January 21, 2016, Community Meeting

Ms. Ashley Smith Juarez, Chairman
Ms. Paula D. Wright, Vice-Chairman
Ms. Becki Couch
Mr. Jason Fischer
Ms. Cheryl Grymes
Dr. Constance S. Hall
Mr. Scott Shine
Dr. Nikolai Vitti, Superintendent

ATTENDANCE AT THIS MEETING OF THE DUVAL COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD: Board Members Becki Couch, Constance Hall and Vice-Chairman Paula D. Wright were present.

Call Meeting To Order

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Minutes: The meeting was called to order at 6:15 p.m.

Items To Be Discussed

OUR VOICE, OUR SCHOOLS, OUR CHILDREN

Minutes:

Welcome

Board Members Couch, Hall and Wright welcomed the attendees and gave the platform for the Listening Tour, Building 21st Century Schools.
The constituents gave suggestions for the next Listening Tour:

- 2 robo calls, save the date and a reminder
- Personalize the robo call
- Have a Spanish interpreter
- More Board Member participation

Board Member Couch informed constituents they would look into their suggestions. She also stated Board Members were invited but there was another meeting being held at the same time as well as another Board Member was having their first grandchild.

The constituents gathered into five groups and presented the Board Members with the answers to the discussion questions.

What do you believe is working in your school and/or school district?

- Duval Transformation Office (DTO)
- Graduation rate improvements
- Community meetings
- Teachers and staff
- Free breakfast for all
- Concerned adults
- Caring teachers
- Teachers capitalize on noticing the students disabilities
- PTA program
- Principal informs parents of weekly events
- Principal, administration and staff respond to concerns
- Teachers are caring and innovative
- Active SAC program
- Teachers work hard

What do you think should be improved upon in order to accomplish a successful school and/or school district?

- Math Curriculum
- Infrastructure
- Communication - who to contact for certain matters
- 59 D and F schools
- Balancing school needs to educator expertise
- Increased parent participation with giveaways
- Business partnerships to allow more parent volunteers
- Improved technology to close the gaps in schools across all socioeconomic levels
- Communication from parents to school and district level personnel with concerns and timely response guaranteed via app or website for 24 hour availability
- Change elementary curriculum
- Communication with parents about curriculum
• Printing out homework
• Magnet schools have taken away from the community schools at the middle school level
• Technology available for all students
• Lack of parental involvement
• Leadership changes
• Safety
• Life skills for students
• Build confidence in students to speak, holistic approach, realistic skills
• Remove curriculum
• Dual language program
• No core foundations
• Teachers need to teach and not be curriculum robots
• Counselors do not offer guidance

How can we work together to accomplish the goal for a successful school and/or district?

• Communication to parents
• Revise the vision for our students
• Curriculum/books for the home for support and reinforcement
• More religious/faith based teachings for all students to improve attitudes/behaviors
• Board Members to swap places with each other to get a feel of the different needs of the communities, to improve all seven districts
• Forum for input
• Equip parents and students for the changing world
• Administration who listens when suggestions and recommendations are made
• More involvement with churches
• Parents should be careful electing officials
• Administrators should welcome and receive spiritual component
• More Jacksonville Sheriff’s Office involvement
• Graduating class involved with helping students
• 21st century technology to reach parents
• Beautify schools with flowers

Board Members Couch, Hall and Wright thanked the constituents for their time, participation and challenged them to attend the next meetings and bring three guests.

Adjournment

ADJOURNMENT
Minutes:

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

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Superintendent

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Chairman