



Duval County Public Schools

January 7, 2014, Regular Board Meeting

Ms. Becki Couch, Chairman
Ms. Cheryl Grymes, Vice Chairman
Mr. Jason Fischer
Dr. Connie Hall
Mr. Fred "Fel" Lee
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, Superintending of Schools, Ms. Becki Couch, Board Chair, Ms. Cheryl Grymes, Vice Chair and the following Board members: Mr. Jaon Fischer, Dr. Constance S. Hall, Ms. Ashley Smith Juarez, 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 6:00 p.m.

Invocation

[INVOCATION](#)

Minutes: Pastor Ted Corley gave the invocation.

Pledge of Allegiance

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Presentations

Board Members

1. SCHOOL RECOGNITION - DISTRICT 2 - LANDMARK MIDDLE SCHOOL

Minutes:

Landmark Middle School
David Gilmore, Principal

Thank you for sharing a little bit about Landmark Middle School. Even though we're only 24 years old, we have a little bit of a history starting out as a school with Year Round School and being over capacity until we built Kernan Middle School. Dr. Hall is very familiar as she was principal at Landmark Middle School.

We are a neighborhood middle school. I would say in a proud way that it's been a bit of a secret as parents come in and often say, *"I didn't know this was here. I didn't know you had these programs and didn't know you offered this."* I think they new the building was there but are surprised by some of the things we offer at Landmark.

Landmark Middle is divided into three houses and those houses are vertical houses, each having a 6th, 7th and 8th grade team. That structure enhances our ability to successfully implement our foundations program and helps ensure that every student is well known by at least one adult and it allows us to live that mission that you put forth of *"every child, every classroom, every student, every day"* because we can actually focus on this type of arrangement.

Our Yellow House is the Honors Academy. It is one that serves gifted and academically talented students.

Our Red and Blue Houses are a mixture of students who have both advanced and standard classes.

You can see that we're fairly large but we're not at capacity so we'll be working hard this Saturday. Our AVID program that is in the Red and Blue Houses, again, trying to promote our academics in preparing students for the future. In addition to core academics, we have variety of electives: culinary arts or home economics and we're one of the few who still offers this course. We have a broad range from computers to the culinary.

We have a few distinctions, academically, from our Scholar Bowl division champions to Most Improved, Third Place, in Math Counts last year. We also have a group of kids that we're trying to make them more aware of our environment and care for the world they live in. These are our Green Champions and they've been working on the courtyard planting and do our recycling program. Additionally, we've had competition with the Florida Water Works Association, designing water towers. Again, it's something where kids are aware of their environment. We have three art teachers with a large art program which gives students a different approach. We have our music programs with a large chorus and a well-represented band. Rounding out in our offerings, we're able to offer all of the athletics and have doing fairly well there.

Hopefully, we hope you get a chance to come out and see us at Landmark Middle School. We really are what you think of in a neighborhood middle school and offer all of those courses for the whole child and support every child. Thank you very much.

Board Member Lee said "thank you" to the principal and your staff; I think you "nailed" it. Landmark is a great neighborhood middle school. You offer everything that any parent or student would want whether it's band in the music program, AVID, MocoSoft IT Academy, Honors Academy...the list goes on and on. Thank you for sharing this with us and our viewing audience. I appreciate it.

Communications

[1. DORI SLOSBERG FOUNDATION "IN THE CLICK" SEAT BELT COMPLIANCE CONTEST WINNERS](#)

Minutes:

* The Dori Slosberg Foundation is a non-profit organization dedicated to traffic safety education throughout the state. It is named in memory of Dori Slosberg, the daughter of Rep. Irving Slosberg, whose life ended in a car crash.

- As part of their education and prevention efforts, the Foundation, in partnership with Allstate, organizes "In the Click," an annual seatbelt compliance competition.
- Three Duval County high schools participated in a two-week-long competition where drivers' education instructors and school volunteers performed surprise inspections of student-driven vehicles to check for seatbelt compliance.
- Two tallies were taken, one at the beginning of the competition and one at

the end, to track improvement. Throughout the contest, seatbelt safety messages were delivered during the morning announcements to remind students of the importance of buckling up each time. The school that showed the most improvement earned a first place award and a cash prize.

- The purpose of the contest is to bring awareness to students about seatbelt compliance and its contribution to overall driver safety.
- Here to make the presentation are the CEO of The Dori Slosberg Foundation, Emily Slosberg and Allstate representative Stephanie Andow.

[2. NCAC EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR-GWENDOLYN WHITE](#)

Minutes:

- Each year, The National Career Academy Coalition (NCAC) honors an educator who has made significant contributions to the development of a model career academy. Duval County's own Gwendolyn White has the honor of receiving the national recognition as the 2013-2014 NCAC Educator of the Year.
- She has served for 38 years in the education field and is currently the Early Childhood Education Academy Coordinator at Frank H. Peterson Academies of Technology. As its lead teacher, she has developed strategies and programs to help the Early Childhood program achieve model academy status.
- Among her many innovative programs, is the partnership she has formed with UNF to provide mentors to her students, inspiring and preparing them for college.
- She received her award in October at a ceremony in Phoenix, Arizona.
- Join me in honoring her tonight.

[3. SHINE AWARD - JACQUELINE WILLIAMS](#)

Minutes:

- The Shine Award is given by the Florida Department of Education to former veterans who have impacted the lives of children through education.
- This year, Duval County teacher Jacqueline Williams was among 5 educators to earn the honor. After retiring from the U.S. Navy after more than 21 years of service, Ms. Williams has spent the past seven years enriching the lives of students at A. Philip Randolph where she teaches

American Government, Economics, and AP Psychology.

- The award was presented to her by Governor Scott in Tallahassee during a special ceremony in November.
- It is my pleasure to introduce her tonight.

Comments From Audience

COMMENTS FROM AUDIENCE

Minutes:

Ms. Joan Miller Cooper said I'm a graduate of the school formerly known as Forrest Senior High School. I would like to voice my objections to the options for the new school name. Again, as I have previously stated, the community and the alumni voting was a joke and will be dealt with, accordingly. The choices for the students were not thoroughly investigated. Firestone Road was named after a local farming family that owned property in the area years ago so that would be in a direct violation of the current School Board policy. Westside High is also not appropriate. There's a local gang, thankfully, not too active now, called the "Westside Mafia" which is too closely related to the name in the area and we all know that that name would have a detrimental effect on the students as well as reflect poorly on a school. I can just see the gang symbol being displayed on the campus and sports activities; nothing to be proud of, there. West Duval High was Jacksonville Heights High, more accurately reflects the geographic area and there are no negative connotations attached to these names other than the reference to Andrew Jackson. The school colors and mascot also must be changed. The colors of red and gray and the term "Rebels" are associated with the Confederacy and since this is all being done under the name of political correctness, those need to be removed since we are supposed to be ashamed of our Southern history. The other concern I share along with the alumni is the disposition of the trophies and memorabilia. The solutions Dr. Vitti offered is not acceptable and was insulting to the alumni. It should be given to the people that earned them or donated to the Museum of Southern History. The museum has agreed to display these in an appropriate memorial. One veteran called me, personally, and asked to have his name removed from the Scott Speicher Memorial Board. When I asked Dr. Bostic if I could see the trophies, he replied that he didn't know where they were. Have they already been disposed of? After the last name change battle years ago, the portrait of General Forrest was recovered from a dumpster behind the school. Is this where our memories are? My last concern is about the money. The opposition group stated publicly several times that they had a donor to cover the costs. I say make them pay up or sue them for breach of contract. Any funds at the disposal of the Duval County School Board come from taxpayers so you can't see taxpayers aren't footing the bill. This group also stated publicly that they would not contest the names of the other schools named after the Confederacy. I will hold them to that and I would challenge all of the Board members to be as Mr. Fischer, in answering their emails. Thank you.

