outstanding support of counselors and their programs
- o First winner is Katrina McCray, Mayport Middle Principal
- o Gives counselors the autonomy and support to design a counseling program in accordance with the American School Counselor Association National Model
- o Supported the creation of a peer mediation program
- o Facilitates school counselor participation in leadership activities and programs
- o Provides student transportation to National College Fair
- ? Second winner is Carlene Smith, assistant principal of curriculum at Highlands Middle
- ? Empowers counselors to be leaders by encouraging their presence on committees that impact the school's direction
- ? Values counselors' expertise
- ? Suggested counselors assist with classroom management by being assigned to classes as "extra personnel".

## [2. TOM & BETTY LAWRENCE AMERICAN HISTORY TEACHER AWARD RECIPIENT](#)

Minutes:

- Daniel Flint won the Tom & Betty Lawrence American History Teacher Award for the second consecutive year
- Daniel is a history teacher at A. Philip Randolph Academies of Technology
- He is accompanied by Principal Robert Lewis and David Ramseur (Ram-sir), who he credits much of his knowledge and expertise in the historical

field. Mr. Ramseur is the former Florida State Chapter President of the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution

- First Duval County teacher to receive this award for two consecutive years
- Presented by the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution, this award recognizes outstanding social studies teachers at the middle and high school level for actively addressing the history of the American Revolutionary era.
- Daniel, a seventh-year teacher, will not compete for the 2013 State and National American History Teacher Awards
- Daniel uses new and inventive techniques to help students understand the impact of history on today's society.

### [3. PRESENTATION TO THE BOARD - FORT CAROLINE FUTURE CITY TEAM](#)

Minutes:

- I would now like to call Principal Shawn Shackelford and the Fort Caroline Middle Future City team members to the front for a brief presentation on their participation in the Future City Competition.
- The Future City Competition is a national, project-based learning experience where middle school students imagine, design, and build cities of the future.
- (Principal Shackelford gave his presentation.)

Comments From Audience

#### [COMMENTS FROM AUDIENCE](#)

Minutes:

Mr. Eddie Diamond, Jr. said you run a high speed rail of education down a track. You are powerful administrators, Superintendent, School Board and you run one of the largest school systems in the state and in the country. I must ask you this evening is that at any time a high speed rail train runs down a track and when they hook up to a boxcar which is called a "jenny coupler"; I'll use that analogy, when you pass schools like George Washington Carver, Northwestern, Matthew W. Gilbert, as powerful as you are and as educated as you are and as powerful as your administrators are, do those schools have "jenny coupler" for you to hook up to? That "jenny coupler" was invented by Andrew Beard. It revolutionized the railroad and the railroad moves freight all over the country. You are the engine that pulls this school system. You

have "A" and "B" schools, advanced schools and advanced technology so I must ask you in all fairness, will you have that jenny coupler for those schools because as powerful as you are, if you backup to those schools, you cannot pull it. On the caboose, it's called "grandma's and grandpa's" - and they make sure those cars don't come off that track. I'm using this analogy because this school system runs a large budget. Where's the money? We need more because of what we need to do. Our students need music, art, sports and need to be enhanced and you must harness their energy. Whenever I visit a school, I don't go to the principal but I go to a custodian and I can find out everything about that school.

Mr. Edward Exson said I heard the "hurrah" for Raines and Ribault High Schools' phenomenon improved performance. My congratulations to all that helped make it happen. Even with my joy for both schools, there is a caveat to keep that honor. It must be done with persistence and consistence. The question I ask was why would these poor performing students be sent to Murray Hill High which is less than a mile from Robert E. Lee High? Murray Hill High students are in a warehouse setting that has no semblance of a school. In Jonathan Kozol's book, *"The Shame of the Nation"* in his entire scenario, synopsis and description of deplorable schools. Jacksonville's Murray Hill High and other charter schools are the worst. Where is the NAACP? As Black History Month is observed and rightfully so for those accomplishments, they should be recognized in history. Pursuant to the first amendment, I shall not hesitate in discharging my denunciation and disgust with the countless blacks that became educated; yet, so dumb and foolish, they let corruption diminish their value and education. All over America, black politicians are going to jail for their unrestrained indulgence in corruption and greed while maintaining they did nothing wrong, even with the preponderance of evidence. As of this January, Jacksonville's native son, Larry Seabrook, a New York city Councilman, was sentenced to five years for corruption among other unlawful acts. Perhaps, before Mr. Seabrook was investigated, a group of conspirators, including kin, had formed such a group to defraud this Board. With an outcry of a pending sub-rosa contract, the proffer withdrew their proposal absent any dispute from the Board. As black politicians, preachers and so-called black leaders find corruption as personal stability or compatible with wisdom, your lack of values will lead you to incarceration. The attorney for this Board can attest to my fighting corruption all of this century and before. District 5 Board member, you should resign from this Board as you are tainted and can never be effective. Thank you.

