



Duval County Public Schools

January 9, 2012, Regular Board Meeting

Ms. Betty Burney, Chairman
Mr. Fred "Fel" Lee, Vice Chairman
Ms. Martha Barrett
Ms. Becki Couch
Mr. W. C. Gentry
Mr. Tommy Hazouri
Ms. Paula D. Wright
Mr. Ed Pratt-Dannals, Superintendent

ATTENDANCE AT THIS REGULAR MEETING OF THE DUVAL COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD with Mr. Ed Pratt-Dannals, Superintendent, Ms. Karen Chastain, Office of General Counsel, Ms. Betty Burney, Board Chair, Mr. Fred "Fel" Lee, Vice Chairman and Board members: Ms. Martha Barrett, Ms. Becki Couch, Mr. W. C. Gentry, Mr. Tommy Hazouri and Ms. Paula D. Wright, present.

Call Meeting to Order

[CALL MEETING TO ORDER](#)

Minutes:

The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Invocation

[INVOCATION](#)

Minutes:

A "moment of silence" was held and then Board Chair Betty Burney read the following:

Children Learn What They Live by Dorothy Law Nolte, Ph.D.

If children live with criticism, they learn to condemn.
If children live with hostility, they learn to fight.
If children live with fear, they learn to be apprehensive.
If children live with pity, they learn to feel sorry for themselves.
If children live with ridicule, they learn to feel shy.
If children live with jealousy, they learn to feel envy.
If children live with shame, they learn to feel guilty.
If children live with encouragement, they learn confidence.
If children live with tolerance, they learn patience.
If children live with praise, they learn appreciation.
If children live with acceptance, they learn to love.
If children live with approval, they learn to like themselves.
If children live with recognition, they learn it is good to have a goal.
If children live with sharing, they learn generosity.
If children live with honesty, they learn truthfulness.
If children live with fairness, they learn justice.
If children live with kindness and consideration, they learn respect.
If children live with security, they learn to have faith in themselves and in those about them.
If children live with friendliness, they learn the world is a nice place in which to live.

Pledge of Allegiance

[PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE](#)

Presentations

Board Members

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

Minutes:

School Board Chair said this presentation will actually take the place of the School Board Chairman's report. Each month, the Board will highlight a high school in the Duval County Public Schools system that has one of our acceleration programs. In order for us to let, not only Jacksonville, but to let others in neighboring counties understand what it is that the Duval County Public Schools system has to offer.

Tonight, we recognize Terry Parker High School and Mr. Scott Schneider, principal, please come forward.

Ms. Christy Thacker, International Baccalaureate (IB) Coordinator designee for Terry Parker High School, thanked everyone for having them here this evening. I'm honored to be here tonight with our principal, Mr. Scott Schneider and we thank you for the opportunity to share a few of the wonderful things that are happening at Terry Parker. As a result of the AICE academic model that was established in 2008, Terry Parker High School was chosen to be the IB World School representing the communities within the east quadrant. At that time, Terry Parker began the process to become an official International Baccalaureate World School offering the diploma program. During the 2010-2011 school year, Terry Parker admitted its first group of pre-diploma 9th graders. Our goal that year was to admit 25 freshmen and we exceeded our goal and admitted 51. All 51 students did exceptionally well and we had 100% promotion rate that year.

This current school year, we admitted a new batch of 56 freshmen bringing our total program enrollment to 101. At the end of the first grading period this school year, 42% of our 9th graders had straight A's or A/B Honor Roll and 50% of our 10th graders had straight A's or A/B Honor Roll. It makes me very proud. I'm excited and relieved to announce that this past December Terry Parker completed the last phase of the IB application process. At this point, it was approximately 3 years of an ongoing process. In a few weeks, we'll receive a report from the visit and we're very confident that we will be able to report some very, very wonderful news to you and we'll keep you posted.