Mr. Edward Exson said Happy New Year and may you continue to build on your successes. I am profoundly wishful the three chapter episode of disgusting, hideous acts by young blacks is over and not repeated. Seven months ago, there was a destructive mob in WalMart followed by the chaos at Jacksonville Beach on Memorial Day and then the pandemonium at River City Market Place on Christmas night. A day called when Christ was born celebrating joy to the world, people praying for peace on earth. Words can't justify or excuse despicable conduct that could have caused multiple injuries and a staggering death toll. The acts by those perpetrators were responding to no good purpose, only to show off their ignorance and stupidity. Their actions should not be taken lightly or dismissed as it instills and entrenches bigotry. "*Black people arouse the conscious of the nation*" said Dr. Martin Luther King. Notwithstanding, Dr. King's valiant efforts and sacrifices see blacks digressing in record speed. Now, seven months later from the first incident, black leaders speak out, not even emphatically denouncing the commotion or seriousness, thereof. As usual, some were there wanting to be important but most are impotent in leadership and intellect. The initiative accord reached is only an illusion, placebo and well package manure that won't solve any of our problems or build anything. Whether you hold an Associate degree or a PhD, lacking information or unable to process information, you are just a sounding symbol, out of harmony with reality and viewed as analogous to a boy wearing saggy pants. For great tangible results, I purpose for starters a few suggestions: (1) A rigorous inclusion of Financial Literacy, Building Capital, Co Ops, Community Investing, Saving to Invest, with emphasis on honesty; (2) Stop trashing your community; get rid of the ghetto mindset; (3) Stop begging and leverage the mind to do great things; (4) Keep good financial records; (5) Share good ideas and good information; (6) Disassociate with anyone that is not constructive; (7) Rebuild and rehab the community with master black tradesmen that the black preachers didn't demand that they be put on the job and contract part of their million dollar church buildings; (8) Black tradesmen teaching young men will have an impetus in changing the paradigm. Accomplishing that, good women can change so much more to advance our cause and that goes for the whole country! I thank you.

Mr. Charles Lammers said I'm an attorney here on behalf of Ms. Tammy McCauley who is an instructor or teacher who is scheduled to be terminated, I believe, this evening. Ms. McCauley was charged with child neglect and successfully completed a Pre-Trial Intervention Program, so there is no criminal conviction. On December 18, she received a Notice of Termination. She intends to fight that termination at the Administrative Hearing which, of course, is beyond the scope of this meeting. Why we're here, today, is to ask the School Board members to rescind that termination at least until the matter has been fully heard by the Administrative Law Judge. If the Board is not willing to rescind the termination, we're asking that the Board at the very least to change it from the Suspension Without Pay to a Suspension With Pay. She's been a long time teacher with Duval County Public Schools and she's never been in trouble or disciplined before. She has always had a very good relationship with her students and that is what we're asking you to do this evening. Thank you.

Ms. Lyn Corley said, "*What's in name?*" During the passionate public comments made at the November meeting about the names of our schools, there was a misspoken statement that I would like to address the Board and the public. It concerns the names of 8 of our schools. First, is School 257. It was named in honor Chief Alimacani who welcomed the French Huquenots in 1562. The leader of the French, whose name was

used at the November meeting, described the natives as "gentle, good, and amiable people of a loving nature." He recorded this Chief in history.

Schools #235 and #238 were named in honor of the French colony La Caroline. Ft. Caroline Elementary and Middle will celebrate their 50th anniversaries as we celebrate the 450th anniversary of the colony this year. The elementary school sits on streets named Athore and Laudonniere. Chief Athore gave the land for the colony to the French leader Rene de Laudonniere. On June 30, 1564 their journals record the first colonial Thanksgiving on the land that is now America. Their journals include the presence of the first free black colonists of America.

Schools #227 and #254 bear the name a French explorer gave to our river-River of May. The first international port of trade of our nation occurred there in 1565 between Laudonniere of France and John Hawkins of England, therefore Mayport. Mayport Elementary and Mayport Middle's names commemorate that landing and port.

School #96 and #212-Jean Ribault Middle and High Schools are named in honor of the leader of the first people to arrive on our shores in search of religious freedom, a renowned seaman and navigator for both France and England. His journal describing our river, our land, and our native people was published and celebrated throughout Western Europe 450 years ago. That journal and that of Laudonniere were instrumental in Queen Elizabeth's decision to allow exploration for Jamestown.

School #32 in Mayport Village bears the name Marine Science Center but still has its original name emblazoned over the front door. Ribault placed the famous column nearby in 1562. In recent years a lovely replica has been donated to the school.

School #98 bears the French name given the natives whom they encountered in 1564, the Timucuas-their friends and allies.

The statement was that "Jean Ribault was a mass-murderer of native Americans". The only mass murders involved in Ribault's life came as he knelt in the sands of Matanzas, his hands and those of 300 other French tied behind their backs-waiting their execution as they learned of the slaughter of their families at La Caroline-in the name of their religious beliefs.

What all have in common is the man Jean Ribault-the first for freedom on our land. The mural behind you depicts the lives of the French and Timucuas. None of these schools could bear more fitting names than those representing this earliest American noble history.

Ms. Gail Cullum, Director of the Embry Riddle Aeronautical University Dual Enrollment Program for Duval County Public Schools. Together with Kelly Perriera, we are Team Duval dedicated to opening this program January 21, 2014 in 13 Duval County High Schools. At Embry Riddle what we do and do best is teach aerospace. We're the world's largest, most prestigious university specializing in aerospace education. Our high school Dual Enrollment Program provides students with a collegiate model of aerospace education to introduce them to high paying jobs. The aerospace job market is booming. The pilot shortage is here and the United States has a chronic shortage of

engineers, particularly those born in the United States. This is why I head up your program. I have two engineering degrees from the University of Florida and I've enjoyed a fantastic career in aerospace. I've spent the last 8 years working for Embry Riddle in St. Johns County Schools. We can start with a group of 30 high school students in intro to engineering, maybe two want to be engineers and four months later, half of them declare engineering as their undergraduate college major. We deem mystify the engineering profession and we empower our students. How do we do that? (1) Rigor - we require our students to be held at the same standards of achievement as the students in our Daytona Beach campus. 87% of our 1,000 high school students achieved a grade of "C" or higher in their Embry Riddle courses, last year. (2) Relevance - this is generation jobless. 80% of college freshmen have no clear idea of their major and 60% of college graduates cannot find a full time job in their chosen profession. Compare that to Embry Riddle where 95% of our graduates are employed and many six months before they graduate. Duval is opening by targeting JROTC students first, in order to provide Dual Enrollment in that track through the military history courses. Other popular Riddle courses are Unmanned Aircraft Systems and Private Pilot Ground School which leads to a Florida DOE Industry Certification and last, relationships. We have no minimum grade point average (GPA) restriction. I know that is surprising but we have success with this - 79% of our students with a high school GPA less than a 3.0 achieved a grade of "C" or higher in our Dual Enrollment classes. One of the keys to relationships is our goal is to be the best part of the student's day. Interesting, Relevant and Caring. Another key is that we empower our professors as they've been through our training. We provide textbooks and all of the curriculum and three weeks into the semester, a student can be removed from the class for discipline problems or inability to complete college level work. In addition, we're not in competition with your academic programs. The majority of the engineering students at St. Augustine High School were also enrolled in the AICE Program. We're also not in competition with your local Community College. We generate a non-traditional stream of students into the Community College with below a 3.0 GPA realizing they have what it takes for college. Thank you.