Ms. Darlyne Harris said I'm here, tonight, because I am astonished, in disbelief, I'm sad and disillusioned. I want you all to look at me. I'm a redneck. I was married for 25 years to a farmer. We grew tobacco, corn, raised cattle and vegetable crops. My husband worked all day in the sun. When he came in during the evenings and took off his shirt, he was sun burnt all around. His head, face, neck, and arms where his shirt didn't cover him. This was the case with all farmers...therefore the term, "redneck". My grown sons and daughters all still work for their father in a large farming business west of here. They all drive pickup trucks; they have their dogs in the back; their guns (legal, I might add); their fishing equipment - they are all rednecks. Redneck is a colloquialism and is not a derogatory term nor a discriminatory term. That term has made Jeff Foxworthy and Larry the Cable Guy millions and millions of dollars. I'm sad from what I can gleam from the internet, from the newspapers, from our local television stations, a very good employee of this school district was demoted. You call

it a lateral move? All because the employee who had done a great job called her own husband while in her own office a "redneck". Another employee whose employee evaluation were evidently not so great overheard or perhaps was eavesdropping and reported her boss referring that "redneck" was a derogatory and discriminatory term. Oh, my...Mr. Superintendent, you yourself said to a local television reporter that you don't in your position take things like this, personally. Is it possible that in this particular case, subconsciously, in a tiny area in the back of your mind, you did take this, personally? It is my opinion that this situation was badly handled. I'm sad and I'm disappointed. We were entering into a new and better phrase of school management, I was wrong. Thank you.

Ms. Pam Paul, Jacksonville Education Public Fund, said I'd like to thank you for your consideration of the One-by-One Convention Report and the One-by-One Community Agreement Priorities. I believe most of you have seen these. We had a wonderful day on Saturday, January 5 and Dr. Vitti was with us. Our community is so excited about the momentum that Dr. Vitti is demonstrating and all of you behind him. The community is excited about the alignment that they consider most important and those things in the Community Agreement are supporting the whole child - great teachers and leaders, policy and political reform and family and care-giver involvement. Thank you so much for considering those priorities as you develop your Strategic Plan. Also, considering the very tangible concrete ways the community can provide support to the district in implementing the Strategic Plan. I'd like to remind you that the Eddy Awards are right around the corner - March 14 at the Times-Union Center. This is the 23rd annual Eddy Awards. The JEPF and the Schultz Center are in the joint venture to produce the Florida Blue Duval County Teacher of the Year awards. I have had the privilege in serving on the middle school Eddy Award Review Team and once, again, simply amazed by the talent and incredible teaching and learning that is being demonstrated in the five classrooms I visited. This Friday, the finalists will be announced and I know you will be visiting those teachers. It's no easy task making those decisions and we appreciate the opportunity to recognize those teachers and hope you will come out to the Eddy Awards to help celebrate those teachers. Thank you for all you are doing and we're really excited about the momentum and keeping the community abreast of what you're doing. Thank you very much.