Principal Scott Schneider presented a short video. Our students wanted two things when they came to high school: a world-class education and wanted to attend their local high school. Now, through the IB program at Terry Parker High School, our students in the Arlington area have an opportunity to get both of those in their local, comprehensive high school. Terry Parker, once authorized, along with Ft. Caroline Middle School and Justina Road Elementary School, will be a model, comprehensive IB continual program. This opportunity in the Duval County Public Schools system is unmatched and is a great opportunity for our area students. *(See attached Terry Parker High School Wish List)*

Speakers:

Ms. Martha Barrett, Board Member

Ms. Betty Burney, Board Chair

Communications

[1. OUTSTANDING FOOTBALL SEASON RECOGNITIONS - MATTHEW GILBERT MIDDLE SCHOOL, FLETCHER HIGH SCHOOL, AND FIRST COAST HIGH SCHOOL](#)

Minutes:

-- For our first presentation of the evening, I would like to recognize three Duval County schools' football teams for their outstanding seasons.

--Would Principal Evan Daniels, Coach Carl NeSmith and Assistant Athletic Director Tiana Tyeskey of Matthew Gilbert Middle School please join us up front?

--Coach NeSmith has led the Mighty Panthers at Matthew Gilbert Middle to undefeated seasons over the last five years. We applaud you for your efforts with the team and the commitment you have provided to coach these young men.

--Congratulations to all of you. We look forward to many more successes in the upcoming years!

--I'd now like to invite Principal Dane Gilbert and Coach Josh Corey of Fletcher High School to come to the front.

--Following a successful 8-2 (eight and two) football season, the Fletcher Senators moved onto the FHSAA Football State Playoffs where they excelled. The team fought their way to the fourth round of the playoffs. Congratulations Coach Corey and Principal Gilbert!

--Finally, I would like to invite Principal Vincent Hall and Coach Martin Lee of First Coast High School to the front.

--Coach Lee and the Buccaneers led an undefeated season during 2011. The Buccaneers concluded their remarkable season by advancing to the final round of the 2011-2012 FHSAA Football State Playoffs.

--Congratulations on a fantastic season! We are very proud of First Coast High, Fletcher High and Matthew Gilbert Middle for your football successes.

[2. RECOGNITION OF HIGH SCHOOL GRADES AND INCREASED GRADUATION RATE](#)

Minutes:

--For our second presentation, I'd like to recognize several Duval County high schools who achieved grade improvements in addition to Duval County's increased graduation rate.

--Following the recent news of the 4.6 percent rise in Duval County's graduation rate up to 71.2 percent, our high schools have continued to show progress across the board.

--18 of our 21 high schools scored A, B or C grades. Our 'A' schools include Frank H. Peterson Academies of Technology, Darnell-Cookman Middle-High School, Paxon School for Advanced Studies and Stanton College Preparatory School.

--These improved grades are a testament to the dedication and efforts of our students, teachers, staff and parents.

--Specifically, I'd like to recognize the eight high schools that have shown progress from last year's grades.

-- As your school's name is called, I would like to invite the principal from each school to come forward and receive your certificate of recognition.

--Frank H. Peterson Academies of Technology improved by three letter grades, from a 'D' to an 'A.'

--A. Philip Randolph Academies of Technology rose two letter grades to a 'C.'

--Robert E. Lee High School jumped two letter grades from a 'D' to a 'B.'

--Terry Parker High School also improved by two letter grades from a 'D' to a 'B.'

--First Coast High School rose one letter grade to a 'C.'

--Jean Ribault High School improved by one grade and earned its first 'C.'

--Forrest High School earned a 'C,' rising by one letter grade, and

--Samuel W. Wolfson High School also earned a 'C,' improving from last year by one letter grade.

--Congratulations to each school who made tremendous progress by improving school grades and graduation rates. We will continue to look toward ensuring a high quality education for each student in Duval County.

[3. CFE RECOGNITION - JAXPORT](#)

Minutes:

--For the next presentation, I would like to recognize the Jacksonville Port Authority, or JAXPORT, for their support of several Duval County schools.

--Would Joanne Kazmierski, JAXPORT's manager of community outreach and environmental advocacy, please come forward?

--JAXPORT focuses on educating people about career opportunities at the port and with all companies associated with the movement of cargo.

--JAXPORT is a key sponsor of the annual Global Jax "Going Global" Student Summit. Hundreds of students from several Duval County schools have benefited from this event.

--JAXPORT is also a key business partner for the career academies at First Coast, Forrest, Lee and Terry Parker high schools. They provide tours, job shadowing opportunities, internships and classroom speakers to show the diverse market in international trade.

--As an employer of choice for students in the community, JAXPORT offers a student internship program, hiring six to 10 students each summer to work on the terminals and in the administrative offices.