Comments From Parent Organizations

[COMMENTS FROM PARENT ORGANIZATIONS](#)

Minutes:

Exceptional Student Education Advisory Committee - Juliann Gaus-Graeser, Chair:

We serve as a point of contact for various educational and supportive events (to be mentioned shortly) as well as a referral source to:

- advise the district of unmet needs in the county
- advise the EE/SS department in developing and co-ordination of services for children of special needs

- provide representation to task forces and advisory committees at local, state and federal levels
- to provide insight and direction from both the parent and community point of view to the EE/SS department

Current events of interest include:

1. The 19th annual Tools for Success Family Conference, for and about families of children with special needs birth to 22 yrs.

There will be over 30 Sessions [and Topics Include: Social Skills, Rights and Responsibilities, Behavior, Technology, ADHD, Autism, Mental Health, and Secondary Transition, just to name a few. This event even offers 8 workshops will provide free CEU's for Mental Health Workers.

Thursday, January 30, 2014 Time: 730 – 330

Location: UNF, Adam W. Herbert University Center, 12000 Alumni Dr. Jax. 32224

[Registration details: www.fdlrscrown.org

Direct Registration Link: www.surveymonkey.com/s/tools14

Questions: 904-346-4601 x119 or glendennij@duvalschools.org

Registration deadline Jan. 27, 2014]

2. Wings for Autism. This is an event for individuals on the spectrum and people with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities and their families. This is a partnership event between The Arc Jacksonville, JetBlue and more.

Registration is required: www.arcjacksonville.org

3. Dyslexia Seminar with Susan Barton will be held at Lee High School on Tuesday January 21, 2014 from 6-9pm

{Register at LeeHS.EventBright.com}

4. First Fridays with FIN (Florida Inclusion Network)

This is a phone forum (conversation) about inclusion and your child, sharing concerns and ideas with families and professionals. This will begin FRIDAY @ 10 am.

{Call 850.563.6580}

This year the committee's focus is on how we can better support the district insuring that information is shared to provide adequate training for parents and staff relating to special needs and implementation of IEP's and communication between the district and families.

To learn more and to attend our meetings please go to the parent tab on the DCPS school district website for our contact information. Our next meeting will be held on 2/25/14 9:30-11:30, room 307 here at the school board building.

We are encouraged that the district and school board are supportive to the committee and are looking forward to strengthening our work as a partnership. Thank you.

Parent Teacher Advisory (PTA) - Gretchen Lynch, President:

At this time of year DCCPTA reminds local units it is time to review their PTA budgets and make mid year adjustments through the amendment process and elect nominating committee members to begin the process of finding leadership for the next school year.

DCCPTA is following up on Florida PTAs roll out to educate local units on the following State of Florida's Statute, the Solicitations of Contributions Act requiring each charitable organization or sponsor to register annually if they solicit any funds or contributions (regardless of the amount). Information can be found at Florida PTA about how to fill out the form or they can contact DCCPTA for assistance.

This Saturday is our first Superintendent's Student Leadership Session at Darnell-Cookman. We appreciate Dr. Vitti giving our student leaders a welcome before the first session on "Leadership Styles" begins.

Tuesday, January 28 we are hosting a Presidents Exchange at 9:00am at the Panara on Atlantic Blvd and invite all of our local unit presidents to attend and share successful programing ideas.

This month we have invited our state legislators to our General Meeting, January 21 to share Florida PTAs 2014 Legislative Priorities, communicate the importance of public education and allow our members to have time with their legislators. I am providing a copy of the 2014 Florida PTA Legislative Priorities to the superintendent and the board. Three priorities I would like to highlight are:

- Early Childhood Education
- Charter schools/Virtual Schools
- Physical Education/Reducing Childhood Obesity

Happy New Year to each of you.

Comments From Employee Organizations

[COMMENTS FROM EMPLOYEE ORGANIZATIONS](#)

Minutes:

Ms. Terrie Brady, Duval Teachers United, President, said before I begin my comments, I'd just like to make a statement about the passing of Billy Parker. He was 88 years old; a man who gave his life and his entire spirit and basically, his family, to us, as educators for the service that he gave in the high schools where he served as principal and the 20+ years he served on this School Board. There's only one person here that served on the Board with Billy and I'm sure she will admit like I know that it was always a unique adventure for issues that became before this Board at that time. No

matter how challenging it was, Billy Parker came on the Board when Collective Bargaining was fresh and new. Billy Parker was there because he believed that all employees deserved to have a voice. He believed in the students of this county whether they were future quarterbacks for the University of Florida like Billy Parker was, or if they one day would play for a national championship team like Florida State or if they were just on the field every day as 4, 5, or 6 year olds with Pop Warner because Billy Parker believed in the children of this district and he had that kind of compassion and commitment to those kids from border to border. I hope that one day we as an educational group, family and unit would really remember our past leaders because they helped make us what we are, today, and they help strengthen and build our foundation of where we need to be in the future.

I'd like to share one little store when a crucial vote was being taken here one night on a Special meeting. I was not president of DTU at that time. We had to have Billy's vote and Billy was on the golf course until late. I had to go find him and bring him here for a vote that we needed. Dr. Vitti, I don't think we'll ever have to do that, again. It's just one of the many, many stories about Billy Parker. He went to every school. He knew every teacher, every principal, every assistant principal, every administrator, every clerical person and every person in this district. I believe we were blessed and honored to have Billy Parker serve us with his level of commitment to this educational system. Thank you for indulging me for a few minutes because he was who he was and I felt compelled that I had to make a comment so thank you very much.

Every year the Florida Legislature and the State Board of Education adopt new laws that school districts are required to follow. At best, they give districts too little to fund the new mandates and at worst, they provide no funding, at all. In fact, while they ask educators to do more with no additional resources, they then have the audacity to blame our teachers for failing schools. Mandating change without proper funding is not just about dollars and cents. It has an everlasting affect on our children's quality of education. Students only get one chance to make their way in school and they should not be cheated out of an appropriate and equitable education. Let's luck at just a few of the big ticket items that the legislature has openly acknowledged and has been unapologetic about routinely underfunding.