Mr. Jeff Smith said I serve as an Associate Director for the Cathedral Arts Project and a representative of the local coalition of ACE (Arts for a Complete Education). We're proud to support the Board's commitment to arts education in educating the whole child. We firmly believe that every child deserves an arts rich education and we are committed to providing rigorous arts education, dance, music, visual arts and drama. We are now celebrating our 20th anniversary and a proud history of fostering the artistic, academic, emotional and social growth of over 15,000 students. Our students are excelling in school and in life and our alums have gone into great things as they attend prestigious schools and universities in large part because of everything they've gained through participation in arts programs. We are highlighting these achievements and the importance of the Arts Education Traveling Exhibit and Call Lobby for the Arts and several of you have already seen that - thank you. It was launched at the Cummer Museum of Arts and Gardens last month and now housed in the lobby of Haskell until February 15th. It features the art work of 26 talented visual arts students along with photos and live performances. After February 15th, it will move to other corporate lobbies such as Florida Blue and Baptist Health and community spaces around the city.

Students from the 58 arts programs that are offered in 28 schools and centers through the Computer Arts Project will be featured in our annual Showcase of the Arts. You are each invited to attend our Visual Arts Showcase held on February 24th from 1:30-3:30 pm at St. Johns Cathedral. Our Performing Arts Showcase will be held on April 27-28 at Lazare Performance Hall on the campus of UNF. The recently released JPEF Community Agreement and our own results from an arts audit and conversations for education indicate that there are strong community support for arts education that will provide the depth of instruction to our future creative and innovative leaders need. At Cathedral Arts, we are very excited about the future, the future of our students and the future of this school system. As a father of three students in our school system and a former music teacher whose life was transformed at an early age through the arts, I believe that great things lie ahead if you continue to support and expand the arts education. On behalf of ACE and the Cathedral Arts Project, thank you for everything you do for the children of Duval County and for my children, as well.

## Comments From Parent Organizations

### [COMMENTS FROM PARENT ORGANIZATIONS](#)

Minutes:

PTA - Gretchen Lynch, President:

As the Florida Legislation prepares for the 2013 session, DCCPTA has begun to educate our membership on Florida PTAs priorities including: Support for and fully funded high-quality child care and preschool programs Support for daily physical education programs taught by certified PE teachers. Florida PTA wants charter schools to operate on set of principles that are designed to keep the integrity of public schools intact. This includes full time virtual schools. Finally PTA supports the adoption of laws that restrict manipulation of handheld and portable communication devices while driving. We have begun a postcard campaign to encourage our local unit boards to communicate in writing with their state legislators.

We will also begin to educate our members on the legislative priorities of DCPS.

We appreciate Dr. Vitti and Chairman Lee for welcoming our new class of high School students participating in the Superintendent's Leadership Academy. Thank you to Principal Ledford and the Sandalwood PTSA for their hospitality. Looking forward to our next session this Saturday at Peterson; which will focus on Civics and a session called "Who decides?... Local State or Federal taught by School Board Member Couch.

In conjunction with our last two student leadership sessions Feb 23 and March 9 we will offer parent advocacy sessions on Strategy, Coalition Building and Meeting with a Decision Maker.

We have wrapped up a mid-year training for local unit leaders on topics such as mid-year budget review, end of the year audits and nomination and elections in the local unit.

Our next general meeting is Tuesday, February 19 at 10:00 in the Cline Auditorium. We will be celebrating our Founder's and our associations 115 years of being a voice for children.

District Advisory Council - Sabrina Zinamon, Vice Chair:

The District Advisory Council met Monday, January 28, 2013, @ 6 pm (Vice Chair Sabrina Zinamon facilitated because Chair Juanita Franklin-Banton was hospitalized.)

-Guests for the meeting:

Dr. Nikolai Vitti – Superintendent

Honorable Becki Couch - School Board Member

Jackie Bowen – Academic Services

Dr. Lillie Granger – School Improvement, Executive Director

Area Concerns – DAC Members

Dr. Vitti, Superintendent

- Information concerning the changes in response to emergency preparedness
- Security plan has been revised to address the day to day issues of our schools
- High frequency radios have been purchased for all principals and the command center has been established for communication
- Lobbying for additional funds concerning security for more cameras for schools and other security measures

-Honorable Becki Couch:

- Legislative recommendations and explained why they were recommended
- Capital Funding, PECO Dollars, Instructional Materials, Class Size Amendment, End of Course Exams, Standard and Special Diplomas
- It was requested that the legislative updates be sent to the DAC Chair and Vice Chair so they could distribute them to the DAC representatives.