--JAXPORT employees also provide a mentor program to students at R. L. Brown Elementary and Raines High School.

--Finally, JAXPORT has been a key partner in the Oceanway Middle School Outdoor Tree Classroom Project in collaboration with Duval County Public Schools, Greenscape of Jacksonville, R.S. & H. and the City of Jacksonville.

--Thank you to the Jacksonville Port Authority for all your initiatives and dedication to our school system.

[4. CFE RECOGNITION - HANDSON JACKSONVILLE](#)

Minutes:

--Our final presentation of the night recognizes HandsOn Jacksonville as one of our community partners for their many contributions to Duval County Public Schools.

--At this time I would like to ask Dr. Judy Smith and Carole Ann Steiger to please come to the front.

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

--They provide volunteers at the Teacher Supply Depot, donating their time on holidays and during the summer months. Volunteers also visit various Duval County elementary schools, helping with beautification projects through the 'Elementary Needs Helping Hands' program.

--HandsOn Jacksonville has been instrumental in promoting the Read It

Forward Jax! district initiative through reading programs at Biltmore, George Washington Carver and S.P. Livingston elementary schools.

--HandsOn Jacksonville's signature event, "A Visit from St. Nicholas" took place in December. More than 500 volunteers delivered 32,000 books and 32,000 toys to approximately 6,500 students in 14 Duval County elementary schools.

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

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

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

MLK, JR. DAY OBSERVANCE:

School Board Chair Betty Burney mentioned that the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday is coming upon us and William M. Raines High School Rainesmen Club is having an "MLK Jr. Day Observance" that is being put on by the students. The keynote speaker is former Senator Anthony "Tony" Hill. It will take place on Friday, January 13, 2012 at 1:00 pm in the Raines High Auditorium. We all know what Martin Luther King, Jr. meant to our country and also, to our schools. Anyone can go out and support the students and we would appreciate it.

Comments From Audience

[COMMENTS FROM AUDIENCE](#)

Minutes:

The Honorable Jim Love, representative for District 14, City Council, said I'm bringing greetings from the City Council. I'm extremely pleased with the grades that came out in the newspaper the other day. I was so excited I almost couldn't keep my tears back particularly for the high school which is right down the street from my house and that's Lee High School. I'm really proud of Dr. Denise Hall as she's done a wonderful job! She invited me to the pep rally they had on Friday and it was awesome with a great group of kids. They were all excited about making a "B" and I challenged them to make an "A" and Dr. Hall promised me that they would. They have over 300 students who are in the Dual Enrollment Program. One of my staff member's children will get her two-year degree at the same time as her high school diploma which is so fantastic. The way the school looks, right now it's not great, but it's going to be much, much better by November. It will be one of the very best schools in the whole state of Florida and I'm so proud to say that the School Board is doing a great job; Lee is doing

a great job and Dr. Hall is, also. It's just great to see the improvements. Thank you so much, Superintendent Pratt-Dannals. You're doing a great job and all of the Board members, as well.

Mr. Kirk Farber, Executive Director of Fitness & Character Education, Inc., a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization. Having been involved for 10+ years with the Youth Leadership Program for incarcerated 14-17 year olds in the Duval County jail, there was one common thread that stood out - the majority of boys were missing a father figure or mentor. They did not think of the consequences yet they were old enough to suffer the consequences. As a result in 2003, I developed my own Youth Leadership Program for elementary children. I wanted to make a difference by focusing on positively influencing them earlier than later. My background, experiences and passion for fitness created the name of the program, "Fitness & Character Education". It includes martial arts, jump rope, juggling, animal games and public speaking. Every participant has to love some aspect of the program. Since its inception in 2003, it has reached more than 20,000 students through both its core program and assembly presentations. Most of its funding has come from full-service schools neighborhood grants. It starts with a general assembly for the entire school with messages of respect, helping, sharing, focus and fun. This assembly has evolved into the name of "Building a Community: One Leader at a Time". Then, I come back into the school during the school day for 8 weeks. A team of teachers and administrators select students who may have poor attitudes, anger issues, a lack of self-esteem or other challenges. For 8 weeks, we develop skills, increase coordination and emphasis on fitness while speaking on a character theme each week. Fitness is essential yet character education is priceless.