Student Transportation - this year, student transportation in the State of Florida is underfunded between \$200-\$400 million dollars. When it is underfunded, guess who picks it up? YOU, the School Board members and the members of every school district in the state.

School Building Maintenance - needs are estimated to be at least \$1 billion dollars, statewide.

The unfunded Technology needs of our schools estimated to be at least an additional \$1 billion dollars and the legislative mandates for technology, dependent programs have just absolutely exploded. School districts can't afford the online state and local assessment tax, virtual education mandates, conversion to digital textbooks, new electronic reporting, let alone the training needed to support students, teachers and administrators.

Teachers know in this county and every county, statewide, that small class sizes, appropriate time to teach and fine art classes are critical for the education to their students. All these critical aspects of education have been hurt as a result of the legislature's uniform and wreckless actions over the past several years. Laws like Senate Bill 736 are so detrimental to teaching and learning is becoming increasingly more difficult to attract and retain quality education professionals in our state and the numbers prove it. Teachers spend years and thousands of dollars to get their teaching credentials. They are continuously involved in research based professional development to hone their skills to meet the needs of our students. Yet, people in elective office that neither hold a teaching degree nor have ever taught a day in their lives, think they know better. Teachers know that there is an art and science to teaching. Every child is different in our classrooms and in our state. Adapting an educational strategy to help every child succeed is accomplished in a classroom by the teacher, not by a policy. Expecting teachers to follow a script is not an educationally sound practice. Expecting every child in a classroom to progress exactly at the same level at the same time is beyond realistic expectations. Children are individuals and they need our time and attention to become successful regardless of their learning style, needs, strengths or weaknesses. Time is precious in a classroom and once a moment is gone, we can never get it back.

Legislators have one thing in mind for our students and that is to pass the state mandate of high stake tests. The FCAT costs hundreds of millions of dollars to produce and administer. Beginning with the first day of class, teachers start practicing and drilling so that their students can pass a test in April. The FCAT test making school a miserable place to be rather than a wonderful childhood experience. Let me be clear, teachers have not ever been afraid of accountability, ever. Tests have an appropriate place in the classroom. Teachers must assess their student's progress and learning but the way our state has gone about this process of so-called "education reform" and "teacher accountability" have evolved into a process that only territorializes our teachers and students. Whole communities have been robbed of resources and labeled "failures". Are you aware that statewide that 59% of our teachers and students instructional time is currently spent testing students and not teaching them? Add to all of this is a staggering cost of implementing Florida's controversial new assessment and accountability system. With the passage of Senate Bill 736, school districts will be required to administer End of Course exams for all courses not covered by FCAT by the year of 2014-2015 school year. The estimated costs for these assessments in this state is between \$1.5-2 billion dollars statewide with reoccurring annual costs estimated at much more of a billion dollars.

To make matters worse, those costly assessments will be used to evaluate teachers and determine if they will be eligible for performance pay and another mandate, again, that comes with no funding from the legislature. To the viewing audience, our School Board and Superintendent have worked diligently to cut expenses and become more efficient but you shouldn't be putting this on their backs and positions they're in, year after year, to fund the unfunded mandates.

I am here, today, to ask this School Board and Superintendent to join DTU to ask the law makers to cease and assist mandating any new programs or requirements unless they are appropriately funded by the state. I want you to join us at DTU when we ask all of our law makers to cease and assist the over reliant on high stake standardized

testing that demoralizes our students and causes other subject area classes to be canceled for weeks at a time. Please join us, each of you, join DTU to ask our law makers to cease and assist using the current assessment and accountability system and stop labeling schools, our students, teachers and our communities until a reliable, valid and transparent system is in place. Join us, DTU, in asking the legislators and the law makers to cease and assist the expansion of for profit charter schools until they apply the same rules that we are required to follow on accountability and high stake instruction for our students. Florida must suspend the implementation of the Teacher Evaluation system and Performance Pay Plan just until the state develops and pays for a system of valid and reliable assessments aligned with the standards being taught and flexible enough to accurately and fairly measure teaching and learning of our students.

We must not only ask but I believe we must demand a school accountability system that restores parents' faith in our public schools and builds meaningful educational opportunities that are offered to all of our students. We request that the Florida Legislature stop and adhere to the Florida Constitution which requests that they provide and I quote, "*A uniform, efficient, safe, secure and high quality system of free public education that allows students to obtain a high quality education.*" If they don't, we will pursue any and all legal and political remedies available to us. Here's the bottom line, whether we're here in Duval, Miami-Dade, Pinellas, Palm Beach, Liberty County, Jefferson County or any other sister and brother school districts throughout our state, our local schools belong to us! They belong to us, the students who learn in them, the parents who support them, the educators and staff who work in them and the communities that they serve. It's time that the law makers hear us loud and clear. I hope that each of you will join us at DTU to asks the Legislature to stop the needless and unnecessary, unfunded mandates and the strains they are putting on our 67 School Board districts.

To that, I thank you and look forward to working as usual to the collaboration in moving our district at a higher level every day and working on a collaborative manner on our Legislative package come March. Thank you very much.

Chairman's Report

[CHAIRMAN'S REPORT](#)

Minutes:

Former School Board Member Wendel C. "Billy" Parker, passed away on January 1st of this year. He was 88 years old.

Billy had lived in Jacksonville since he was 5 years old, his family moving here from St. Cloud, Florida, in 1930. He was a loving husband, father, grandfather, and great grandfather.

He attended local schools, graduating from Robert E. Lee where he captained both the

varsity basketball and football teams. He joined the Army Air Corps during WWII and played service football for the Eastern Flying Training Command Eagles in Montgomery, AL. After the war he attended the University of Florida on a football scholarship, preparing offense and defense as a quarterback and fullback, lettering for four years. After graduating with a Master's Degree in Education, Billy started his career with the school system in 1950 as a teacher at Landon Junior-Senior High School. In addition, over his 30 year career, he was a coach at Andrew Jackson, Assistant Principal at Andrew Jackson and JEB Stuart, as well as Principal at JEB Stuart, Forrest High School, and Wolfson High School. Billy also served the District as Director of Secondary Education, and Assistant Superintendent of Operations.

He retired in 1981 and ran for the School Board, where he served the public for 20 years, and left the Board in 2000 due to term limits. While on the Board, Billy served as Vice-Chairman for 5 years and Chairman for 2 years. During his tenure, he worked to abolish 6th and 7th grade centers, end forced busing, returning children to neighborhood schools, authorizing use of metal detectors to help keep guns out of our schools, and construction of new schools where needed. Billy is survived by his loving and devoted wife of 36 years, Joanne Parker, a son, Richard Parker (Donna), daughters, Patty Trantham (Lance) and Billie Jo Sills.

Superintendent's Report

[SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT](#)

Minutes:

Dr. Vitti said I wanted to remind the community that our Expo is this Saturday, January 11th, at the Prime Osborn Convention Center, from 11:00 am - 3:00 pm. We are having a press conference on Friday, January 10 where we are revealing our new district logo which will also take place at the Prime Osborn Convention Center at 11:00 am.