Dr. Lillie Granger:

- The stakeholder meetings are going well and have been advertised on the district website under Office of School Improvement, they have also been attending some of these meetings
- The state report is due March 1, most schools had their stakeholder's meeting in January as requested, but due to the 30 days' advance notice, some schools have decided to hold meetings in February, Office of School Improvement has been notified of the change
- The Chair, Vice Chair and Office of School Improvement met over the holidays and decided to have the DAC members discuss together training for certain issues within SAC, AAC, and DAC
- DAC members in attendance broke into groups in order to discuss what type of training would be needed for the SAC, AAC and DAC

Areas were concerned about when the SAC funds would be distributed because some schools were not sure if they had any funds carried over from the previous year.

DAC applauded several areas for their school grade increase which was shared and celebrated with us at that time

Next meeting – Monday, February 25, 2013 @ 6 p.m.

DAC request that someone from the facilities and technology department be present because some of our areas have or will have concerns and questions about their school.

Title I, Parent Advisory Council : *No report this evening.*

## Comments From Employee Organizations

### COMMENTS FROM EMPLOYEE ORGANIZATIONS

Minutes:

*No Employee Report this evening.*

## Chairman's Report

### 1. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Minutes:

I'd like to let our community know that your Board has been very active. We recently met on January 25, 2013 for a Development meeting surrounding our Strategic Plan revision and we're currently working through that with the Superintendent. We're listening to the input from the community. There is a brief draft that has already been created that the Board is presently working through and our next Development meeting will be February 11, 2013, 12:00-4:00 pm in Conference Room 613.

Several Board members have been representing Duval County at different levels. We are attending several different Board development activities including state finances to the legislative process. The legislative session will soon begin.

Recently Board Members Connie Hall and Paula Wright visited Washington, DC, representing the Board at the Federal Relations Network conference.

We recently met with the Duval Delegation to clarify what this Board's and school system's priorities were and we spent three hours with those legislators. I'd like to thank the entire Delegation on behalf of our Board for spending that time with us.

Superintendent's Report

[2. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT](#)

Minutes: *See the "District Data Presentation" in the attachment by Dr. Vitti, Superintendent of Schools.*

Reports

Approval of Agenda

[APPROVAL OF THE FEBRUARY 5, 2013, AGENDA](#)

Motions:

That the Duval County School Board  
approve the February 5, 2013, Agenda as - PASS  
submitted on January 29, 2013.

Vote Results

Motion: Rebecca Couch

Second: Cheryl Grymes

Rebecca Couch - Aye

Jason Fischer - Aye

Cheryl Grymes - Aye

Connie Hall - Aye

Ashley Juarez - Aye

Fred Lee - Aye

Paula Wright - Aye

Approval of Minutes

[APPROVAL OF MINUTES](#)

Minutes:

That the Duval County School Board approve the following minutes:

- January 7, 2013 - Regular Board Meeting
- January 17, 2013 - Committee Meeting
- January 18, 2013 - Board Development Meeting
- January 25, 2013 - Board Development Meeting
- January 25 2013 - Board Audit Committee Meeting

Motions:

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

- January 7, 2013 - Regular Board Meeting
- January 17, 2013 - Committee Meeting - PASS
- January 18, 2013 - Board Development Meeting
- January 25, 2013 - Board Development Meeting
- January 25, 2013 - Board Audit Committee Meeting

Vote Results

Motion: Cheryl Grymes

Second: Rebecca Couch

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

## Approval of Consent Agenda

### APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

#### Motions:

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

#### Vote Results

Motion: Connie Hall

Second: Rebecca Couch

Rebecca Couch - Aye

Jason Fischer - Aye

Cheryl Grymes - Aye

Connie Hall - Aye

Ashley Juarez - Aye

Fred Lee - Aye

Paula Wright - Aye

## Consent Agenda

Operations - Facilities Project Design, Construction and Maintenance

[6. SUBSTANTIAL COMPLETION AND CERTIFICATE OF FINAL INSPECTION OF CAPITAL PROJECTS OVER \\$1,000,000: MAGNET SCHOOL UPGRADES AT JOHN E. FORD K-8 NO. 154/DCPS PROJECT NO. C-91470](#)