Mr. Kevin Hedden said this information is for the School Board consider during School Services for future contract considerations. Read that a child was left unattended on a bus at a 103rd Street lot and it was not reported to transportation. The child checks were not being done properly and they didn't fill out the log. My initials were actually used at a later date and the date was put next to my initials. I know that for a fact. Most of this is pertaining to the 2011 school year. The location on 103rd Street had the most accidents in the entire school system. The management of Durham School Services had a Christmas fund containing several thousand dollars and the money came up missing and was never reported to the authorities. When we would bill for after school activities, there was no documentation. When dealing with taxpayers money, there should be credit checks done. I can provide information to all members.

Mr. LeAndrew Mills, III said Happy New Year and thank you for the opportunity to speak. The recent release of the high school grades has given our school district something to be extremely excited about. We, the Friends of Northwest Jacksonville School, Inc., also share in this excitement but not without some apprehension. It's our understanding that until laws are updated to include the new grading formula, six high schools are still being threatened with privatization or closure. As stated by the Florida State Board of Education Chair, Kathleen Shannahan, three of these schools must make the necessary achievements set by the state on this year's FCAT exam. We were in the audience in Tampa. As she related to our Superintendent last summer that Ribault, Raines and Jackson will not get any more chances as she reluctantly voted our county's appeal. I stand before you today to make an appeal. We ask that you do not accept the resignation of Mr. Maxey as principal of William M. Raines High School. This is an

extremely critical time of the school year and a drastic change such as changing principals could lead to the devastating result of an EMO taking over one of our high schools and Duval County being the first county in the state having such an occurrence which would have an extremely painful consequence to our students, faculty, school and the entire community. Thank you.

Ms. Felicia Gaines said before I begin the business for the Friends of Northwest Jacksonville Schools, Inc., I would like to give a personal message and I know we're not supposed to do personal messages directly to people, but I can say publicly, Superintendent Ed Pratt-Dannals, Deputy Superintendent Pat Willis, I'm sorry and that's my personal message. The primary basis for our appeal was emailed to you earlier today. However, there is a subject matter we'd like to further explain. In August, when we met with the Superintendent to discuss the plans for all priority schools, it was stated that some adjustment had been made so that the Turnaround schools can be better served by Tony Bellamy, the secondary Turnaround Cluster Chief. The cluster now has less schools than last year and was given two additional executive directors so these high need schools can receive more focus from the district and Mr. Bellamy, which we were assured that his talents and expertise would be spread effectively and strategically. However, with his recent appointment as principal of Raines High School, we must ask, *"What about the other 18 schools in his cluster?"* Unfortunately, this is not a situation where we have faith and executive directors to take over where he left off because of their lack of experience as three of them have only been in their current position for six months. With one of our top priority schools receiving an "F", it seems that that school would need more of our district's experts time than would be remiss if Mr. Bellamy continued dual roles. We recommend Mr. Bellamy be allowed to continue the effort he started as Cluster Chief only and allow Mr. Maxey to return with time served as principal of Raines. To whom do the parents of Raines students appeal if they have a problem with the decision made by the principal? In every other school in Duval County, the chain of command would be followed; however, for Raines, their principal is also the Cluster Chief which means the next step would be the Deputy Superintendent. How realistic is that? We the Friends of Northwest Jacksonville Schools believe that Duval County was well on its way to have all schools exit a priority classification. It is paramount that we continue the path we started at the beginning of the school year to ensure the success of all schools. If the Board feels that something more than a 30 day suspension is warranted, we would hope that you re-evaluate your choice of penalties in June after this high-stake year is over but when this year is over and the experiment fails, I hope you will remember it was your decision to get off track. However, it will likely be Mr. Bellamy, Education Directions and principals and teachers unfairly being blamed. Please, as we make the appeal to you that you do not accept the resignation of George Maxey so that strategies that were working district-wide may continue. Thank you for allowing us to use our voice, the Friends of Northwest Jacksonville Schools, Inc.