This year's Expo is a bit different than the Magnet Media in the past. It is not that we're not highlighting and recognizing the great work that our magnet schools provide and showcase their work and to attract more parents to go to magnet schools, but it is also an opportunity to showcase all of our schools in Duval County Public Schools. We are made up of 160 schools and there are pockets of excellence in everyone one of those schools. We have great principals, teachers and children in all of our schools so this Expo is about showcasing all of our work. It's led some principals to feel a bit uncomfortable with having a booth and talking about their programs and what they do, but that comfort is more of a sign, I believe, of growth. As we move into a school system that is acknowledging that their competition is alive and well in Jacksonville and throughout the country, our principals, our schools and our district, we have to become more competitive and that comes through marketing our schools, talking about our programs, talking about the great things that are happening and no better way than to do that is at the booth at the Expo. So, this year's focus is in theme, "*My School, My*

Story, My Way" and at every booth, you'll have a principal, a group of teachers, parents and students from the school to talk about what is happening at their school. Students talking with students; parents talking with parents seeing all the great things being offered in our school district.

There's nothing this reform in the Expo about limiting our Magnet program. In fact, we're continuing to showcase them. We've invested new capital dollars in schools like Douglas Anderson School of the Arts. We've restored magnet transportation so magnet programs are alive and well in our school district and I think our important piece of offering a competitive menu to what is offered throughout the county, but this is also about showcasing all of our schools and work.

As a reminder, the Magnet Applications are due on February 28, 2014 and the application is available online. If you go to our new website: www.duvalschools.org you will see a link for this application.

I do want to talk about the presentation you heard earlier from Ms. Gail Cullum, the director of Dual Enrollment at Embry Riddle. This is an exciting expansion of our Dual Enrollment Programs and an expansion of our Acceleration Programs at the high school level. From the beginning, we've talked about expanding acceleration options in all of our high schools and we've been talking about that mainly through the Advanced Placement classes, AICE programs, IB, Dual Enrollment and Industry Certification. Our numbers speak to expansion to all of those programs and performance at a high level which has led our high schools to have the highest number of "A's" (grades) this year. This expansion, in partnership with Embry Riddle, focuses on the 13 high schools that currently have JROTC programs. What will happen starting this year, we actually piloted this last year at Paxon and through that pilot, recognized that this is something we need to expand. Beginning this year in January, we will have 1200-1500 juniors and seniors in these schools taking Duval Enrollment classes in alignment to existing JROTC programs. These students will take classes in military history and aircraft systems with a focus on aeronautics in addition to learning how to man drones which is a strategy that is increasingly being used in our military.

Next year, 2014-2015, our 10th graders will start taking Dual Enrollment classes and you can see the progression on the screen, culminating in 12th grade. This year, alone, we have doubled the number of students in JROTC classes from almost 1500 students to over 3500 students in just one year. We're hoping to expand not only the number of students in JROTC programs, but expand JROTC to more high schools and align that with our Dual Enrollment programs.

I often talk about alignment, alignment, alignment and this is a great opportunity to expand existing JROTC programs, coupling it with Dual Enrollment which not only provides credits for our students going into college, greater exposure to college, but it also provides additional acceleration opportunities for schools as we move into the focus of Common Core and College Ready Standards.

Approval of Agenda

[APPROVAL OF THE JANUARY 7, 2014, AGENDA](#)

Motions:

That the Duval County School Board approve the January 7, 2014, Agenda as submitted on December 31, 2013, with the following changes:

1. Presentations - Communications - Item 3 - Shine Award - Jacqueline Williams - Item Added - PASS
2. General - Item 21 - Recommendation of a New Name for School No. 241 - Revised Agenda Item
3. Board Members Travel - Revised Agenda Item

Vote Results

Motion: Fred Lee

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:

December 9, 2013 - Regular Board Meeting
December 10, 2013 - Board Workshop
December 16, 2013 - Special Board Meeting

Motions:

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

- December 9, 2013 - Regular Board Meeting - PASS
- December 10, 2013 - Board Workshop
- December 16, 2013 - Special Board Meeting

Vote Results

Motion: Fred Lee

Second: Connie Hall

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: Fred Lee

Second: Cheryl Grymes

Rebecca Couch - Aye

Jason Fischer - Aye

Cheryl Grymes - Aye

Connie Hall - Aye

Ashley Juarez - Aye

Fred Lee - Aye

Paula Wright - Aye

Consent Agenda

Academic Services

[3. BOARD APPROVAL OF 2013-2014 DISTRICT AND STATE SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLANS](#)

[4. EMTEC CONTRACT](#)

Attachment: [Emtec_v2.pdf_2014-01-07BoardMeeting.pdf](#)

[5. LEARNING FOR LIFE GRANT](#)

Attachment: [Learning for Life Partnership Agreement 2013-14 12-19-13.pdf](#)

Human Resource Services - Compensation

[8. APPROVAL OF SALARY SCHEDULE FOR 10-MONTH SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGISTS](#)

Attachment: [HRS Attach 12-09-13 TO 2013-2014.pdf](#)

Human Resource Services - Professional Standards

[10. EMPLOYEE SUSPENSION WITHOUT PAY AND TERMINATION - TAMMY MCCAULEY](#)

[11. SUSPENSION WITHOUT PAY - THOMAS JOHNSON](#)

Administration and Business Services - Budget and Financial

[12. MONTHLY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS](#)

Attachment: [October 2013 Board Statement Worksheet.pdf](#)

Attachment: [Final October 2013 Cash and Investment Report.pdf](#)

Attachment: [October 2013 Monthly Financial Statement Narrative.pdf](#)

[13. ADOPTION OF BUDGET RESOLUTIONS NOVEMBER 12, 2013](#)

Attachment: [January 2014 Budget Resolutions \(2\).pdf](#)

[14. 2013-2014 CLASS SIZE COMPLIANCE PLAN](#)

Attachment: [DCPS Class Size Compliance Plan 2013-14.pdf](#)

Minutes:

Board Member Wright said she received the information she requested, today. No further comments.

Chairman Couch asked the Superintendent to address the plan that you are submitting for the audience and viewing audience.

Dr. Vitti said last year, as far as Class Size was determined, for the audience, Class Size is something that is required for core content areas at the middle and high schools, so the easiest way to think of it, courses that end with FCAT or End of Course exams are required to be in Class Size. At the high school level, Class Size for those core areas is 25 students in a class; for 4th-8th grade, it is 22 students per class; and at the K-3 level, 18 students per class.

Last year, as a district, we were about at 81% compliance with those particular classes and this year, we're able to increase our Class Size compliance to 95%. Right now, based on that, we are looking at a possible fine of \$700,000 which is significantly less than where we started last year which was \$7 million dollars in Class Size in which we did bring down and this year, our Staff Allocation Plan helped with making Class Size revisions and support for the district class with principals each other and then injecting more teachers in certain schools that had an unanticipated increase in enrollment or needed additional positions to make Class Size. We are advocating in our Legislative agenda to move Class Size to be calculated at the school average rather than the individual class. There is some support in Tallahassee to do that and there might be an opportunity to leverage the new language in the statute regarding Schools of Choice and designating more of our schools as Schools of Choice and that's something we'll talk more about moving forward. It was difficult to reach the 95% level. I think this process, even if the Legislature doesn't change its mind regarding making Class Size at the school level rather than the individual class level,

this process will be much easier for us next year because we will have gone through it once already. As the Board and I have discussed, we are looking at setting clear caps in elective classes so that in the spring and summer as we develop schedules and as we move into the fall, parents will have a clear understanding of what the non-core areas will be capped at. So, as we go through revisions in the Master Schedule and any student moves, the non-core areas will also have caps. Overall, we did reduce the sizes of our elective classes on average. There might be at some schools individual increases depending on the class and the subject area but for the most part, even on average, our non-core are smaller than last year. Setting clear caps next year will give more clarity, I believe to parents and the community when it comes to Class Size..