Attachment: [Feb 5 2013 Agenda Item C-91470 CSC CFI Proj Des Info for No 154 12 20 12.pdf](#)

[7. FACILITIES SERVICES PERIODIC REPORT OF SUBSTANTIAL COMPLETIONS AND FINAL INSPECTIONS ON PROJECTS UNDER \\$1,000,000](#)

Attachment: [Feb 5 2012 Agenda Item CSC-CFI-Cont Sav on on Proj Chart for Jan 2013 01 23 13.pdf](#)

[8. DISTRICTWIDE ROOF REPLACEMENT AT VARIOUS SCHOOLS: CHANGE ORDER NO. 4, DCSB PROJECT M-83800, STAGE III](#)

[9. CONTRACT FOR INDUSTRIAL HYGIENE AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTING SERVICES: SELECTION AND CONTRACT AWARD: DCSB PROJECT NO. M-83700 OFDC-RFQ-004-13](#)

[10. CHANGE ORDER REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY 2013](#)

Attachment: [Feb 5 2013 Agenda Item Change Order Report Chart for Jan 2013 01 04 12.pdf](#)

Operations - Purchasing and Logistics

[11. CUSTODIAL SERVICES MANAGEMENT RFP NO. 01-08/LG. RENEWAL](#)

Discussion

Human Resource Services - Staffing

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

Attachment: [HRS Attach 02-05-13 TRANS.pdf](#)

Minutes: Speakers:

Dr. Connie Hall, Board Member  
Dr. Nikolai Vitti, Superintendent of Schools  
Ms. Paula D. Wright, Board Member  
Ms. Karen Chastain, Chief Officer of Legal Services  
Mr. Jason Fischer, Board Member  
Ms. Becki Couch, Vice Chair

Motions:

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

Vote Results

Motion: Rebecca Couch

Second: Jason Fischer

Rebecca Couch - Aye

Jason Fischer - Aye

Cheryl Grymes - Aye

Connie Hall - Aye

Ashley Juarez	- Aye
Fred Lee	- Aye
Paula Wright	- Aye

2. APPROVAL OF OUT-OF-FIELD TEACHERS

Minutes: Speakers:  
 Ms. Paula D. Wright, Board Member  
 Dr. Nikolai Vitti, Superintendent of Schools  
 Ms. Sonita Young, Chief of Human Resources  
 Ms. Becki Couch, Vice Chair  
 Mr. Fred "Fel" Lee, Chairman

Motions:	
That the Duval County School Board approve the *list of teachers to teach out-of-field for the 2012-2013 school year.	- PASS
*The list is available for review in the Board office.	
Vote Results	
Motion: Cheryl Grymes	
Second: Jason Fischer	
Rebecca Couch	- Aye
Jason Fischer	- Aye
Cheryl Grymes	- Aye
Connie Hall	- Aye
Ashley Juarez	- Aye
Fred Lee	- Aye
Paula Wright	- Aye

Administration and Business Services - Budget and Financial

3. MONTHLY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Attachment: [November 2012 Monthly Financial Statement Narrative.pdf](#)

Attachment: [Final Nov 2012 Cash and Invest.pdf](#)  
Attachment: [November 2012 Board Statement Worksheet.pdf](#)

Minutes: Speakers:  
Ms. Becki Couch, Vice Chair  
Dr. Nikolai Vitti, Superintendent of Schools  
Ms. Paula D. Wright, Board Member  
Ms. LaTrell Edwards, Chief Financial Officer  
Mr. Jason Fischer, Board Member  
Ms. Karen Chastain, Chief Officer of Legal Services

Motions:

That the Duval county school Board accept for use and consideration the Superintendent's Final Monthly Financial Statement for the month ending November 30, 2012. - PASS

Vote Results

Motion: Rebecca Couch

Second: Connie Hall

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

[4. ADOPTION OF BUDGET RESOLUTIONS DECEMBER 31, 2012](#)

Attachment: [February Budget Resolutions.pdf](#)

Minutes:

Board Member Wright said I will send most of my questions in a Board Member Request but I have one question if someone could please explain "Nutrition, Education and Training"..what is that? I found it interesting in light of the federal regulations having pushed for healthier children, too. If we had a better understanding if that was a training program for the providers or training for school staff, or teachers, our students? Who is receiving that training?