Ms. Pervalia Gaines-McIntosh said I'm coming before you tonight to implore you not to accept the resignation of George Maxey as principal of Raines High School for several reasons. The first reason is for the inconsistencies in how the district handles administrative disciplinary issues. In a statement released by the spokeswoman for Duval County Public Schools regarding another case where an administrator was arrested and booked, she stated, *"We will evaluate her performance which impacts the students prior to determining the appropriate course of action and pending the*

outcome of an investigation." My concern is that none of that was done in the Maxey case and that decision could be potentially detrimental to the school's existence and the students' future, as well as the fact that there was nothing in George Maxey's personnel file that calls for such harsh punishment. The second reason is due to the Zero Tolerance Policy which is the state law that was recently changed and encourages school districts to use alternatives to expulsions and referrals to law enforcement agencies. This law, in my opinion, requires principals and administrators to now become investigators. I don't feel that the district trained its administrators how to interpret the law and how and when to work with law enforcement agencies, especially, when the district sets its own policies in picking and choosing and when to apply the law. Case in point: An elementary student who brought a loaded gun to school at Dinsmore and was supposed to be referred to law enforcement based on this law but it was stated by the district that it was determined that there was no intentional harm committed by the student. I believe the same consideration should be given to principals to make the same findings when they are dealing with children. Thirdly, the Code of Conduct states that it gives full authority to determine how to code an incident when it is investigated by principals. I don't know anywhere in the world where an investigator becomes the fall guy for an investigation especially when it's being conducted by law enforcement officers. Also, I can see how it can be confusing to a principal as to what authority he has in an incident where there are so many gray areas. You have a child or children who have returned items to you that were taken at a football game which was initially investigated by DCPS officers. Now, that the children have returned the items to you as the principal, you also have DCPS law enforcement officers threatening to give your kids a felony charge for something that could be considered a "prank". Thank you very much.

Mr. Robert A. White shared a brief report/brochure with the Board - "Jacksonville invested \$3.50 per person in the ARTS last year; listing of Cultural Organizations funded by the City of Jacksonville; and a Strong Return on Investment of \$3.50. On behalf of the Cultural Council of Greater Jacksonville and Jacksonville's Arts for a Complete Education Coalition. I'm here to wish you a happy new year and to thank you for all that you do for Jacksonville's children, students, teachers and schools. It's so nice to see so many friendly faces and to meet some new ones, as well. I know that you make difficult and courageous decisions for children, teachers and schools every day and I'm very grateful for that. Another thing that I know and I know that you know, too, is that musical instruction creates mathematical achievement in a classroom. I also know that visual art instruction fosters language art development especially in young learners. This report/brochure (hand out) basically speaks to the city's investment in art and culture for Jacksonville's people - it equates to \$3.50 per person. (*See attachment in the Minutes*). As you will see, children and education are starts on our list of entities to serve. This is a great story to share with you. My pledge to you is that for this year in 2012, the ACE Coalition is prepared to deploy their resources to support your leadership in this very important area. Again, I'm grateful for the time and your service. Thank you very much.

Ms. Debra Clonts said I teach second grade at Sabal Palm Elementary School and I came tonight to express my concern over the letter that went home today notifying parents of the new guidelines concerning kindergarten, first and second grades. The guidelines say that this means that any student who scores below 54% on the third

administration of the Florida Assessment of Instruction and Reading (FAIR) will be retained and must attend summer school. In order for a child to get the probability of success on the FAIR test, all they have to do is read a word list of 100 words. They have 45 seconds in second grade and based on how many words, that's the only thing that gives a probability of success; it doesn't look at the comprehension on the test. This was never meant to be anything but a diagnostic tool. It tells us phonics, reading, vocabulary but when you're looking at probability of success, the percent, the only thing you get from that is this word list. My concern is since parents will be asking me and before I can explain it to the parents, I need some clarification. What happens if they pass second grade based on classroom work and right now, all my students are but they score below 54%? This is not fair as we weren't given any information but this letter did go home today. What happens if a student fails second grade but passes the FAIR test? I truly need some clarification. Thank you.