Board Member Wright said last year, the district did not end up paying \$7 million dollars, right? What was the amount we paid versus this year?

Dr. Vitti said we ended up paying about \$1.5 million dollars in penalty, last year.

Board Member Wright said I just wanted to make certain that people didn't misunderstand and think that we paid \$7 million dollars in penalties. Thank you, sir.

Operations - Facilities Project Design, Construction and Maintenance

[15. CHANGE ORDER REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER 2013](#)

Attachment: [Jan 7 2013 Agenda Change Order Report Chart for Dec 2013.pdf](#)

[16. PERIODIC REPORT OF SUBSTANTIAL COMPLETIONS, FINAL INSPECTIONS AND ORIGINAL CONTRACT AMOUNTS ON MAJOR MAINTENANCE AND MINOR CAPITAL PROJECTS UNDER \\$1,000,000](#)

Attachment: [Jan 7 2014 Agenda Item CSC-CFI-Cont Sav on on Proj Chart for Dec 13.pdf](#)

[17. BUILDING ADDITION AT DOUGLAS ANDERSON SCHOOL OF THE ARTS: AMENDMENT NUMBER ONE TO CONTRACT FOR CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT AT RISK SERVICES AND GUARANTEED MAXIMUM PRICE/DCSB PROJECT NO. C-91590/OFDC-RFQ-005-13](#)

Operations - Purchasing and Logistics

[18. NONPROFIT SCHOOL FOOD SERVICE - FOOD SERVICE MANAGEMENT COMPANY, RFP NO. 01-14/LG](#)

Attachment: [contractv4.pdf](#)

19. SURPLUS PROPERTY RETIREMENT REPORT

Attachment: [05January14.pdf](#)
Attachment: [ROSUMJANFY14.pdf](#)
Attachment: [Retirement Order Highlight outline January 2014.pdf](#)
Attachment: [06January14.pdf](#)
Attachment: [JAN RETIREMENT.pdf](#)
Attachment: [04January14.pdf](#)
Attachment: [07January14.pdf](#)

20. INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE (IB) EXAMINATION FEES

General

21. RECOMMENDATION OF A NEW NAME FOR SCHOOL NO. 241

Discussion

Academic Services

1. PUBLIC HEARING AND VOTE: REVISION OF BOARD POLICY 10.20, ANTI-BULLYING

Attachment: [DCPS Anti-Bullying Policy 10.2 10.3.13 KB Draft.pdf](#)

Minutes:

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

Revision of Board Policy 10.20, Anti-Bullying

The Chairman asked if anyone in the audience wished to speak to the Board regarding this item; there being no response, the Chairman closed the public hearing.

Motions:

That the Duval County School Board conduct a public hearing and approve the revision of Board Policy 10.20, Anti-bullying. - PASS

Vote Results

Motion: Paula Wright

Second: Fred Lee

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

[2. PUBLIC HEARING AND VOTE; MODIFICATIONS TO THE 2013-2014 STUDENT PROGRESSION PLAN](#)

Attachment: [STUDENT PROGRESSION PLAN 120413 elem strikethrough pages.pdf](#)

Minutes:

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

Modifications to the 2013-2014 Student Progression Plan

The Chairman asked if anyone in the audience wished to speak to the Board regarding them item; there being no response, the Chairman closed the public hearing.

Motions:

- A. CONDUCT A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE REVISIONS TO THE 2013-2014 STUDENT PROGRESSION PLAN.
- B. FOLLOWING THE PUBLIC HEARING, APPROVE THE MODIFICATIONS TO THE 2013-2014 STUDENT PROGRESSION PLAN. - PASS

Vote Results

Motion: Connie Hall

Second: Paula Wright

Rebecca Couch	- Aye
Jason Fischer	- Aye
Cheryl Grymes	- Aye

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

School Choice and Pupil Assignment

[6. CHARTER SCHOOL CONTRACT FOR RENAISSANCE CHARTER SCHOOL, INC., D/B/A DUVAL CHARTER SCHOOL AT MANDARIN](#)

Attachment: [Renaissance Charter School A contract Avfinal.pdf](#)

Minutes: Speaker:

Ms. Karen Chastain, Chief Officer of Legal Services

Motions:

1. That the Duval County School Board approve a five year contract with Renaissance Charter School, Inc. to open Duval Charter School at Mandarin; and,
2. That the Duval County School Board authorize the chairperson and the Superintendent to execute the contract on behalf of the Board subject to form approval by the Office of Legal Services. - PASS

Vote Results

Motion: Fred Lee

Second: Paula Wright

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

Human Resource Services - Staffing

7. HUMAN RESOURCE SERVICES TRANSACTIONS

Attachment: [HRS Attach 01-07-14 TRANS.pdf](#)

Minutes: Speakers:

Ms. Paula D. Wright, Board Member

Ms. Sonita Young, Chief of Human Resource Services

Motions:

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

Vote Results

Motion: Paula Wright

Second: Fred Lee

Rebecca Couch - Aye

Jason Fischer - Aye

Cheryl Grymes - Aye

Connie Hall - Aye

Ashley Juarez - Aye

Fred Lee - Aye

Paula Wright - Aye

Human Resource Services - Professional Standards

9. FINAL ORDER RE: DUVAL COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD v. BEVERLY HOWARD

Minutes:

Speakers:

Ms. Karen Chastain, Chief of Legal Services

Ms. Becki Couch, Board Chair

Ms. Katy Harris, Counsel representing Duval County School Board

Mr. David Hertz, Counsel representing Ms. Beverly Howard

Ms. Cheryl Grymes, Board Vice Chair

Ms. Paula D. Wright, Board Member

Mr. Jason Fischer, Board Member

Mr. Fred "Fel" Lee, Board Member
Dr. Nikolai Vitti, Superintendent of Schools
Ms. Ashley Smith Juarez, Board Member

Motions:

I move that the Petitioner's motion to strike Ms. Howard's Exceptions be granted and that those exceptions not be considered by the Board. - PASS

Vote Results

Motion: Cheryl Grymes

Second: Jason Fischer

Rebecca Couch - Aye

Jason Fischer - Aye

Cheryl Grymes - Aye

Connie Hall - Nay

Ashley Juarez - Aye

Fred Lee - Aye

Paula Wright - Nay

Motions:

Recommended Order - That the Duval County School Board render a Final Order in the case of Duval County School Board vs. Beverly Howard (DOAH Case No. 13-1505TTS), which adopts, rejects, or modifies all or part of the Recommended Order issued by F. Scott Boyd, Administrative Law Judge, dated October 15, 2013. This Recommended Order finds cause for termination of Ms. Howard's teaching contract under the Duval County Teacher Tenure Act. - PASS

As Amended.