Dr. Vitti said he will research it, put it in writing and send it to you.

Motions:

That the Duval County School Board  
adopt the following Budget Resolutions.

General Fund - Budget Resolution No. 4

Food Service Fund - Budget Resolution  
No. 4

Special Revenue - Other Fund - Budget  
Resolution No. 4

Special Revenue - Race to the Top ARRA  
Stimulus Fund - Budget Resolution No. 3 - PASS

Special Revenue - Targeted ARRA  
Stimulus Fund - Budget Resolution No. 4

Capital Projects Fund - Budget Resolution  
No. 4

Internal Services Fund - Budget  
Resolution No. 4

Vote Results

Motion: Rebecca Couch

Second: Connie Hall

Connie Hall - Aye

Ashley Juarez - Aye

Fred Lee - Aye

Paula Wright - Aye

Rebecca Couch - Aye

Jason Fischer - Aye

Cheryl Grymes - Aye

Operations - Facilities Project Design, Construction and Maintenance

5. PRE-QUALIFICATION OF CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTORS FOR EDUCATIONAL PROJECTS

Attachment: [Board Approval - Renewals 2-2013.pdf](#)

Minutes:

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

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

Motions:

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

Vote Results

Motion: Cheryl Grymes

Second: Rebecca Couch

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

Board Member Travel

BOARD MEMBERS TRAVEL

Minutes:

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

2013 Legislative Session - Tallahassee, FL - All Board Members

February 13-15, 2013 - Certified Board Member Finance Forum and Personnel & Bargaining Forum - Ocala, FL - Couch, Grymes, Juarez, Lee, Wright

March 19, 2013 - New School Board Member Survivor Skills II Conference - Tallahassee, FL - Hall

March 20-22, 2013 - 26th FSBA Annual Day in the Legislature - Couch, Grymes, Hall, Lee, Wright

April 11-16, 2013 - NSBA Annual Spring Conference - San Diego, CA - Grymes, Hall, Juarez, Wright

July 6-10, 2013 - 2013 NSBA Southern Region Conference (hosted by FSBA) - Destin, FL - Couch

Motions:

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

- 2013 Legislative Session - Tallahassee, FL - All Board Members
- February 13-15, 2013 - Certified Board Member Finance Forum, and Personnel & Bargaining Forum - Ocala, FL - Couch, Grymes, Juarez, Lee, Wright
- March 19, 2013 - New School Board Member Survivor Skills II Conference - PASS - Tallahassee, FL - Hall
- March 20 - 22, 2013 - 26th FSBA Annual Day in the Legislature - Couch, Grymes, Hall, Lee, Wright
- April 11-16, 2013 - NSBA Annual Spring Conference - San Diego, CA - Grymes, Hall, Juarez, Wright
- July 6-10, 2013 - 2013 NSBA Southern Region Conference (hosted by FSBA) - Destin, FL - Couch

Vote Results

Motion: Jason Fischer

Second: Rebecca Couch

Rebecca Couch	- Aye
Jason Fischer	- Aye
Cheryl Grymes	- Aye
Connie Hall	- Aye
Ashley Juarez	- 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:

2013 Legislative Session

March 20-21, 2013 - 26th FSBA Annual Day in the Legislature - Tallahassee, FL

Motions:

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

- 2013 Legislative Session - PASS
- March 20-21, 2013 - 26th FSBA Annual Day in the Legislature - Tallahassee, FL

Vote Results

Motion: Paula Wright

Second: Rebecca Couch

Rebecca Couch - Aye

Jason Fischer - Aye

Cheryl Grymes - Aye

Connie Hall - Aye

Ashley Juarez - Aye

Fred Lee - Aye

Paula Wright - Aye

For The Record

[FOR THE RECORD](#)

Minutes:

Dr. Connie Hall said as we know January is mentoring month so I had the opportunity to attend a celebration mentoring luncheon hosted by the Department of Community & Family Engagement and their partners. It was an outstanding event where we had many of our mentoring agencies there, as well, and we truly want to express our appreciation to them for the work that they did in providing mentors for many of our students in our schools. It was an opportune time to reinforce the direction we're moving into in making sure that the mentoring programs that provide that support to students is connected to student achievement.