Mr. John Ziegler, Region Manager for Durham School Services, said I've been involved in transportation with the students in Duval County for over 10 years. On the agenda tonight is a recommendation to work with Transportation Services for GSA 5. The recommendation is to award to Birnie Bus Service. I'm here to urge your careful review of this recommendation before taking action on the bid. As the current provider for transportation services in GSA 5 as well as GSA 3, we believe that the district exposes itself to risk by accepting the bids from Birnie Bus Service. In fact, we feel so strong about our concern that Durham School Service requested a protest hearing in regards to what we believe was an irresponsible as well as an unresponsive bid that was submitted by Birnie Bus Service. The hearing was held on December 21. We recognized that the hearing officer denied Durham's protest but we respectfully disagree with those findings and ask for that to be reconsidered. We believe that if do so, you will agree with Durham's position and decline to accept the recommendation. In the interest of time, I can not repeat all the arguments Durham raised in its protest here tonight. I would like to, however, speak to one point on which I feel strongly. The bid submitted by Birnie Bus Service was at a price that was remarkably less than the current rate at which Durham operates GSA 5. I know that during these tough economic times, such a low price may seem the over-riding factor; however, the quality of school bus drivers will suffer and the employees servicing Duval County will certainly be affected by the lower bid price. As the provider to Duval County starting in the school year of 2006, Durham School Services has consistently provided excellent service at a fair price. It is our desire to continue to do so. Durham School Services believes that the quality of service in GSA 5 will not be the same going forward and we ask that you consider the current level of service in a partnership that has performed with Durham School Services before accepting the recommendation to award. I thank you for your time.

Mr. John Turner I come here tonight in search of an honest answer as to exactly how Frank H. Peterson Academy of Technology went from a "D" school to an "A". Was it really due to hard work by the students and teachers or was it simply due to the lowering of state standards and/or manipulating of scoring data? As a reminder, the state formula for grading high schools has changed. Now, only half of the final grade is based on FCAT scores. The other half is based on several factors but mainly on college readiness exams and graduation rates. Unfortunately, these new factors can be manipulated to inflate the final grade. For example: 11% of the total score or final grade is based on the number of students taking difficult courses like Advanced

Placement (AP) Courses. Points are awarded regardless if the student passes the final exam or not. Did you know last year Peterson Academy had approximately 300 students take AP courses but only 8% of them passed the final exam? Under the new grading system, Peterson Academy received far more points for massive failure of the AP program than from the students who actually passed the final exam. Clearly, the vast majority of the students who were forced into the AP program by the principal would have been better served if they were forced into remedial English and Math courses instead. Likewise, the American College Test also known as the ACT can be manipulated as well. Did you know that in 2011, Peterson Academy students who took the ACT exam averaged with an extremely low composite score of 17.4? For those who don't know, 19.6 is the state average and Florida ranks as the 3rd worst state in the union. Yet, Peterson Academy gets "A" with a 17.4? Perhaps the easiest data to manipulate is the so-called graduation rate. This can be done by school staff mistakenly or deliberately reporting dropout students as students who moved out of state or transferred to private schools. Even with all of that, what I find most troubling about this new grading system is that the Florida Department of Education does not investigate/verify the data to see if the principals are cheating or gaming the system. They simply trust that their reporting procedures are sufficient enough to prevent fraud. Let me finish by asking this question: If I am wrong about all of this and Peterson Academy really did legitimately go from a "D" school to an "A", wouldn't you think our Superintendent would insist that the Commissioner of the Florida Department of Education investigate and verify the results? If the "A" grade is really legitimate, shouldn't the Superintendent and the Commissioner work together and document just how it was done so that the great success of Peterson Academy can be used as a blue print for all the rest of 67 school districts in Florida? Sadly, somehow I don't think that is going to happen. Nor do I think this School Board is going call for an investigation either. Why do you think that is? Thank you for listening.

Ms. Pam Paul, representing the Jacksonville Public Education Fund (JPEF) and we're thrilled for you about your accomplishments to see the tremendous rise in the graduation rate after so much hard work over the last few years. It's very well deserved. We're particularly thrilled about some of the high schools that the Learning to Finish partners have worked in - Terry Parker and Nathan B. Forrest - who are so pleased to see their progress as well as the other schools and the increase in the school grades...well done and we commend you! We've lost a great leader in education of the arts - Ann McDonald Baker and thank you for joining us in remembering her and her tremendous love for Douglas Anderson School of the Arts and her involvement in the Quality Education for All initiative. So, thanks for remembering her. I'd like to provide you with an update of two initiatives we're taking on to get the public better informed and more engaged in advocating for quality public schools. That's the One-by-One Campaign and thank you all for coming to the Cummer to see the exhibit. Over 27,000 people have seen that exhibit and 3,000 students have seen it and were able to participate in free field trips and curriculum. It's now traveling around the community and we welcome you to join us as it goes into the downtown library and the Ritz Theatre where we'll have an event on the 12th. Also, the release of our second policy brief which seeks to demystify school funding. We appreciate your participation with the Duval Delegation and really hope that will go a long way to showing our community and legislature that we do not have enough money to fund quality schools. So, thank you for this opportunity and thank you for all you do. Good evening.