Vote Results

Motion: Jason Fischer

Second: Cheryl Grymes

Rebecca Couch - Aye

Jason Fischer - Aye

Cheryl Grymes - Aye

Connie Hall - Aye

Ashley Juarez - Aye

Fred Lee - Aye

Paula Wright - Nay

Motions:

Postpone Item to time certain to be considered at the Regular February 4, 2014, Board meeting. - FAIL

Vote Results

Motion: Fred Lee

Second: Paula Wright

Rebecca Couch - Nay

Jason Fischer - Nay

Cheryl Grymes - Nay

Connie Hall - Aye

Ashley Juarez - Nay

Fred Lee - Aye

Paula Wright - Aye

Motions:

Call the Question - PASS

Vote Results

Motion: Fred Lee

Second: Jason Fischer

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

Motions:

I move to amend the agenda item as follows: That this Board enter a Final Order in this matter that:

1. Adopts in their entirety Administrative Law Judge Boyd's Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law.

2. Adopts Administrative Law Judge Boyd's recommendation to enter a Final Order terminating Beverly L. Howard's employment for cause; and, - PASS

3. Terminate for cause Ms. Howard's employment with Duval County Public Schools.

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

Board Member Travel

[BOARD MEMBERS TRAVEL](#)

Minutes:

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

January 13-14, 2014 - Florida High School Athletic Association Meeting - Gainesville, FL - Lee

February 1-5, 2014 - NSBA Advocacy Institute & FSBA Federal Issues and Advocacy - Washington, DC - Hall; Wright

April 3-8, 2014 - NSBA Annual Spring Conference - New Orleans, LA - Fischer; Hall

Motions:

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

- February 1-6, 2014 - NSBA Advocacy Institute & FSBA Federal Issues and Advocacy - Washington, DC - Hall - PASS
- April 4-8, 2014 - NSBA Annual Spring Conference - New Orleans, LA - Fischer, Hall

Vote Results

Motion: Cheryl Grymes

Second: Fred Lee

Rebecca Couch - Aye

Jason Fischer - Aye

Cheryl Grymes - Aye

Connie Hall - Aye

Ashley Juarez - Aye

Fred Lee	- Aye
Paula Wright	- Aye

Motions:	
Amendment	- PASS
Vote Results	
Motion: Fred Lee	
Second: Jason Fischer	
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: *No Travel for the Superintendent this month.*

For The Record

[FOR THE RECORD](#)

Minutes:

Mr. Jason Fischer said I hope everyone had a very Merry Christmas and a great New Year with your family and friends. I'm very thankful for the Embry Riddle partnership. As an engineer, when we have business and community partners that help to demystify

professions such as mine or any in the STEM fields, our country is in desperate need of scientists and engineers and I'm very thankful for this partnership. One of those schools that will be participating is Mandarin High School where they feature the unmanned aircraft vehicle training. I think that will be very useful in the future and not for just military purposes but for many other things. As many of you may have heard, Amazon will be delivering things via unmanned area aerial vehicles.

I wanted to highlight the fact that we're opening up a new charter school which will be the second charter school in District 7 - the Renaissance Charter Academy which was approved, tonight. One of their sister schools not far from there has over 900 students on the waiting list. I think that is why they targeted that area and that school earned an "A" and has a 70% reading proficiency for the K-8 category. I'm proud as the district's representative for that area.

Talking about charter schools and I know the Superintendent mentioned the School Choice Expo that is coming up this weekend and I would like to personally invite everybody in the audience and at home to come out on Saturday, January 11. The Expo will be from 11:00-3:00 at the Prime Osborn Convention Center and I highly encourage everyone to come out and see the choices that are available, traditional schools as well as some of the charter schools. National School Choice Week will begin January 26 - February 1, 2014. I believe there will be a local event out at the beaches area but I don't have the details available at this time. If you Google "National School Choice Week", you'll be able to find where it will be exactly.

Children are individuals and they don't learn in a uniformed way and it certainly makes it difficult to teach in a uniformed way. It's kind of laid out in the Florida State Constitution that children should be taught in a uniformed manner. I think it's important that we recognize that children are individuals and they deserve the opportunity to receive an education customized to their needs. Who knows what those needs are better than Moms and Dads? Parents should be given choices and a power with the ability to act in the best interest of their children. Whether that's at a traditional school, a charter school, a magnet school or a scholarship to attend a private school, no one should be afraid of competition when it means that more children have access to a high quality education. So, it's kind of ending the theme there with the School Choice mantra.

As a Board member sitting on the stage, it would do dishonor to this Board for me to not mention the Honorable Billy Parker. As Ms. Brady mentioned earlier, anyone who was part of this institution deserves to be recognized, as such. He will truly be missed both by his immediate family and his extended family, here in the school district. Thank you.

Ms. Paula Wright said I, too, would like to say to Billy Parker's family, as a Board member...anybody that can do this for 20 years - hats off!!! He had to be a stand up guy. I did not personally know him but I did have the pleasure of meeting him a few years ago. He will be missed as a Board member who laid the paths of some initiatives that we are now building upon, today and we certainly appreciate his service..

Mr. Fischer has done a great job inviting everyone to the School Choice Expo. I think it's going to be exciting since all schools will be at the Prime Osborn Convention Center

which is something new and different for parents to see.

I'd like to take this opportunity and I see the Corleys out in the audience...for our speakers who come before us and share their thoughts and ideas and concerns. I want you to know that your words do not fall on deaf ears. We hear you and in many ways we respond in our actions and thoughts as we deliberate due processes, as Board members. So, we appreciate every person who takes takes the time to drive over here and share their time with us.

I'd also like to thank the Corleys for their countless efforts to ensure that the legacy of Jean Ribault be noted and to be shared with all of the students. One of the things that certainly came out during the process of renaming of Nathan Bedford Forrest High School and as the two of them spoke, tonight, I think we need to do a different job or different approach to help our students to understand the legacy of the school in which they sit in, day to day. I think that is very important that we really begin to focus on what each school means to that particular community and why was that name attached to that school so the students begin to feel...I can tell you all about the Commanders (Edward H. White High School) and every student should be able to tell somebody something about their school so we can do better, there.

I'm looking forward to a great 2014 year. I think we ended, colleagues and Mr. Superintendent, on a high note as we received some very good news but I also would like to say that as we move through January, February and March, I look forward to not only dedicating more time or energy or effort towards discussing academic progress and how we can help students, help parents, help our community, to move forward in a positive way. Tomorrow, we're going to have a Board Development Meeting and unfortunately, we've not had alot of time to spend as a Board, so I'm looking forward to spending more time, as a Board which includes the Superintendent, as a team so that we can develop and grow stronger.

Ms. Cheryl Grymes said I spent 8 years with Billy Parker, as a Board member, and quite frankly, if we didn't have term limits, he'd still be here because people really did like him. He had a great heart and lots of stories - some good and some not so good. I first knew of Billy Parker because my father played football with him at the University of Florida back in 1949-1950. Billy was a very good football player so I've known him for quite a while. I think how he managed all of those years on the Board, was that he played golf as many days as he possibly could. Terrie Brady's story was very true and actually, the Superintendent would join him on the golf course quite often during the day, during the week. (Dr. Vitti said, "*You won't need to worry about that.*" You may want to consider that; he had a great heart and he loved the district, the kids and the schools. I, too, send my condolences to his wife, JoAnn, and his family. His memory will live on.