Earlier in the month of January, 20 students received scholarships from Florida A&M University totaling \$360,000. It really proved that hard work, hard academic achievement can be supported financially and made college a pathway for students. We'd like to invite more colleges and universities to come in and award our students with pathways to college and reinforce their options for higher education.

I'll let my colleague, Board Member Wright, talk about the exciting trip we had to Washington, DC as we lobbied our representatives in Congress on Capitol Hill.

Ms. Becki Couch said thank you to everyone who participated in Read It Forward. In my location, it was a big success and I'd like to thank the staff who were there as well as parents who brought their children out and demonstrating to them the importance of celebrating literacy in our city because that is, truly, one of the most important things we can do as parents.

I'd like to commend Doug Ayars and his staff for the Lee High School renovation. I

had the opportunity to go on tour Friday and it is quite impressive. The schools were able to enter the building on Monday and I didn't hear any feedback on that so I think it went well. Thank you very much for your patience and hard work as well as the staff and principal, Ms. Denise Hall.

I attended JAX 2025 second meeting last Saturday. Education is a very big topic in those meetings. They had approximately 10 tables with the city and education folks working together to make our city the greatest it can be.

I want to thank the Duval Delegation for their time meeting with us last week. We had a good discussion about how we can improve public education, particularly, in Duval County. I'm looking forward to any of the Delegation taking me up on my offer in visiting our public schools in any part of our district. I'd like to show off the great work that we do in our traditional schools.

Ms. Paula Wright said I'd like to take the opportunity to give kudos to Myrna Amos and the Parent Involvement Council (PAC). I had an opportunity to attend a meeting last month and that group is doing a marvelous job in terms of empowering and educating parents and providing professional development in preparing the parents to become the advocates for the students. That is the main component in what I believe we're all trying to do is to bridge that gap between advocacy and empowerment and make certain that it's not just the School Board members, but everybody. There was a tremendous turn out and participation and we'll see more and more of that type of collaboration in the future.

Dr. Hall mentioned the FAMU event with the \$360,000 in scholarships. It was an awesome experience to see the look upon the students' faces when they realized that, "Yes, I am actually going to college and I have this scholarship in front of me!" I want to thank FAMU for participating year after year and working with Larry Roziars and staff - they turn out every year hundreds of thousands of dollars in scholarships to our students which is just tremendous.

In Washington, DC, I was afforded an opportunity to participate on a panel to present Successful Turnaround Strategies. It was an awesome experience and in that presentation with Dr. Hall, we put Duval County on the national map. It was a good opportunity because we, the district, deserves it. It's not anything that Board members did - we didn't do the hard work - the staff, teachers, students, parents and community did the hard work. I must take my hat off to Ms. Niki Micheau. Ms. Micheau worked with me to put the presentation together - the "me" part was very little; she put the entire presentation together, went over it with me the night before as I was nervous. I'd like to also thank Mr. Post who also reviewed it with me - so I appreciate the hard work that our staff is doing. We had an opportunity to talk with our legislators' staff and we were able to share the impact of sequestration and how it would directly impact Duval County Public Schools and I think they understood it. They got it and they welcomed it!