Comments From Parent Organizations

COMMENTS FROM PARENT ORGANIZATIONS

Minutes:

District Advisory Council - Rachell Raneri, Chair:

Good evening and Happy New Year to all! The District Advisory Council does not meet in December. Our next meeting is Monday, January 23rd, at 6:00pm in the 6th grade conference room in this building. We look forward to having the Honorable Martha Barrett join us.

I would like to remind all principals that the mid-year school advisory council meetings must be held this month. This is the meeting at which you are required to invite all of your stakeholders to attend. If you do not already have a member of the NAACP Education committee on your SAC, please be sure to contact Ms. Elnora Atkins. She will help you find a representative to attend.

Principals should also be sure that meeting minutes are being submitted to Pat Carley. As always, if there are any questions, feel free to contact me. Thank you.

PTA - Melissa Kicklighter, President:

Good evening! My name is Melissa Kicklighter, and I am here on behalf of the Duval County Council of PTAs. With the start of the New Calendar Year, it is important that we reflect on the work we have done, the work we continue to do and how to best regroup to accomplish even more in the future. The County Council is in the process of preparing our mid-year reports, so we can focus on our work for the remainder of the school year. So far, the two themes that exist are continuing to focus our advocacy efforts and helping to strengthen our local units.

With that in mind, we have our next General meeting on Tuesday, January 17 during which we will elect our nominating committee for the 2012-13 school year. Ken Sutton from Exceptional Education Student Services will be joining us as our program speaker. After the meeting, we will be holding a lunch and learn on End of Year Tips for Success. We will be reviewing the following topics: budget review and how to prepare an annual audit, electing a PTA nominating committee and next year's officers, How to prepare a procedure book and transition from one school year to the next and how to apply for awards for the great work you have done this year!

With regard to our advocacy efforts, we will be traveling to Tallahassee to meet with members of the Duval Legislative Delegation on Wednesday, January 23rd. Details for the trip have been sent to all of our PTA leaders and school Principals in our January Highlights message, and it is available on our website at www.dccpta.org. We will meet and depart from the Duval County School Board building parking lot at 6:00 a.m. and return at approximately 4:00 p.m. We invite all to join us for this exciting day at

the State Capitol!

Before the next School Board meeting, we will also be kicking off "Love Your Public Schools – Contact Your State Legislator" month. In February, we will focus our efforts on a phone call and e-mail campaign to let our State Legislators know that we have high expectations for this legislative session and their support of public Pre-K to 12 education. More information about this advocacy campaign is coming to our schools soon, and we hope that everyone will participate.

I would also like to take this opportunity to share information with all of you about both the successes and challenges of the Teacher Supply Depot. This year, they have served record numbers of teachers through numerous giveaways. Thankfully, donations from the community have been pouring in, but with more donations come the need for more hands to do the work. So, I would like to ask that if there is anyone or any group who might be willing to share a few hours helping at the depot, please contact Chris Buckley. Her information is available at the Duval County Council website. The next Teacher Supply Depot giveaway is also this week on Thursday, January 12 from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m.

As always, if there is any way in which we can be of assistance to the members of the School Board, the Superintendent or any of the district administrators, please do not hesitate to contact me. We are please to work with you on behalf of the students on Duval County. Here's to a positive and productive legislative session and a great New Year!

Title I, Parent Advisory Report - Iva Smith, Secretary:

My name is Iva Smith, Title I Parent Advisory Council Chairperson. To the Honorable Chair, Betty Burney, Board Members, and Superintendent Pratt –Dannals, this report comes to you on behalf of the Title 1 Parent Advisory Council.

The second Title I Parent Advocacy Coffee Table discussion will be held January 26, 2012 at 9:30 a.m. at Andrew Robinson Elementary School in the Parent Involvement Center. Superintendent Pratt-Dannals will address the Council on the current State of Duval County Public Schools during this meeting.

The topic for the Parent Advocacy Coffee Table discussion will be on family support services. Representatives from Duval County Public Schools (DCPS) Comprehensive Student Support System, Title I Social Services, Northeast Florida Healthy Start Coalition Inc., United Way Full Service Schools, and Duval County Extension Services. Representatives will share resourceful information that benefits students and families. This meeting is open to parents, principals, Board Members, and all others who are interested in Parent Advocacy.