I want to thank the Superintendent for the weather preparation information that we received. I know that because we live in Florida and when it gets this cold, we're freezing but our counterparts around the nation are really freezing, I applaud all of you for doing such a good job. I did receive one nastygram from a student who asked if we have "weather days", why don't we use them when the streets are going to be iced? That didn't quite happen today.

I, too, appreciate the speakers and the parents. I did that job for a long time and appreciate those who step up and are active. Certainly, Gretchen Lynch and those who take time to lead the parents. It's a lot of hard work and time away from your family, as well.

I'm looking forward to our time together in the Development meeting because we will discuss how we work together; how we agree and disagree; how we get to where we want to be.

Ms. Ashley Smith Juarez said I want to honor Billy Parker and his commitment to this district and the foundation that he laid for the work that we do now and certainly to thank his family and send my thoughts and prayers and condolences to them. I know that there is comfort and memories but a loss is always hard. So, certainly my thoughts go out to them.

I want to highlight the School Choice Expo as an opportunity for all to come and learn and see what is happening in our school district. It may be that your family is looking for a school or maybe you just want to see what we're doing in Duval County and what opportunities are there and to be better informed and get to know some of our principals and schools better. We certainly want to invite all to come to this opportunity to see all of our schools under one roof which is a feat in itself. My thanks to staff for all of the coordination and effort as well as the school personnel who will be in attendance.

I also want to mention Discover Duval event which will be happening on Thursday, January 9, at DuPont Middle School. DuPont is one of our treasured neighborhood middle schools and we'll be highlighting the Dual Language Program that will be moving into DuPont as well as some of the current highlights at that school including a school garden and other great opportunities. So, that is Thursday morning at 9:45. We hope to have a good crowd to join us there. Again, if you're looking for a school for your child or perhaps if you're just interested in see what goes on during the school day in a Duval County Public Middle School, we invite you to that.

I want to highlight and thank our teachers, principals, guidance counselors for all of the efforts that went into the record graduation rates that were reported this year and to all of those graduates who did the work to earn those diplomas want to highlight those numbers that came out as well as our school grades which were certainly something positive that we can look for. We continue to do the work and continue to look for opportunities for improvement but we also need to celebrate those successes and when our systems and processes are in place and the people who are there on a daily basis, in front of our students, committed, dedicated, caring, building relationships with them that are positive, encourage them and bring relevance to the learning as Embry Riddle is doing and as our teachers, principals and guidance counselors in many ways in schools every day.

I hope everyone had a safe and warm and relaxing holiday and I really look forward to this New Year!

Dr. Connie Hall said, certainly, my condolences go out to the Billy Parker family and he

has truly left his footprint throughout this school district. There's not very many places that you can go in the school district and you don't hear a Billy Parker story. We appreciate his family for lending him to us and making an impact with Duval County Public Schools.

I want to remind everyone about our partnership with the Supervisor of Elections will be beefing up at the end of the month where they go around to our high schools and register eligible students to vote. I think that is such a significant event that they are committed to do and they use their poll workers to volunteer in our schools to do that. Those dates are January 27 - February 14. Truly, it's an opportunity to involve our young folks into the election process.

On January 16, Florida A&M University representatives will be at Andrew Jackson High School for their scholarship event. If you have never attended that event, I strongly encourage you to come. It's a very high octane event where students receive scholarships right on the spot. These scholarships will pay for their entire four years of college; receive laptops and their education is just taken care of. I really want to reach out and invite more colleges and universities to come and recruit our smart, bright, intelligent and college bound students and offer them the opportunity for financial assistance and financial aid to attend their universities. I must commend Mr. Roziers for the work and commitment he has done year after year in promoting our college going community within our school district.

In 1994, Congress designated the federal holiday, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., as a national day of service. This day calls for Americans from all walks of life to work together and provide solutions to our most pressing issues. Dr. King believed in a nation of freedom and justice for all and for all of us to live up to our greatest potential by applying the principles of non-violence, to make our school systems, our city, our state and our nation a better place. So, when that 3-day weekend comes up, January 20, 2014, take the time and opportunity to be a drum major for respect, peace and justice in your home, your school, your church and with your organizations and within your community. Let that launch something within our community that's going to reduce the violence in our community and bring us together as we work collaboratively to make not just our school system but our city a better place. Thank you.

Mr. Fel Lee said I, too, even though I didn't know Mr. Parker, want to send my respects to his family for all of the hard work, having sat in the Chairman's and Vice Chair's seats. I know how trying that can be for his service and all of the positions he gave.

I want to give a "shout out" to Fletcher High, again, to principal Don Nelson, the district staff, Dr. Kelly Coker-Daniels and to the Superintendent for the commitment you made to restore Fletcher back to an "A". I know it was a tough road the last few years but it has paid off. I want to say the same thing to Atlantic Coast High even though they are no longer in my district but it was for awhile. I kept watching those grade move upward and finally, an "A". Congratulations and good job!!!

Thank you to Kernan Trails Elementary as they invited me to one of their Christmas events and it's the fun things that Board members get to do and I really enjoyed it.

I want to acknowledge a Senator who is with UNF Student Government, Colin

Wyckoff. I thank you for being here and thank you for serving at UNF.

I'm a little confused about tomorrow's development. Superintendent, I was going to confirm our 9 o'clock tee time tomorrow morning....*(great laughter)*...Superintendent said, *"Unless we're meeting at a basketball court or maybe a baseball diamond or I'll even do track, maybe or a football field without helmets, obviously, but golf...I've never golfed."* Mr. Lee said when I lose 20 pounds, I'll play you in a game of basketball.

Ms. Becki Couch said I mentioned earlier, this Saturday, January 11 from 11:00 am - 3:00 pm, the School Choice Expo at the Prime Osborn Convention Center. All of our schools will be showcased - our neighborhood schools, magnet schools, charter schools which is fitting for the "choice" and we have great schools everywhere. We hope people come out and look at all of our schools and make the best decision for your child. A quality education is our paramount duty for our students in this district and we're working hard to provide that.

I'd like to give some recognition to the high school grades that were released December 18. We had the highest combination of "A/B" high schools in the district's history since the FCAT school grades started. 9 schools earned an "A" up from 7 the previous year; 5 earned a "B" compared to 6 in 2012; 6 earned a "C" compared 8 the previous year so we're seeing great progress. Our graduation rates are up, our college ready rates are up so we're moving in the right direction. Obviously, we're not where we want to be until we get to the top but we are certainly heading in the right direction. I want to say "thank you" to all of the district administrators, principals, teachers and especially to the students and parents!

I want to thank our Parent Organizations for coming and enduring these meetings each month. Your leadership is crucial to this district and the success of it, as well. We have very strong parental involvement and I applaud you for what you do. Thank you!

Adjournment

[ADJOURNMENT](#)

Minutes:

The meeting adjourned at 8:33 p.m.

Isd

Superintendent

Chairman