Ms. Ashley Smith Juarez said the School Board has been certainly focused on getting to the diligent work of our Strategic Plan and beginning the budgeting process for next year. You've heard about the many amazing things going on in this district and we want to reflect and commend those things and make sure we're focused on that small

gap that we have between "good and great". One thing you will hear us talk about as we move through the Strategic Planning process and you've heard the Superintendent in the town hall meetings talk about is the element of the whole child. I'd like to highlight a few of the things that are going on: Cathedral Arts Project was here this evening but integrating the arts not just in an after school capacity but really looking at how can core curriculum teachers use the arts and leverage the arts to excite and ignite learning within their classrooms. The Scholastic Art Awards - I was fortunate to attend those awards and see students from throughout the district who had excelled, who entered a contest to demonstrate and show their work. There were universities there as well as Savannah College of Art and Design and others awarding scholarships to students to continue that work and study. Take Stock in Children is one of our many mentoring partners within the district that is also looking to support those wrap-around pieces of student engagement, mentoring and college scholarships so that our students are able to move along with their education continuum. Certainly, this element of the whole child as it relates to the arts, to sports, to music and elements of social and emotional health will be something you will hear as we go through our Strategic Planning process.

We talked about the Duval Delegation meeting and we have a meeting coming up with our City Council. The mayor will hold an Educational Summit at the end of February that will be another opportunity to engage the community so we are working across sector to be able to support our students.

I, also, would like to highlight the great work of our guidance counselors as we look at the whole child and look at the additional support we know our students need to be successful in their core academic areas which are so critical to that post-secondary and workplace success as well as their individual skill sets and individual talents that have to be highlighted as we define and as our students define what success means to them. I really look forward to those upcoming meetings as we continue our Strategic Planning process and look at prioritizing those values through our budget.

Ms. Cheryl Grymes said I'd like to tag on what Board Member Couch said about Read It Forward and I appreciate the staff - this was a very exciting event and many people showed up.

Ms. Couch, Mr. Fischer and I have participated in JAX 2025 and it's very exciting. It's one of the many things ongoing in the community where the people are coming together and talking about the future. Jacksonville has been known for doing lots of studies of themselves and we're actually moving into the action phase and it's exciting from someone who has lived here all her life.

I had forgotten how much fun it is visiting our schools; having all my children having graduated from this school system. It's very energizing and I was blown away visiting Fort Caroline Middle School to see how they are thinking about their future and the environment.

I visited Don Brewer and Merrill Road Elementary Schools and was amazed at what is going on in our schools. We have so many dedicated teachers and principals and the enthusiasm is remarkable.

I applaud the Board and appreciate the Superintendent in how well we work together. It won't always be smooth sailing but together, we'll work through it..

Mr. Jason Fischer said I'd like to highlight is the lapel pin I'm wearing this evening. It is the Mandarin Mustangs. Dr. Richardson gave it to me when we had our District 7 Town Hall meeting and I think we had the largest turn out with alot of parents. I think this was on only one where Dr. Vitti had to a little bit of crowd control. My hat is off to him for handling that very well.

I want to highlight some things already mentioned like the Read It Forward and I participated at the Chick Fil A event with some great staff members present. I'd like to mention Phil Little who did an amazing job and what a wonderful asset he is.

There was a huge turn out at Magnet Mania and I heard lots of questions - just an amazing experience. The Choice event ended on Saturday and there were a couple of local events that were very good.

JAX 2025 - I attended the first one and to Board Member Wright's question at one of the community meetings - JCCI did specifically thank the School Board members for being there so we did receive some recognition. We did have a greater percentage of School Board members than City Council members present.

I visited several schools - some in my district and some out of my district as well as some charter schools. We are doing some really good things in our district and I think it's important to highlight them.

Mr. Fel Lee said I think everything has been covered. I'd like to thank the Duval Delegation for spending three hours with us. I have started my school visits and I try to visit each one each quarter and it always humbles me and brings me down to earth. I appreciate the schools putting up with a Board member coming in and basically, interrupting their day. It reminds me how appreciative I am of all the hard work, dedication by the teachers, principals, staff, students and parents who are working. I ask and invite tons of people to visit the schools with me. Every person who visited with me walked away in awe and many had very different attitudes when they left.

Magnet Mania - the entire staff - WOW - we need to do a PSA with Magnet Mania and show it every day to our community because it just shows what this school system is doing.

I'd like to thank each of my fellow Board members for your service to your community. Sometimes we don't hear that but we hear the other stuff and I want to make sure as your Chairman, I say "thank you" to each of you and for your commitment.

Adjournment

ADJOURNMENT

Minutes:

The meeting adjourned at 8:28 p.m.

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Superintendent

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Chairman