This concludes the Title 1 Parent Advisory Council January's 2012 Report.

Comments From Employee Organizations

COMMENTS FROM EMPLOYEE ORGANIZATIONS

Minutes: *No report this evening.*

Student Achievement, Reform Activities, And Reports

1. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Minutes: *The School Recognition - District 1 - Terry Parker High School took the place of the Chairman's report for this evening.*

2. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Minutes:

Since we were able to recognize our schools earlier for their great achievements in school grades, I won't have to report on that, again.

Magnet Mania and More and the "more" is a number of the other "choice" programs we have in Duval County including the Career Academies. That will be held on January 21 at the Prime Osborn Convention from 11:00-3:00. This event is always extremely well attended by students and parents. For more information, you can go to our regular website: www.duvalschools.org or our special website: www.magnet_programs.com

We have completed the Mid-Year Benchmark Assessments and are in the process of completing the mid-year FAIR which is a state reading test and we are comparing that test to the first round, not only at the teacher/school level but at the individual student level to create plans for all students to be successful.

We're doing a good job regarding vacancies at our Turnaround schools. As of today, we had five and two of them in autistic areas in elementary which is a very challenging area to be able to get certified teachers; a math coaching position at Andrew Jackson High that we anticipate will be filled; one science position at Ribault Middle and a math position at Ed White High - both of which opened up recently. This has been a focused area and kudos to Ms. Reynolds, the principals, the Cluster Chiefs and Executive Directors for making some major progress in terms of making sure these positions are filled quickly when they become vacant.

Reports

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

Minutes: *No report this evening.*

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

Minutes: *No report this evening.*

Approval of Agenda

[APPROVAL OF THE JANUARY 9, 2012, AGENDA](#)

Motions:

That the Duval County School Board approve the January 9, 2012, Agenda as submitted on January 3, 2012, with the following changes:

1. Presentations - Communications - Item 1 - Outstanding Football Season Recognitions - Matthew Gilbert Middle School, Fletcher High School, and First Coast High School - Revised - PASS Title
2. Human Resource Services - Item 1 - Human Resource Services Employee Transactions - Revised Attachment
3. Board Members Travel - Revised Agenda Item
4. Superintendent's Travel - Revised Agenda Item

Vote Results

Motion: Thomas Hazouri

Second: Martha Barrett

Martha Barrett

- Aye

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

Approval of Minutes

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes:

That the Duval County School Board approve the following Minutes:

- December 5, 2011 - Board Development Meeting
- December 6, 2011 - Regular Board Meeting
- December 12, 2011 - Special Meeting - Student Expulsion Hearings
- December 13, 2011 - Board Workshop

Motions:

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

- December 5, 2011 - Board Development Meeting
- December 6, 2011 - Regular Board Meeting - PASS
- December 12, 2011 - Special Board Meeting - Student Expulsions
- December 13, 2011 - Board Workshop

Vote Results

Motion: Thomas Hazouri

Second: Martha Barrett

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

Approval of Consent Agenda

[APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA](#)

Motions:	
That the Duval County School Board approve the Consent Agenda.	- PASS
Vote Results	
Motion: Thomas Hazouri	
Second: Martha Barrett	
Martha Barrett	- Aye
Betty Burney	- Aye
Rebecca Couch	- Aye
William Gentry	- Aye
Thomas Hazouri	- Aye
Fred Lee	- Aye
Paula Wright	- Aye

Consent Agenda

Academic Services

[1. A STUDENT SUCCESS SKILLS \(SSS\) RESEARCH STUDY: A PROGRAM TO IMPROVE ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT FOR ALL STUDENTS](#)

Attachment: [Student Success Skills Results in Duval County.pdf](#)
Attachment: [SSS Previous Research Studies 1.pdf](#)
Attachment: [BENEFITS CHALLENGES and METRICS 11 30 11 \(3\).pdf](#)

[2. OUT-OF-COUNTRY FIELD TRIP REQUEST-DUVAL COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS OF CHINESE LANGUAGE](#)

Attachment: [Benefits and Challenges Chinese Trip July 2012.pdf](#)
Attachment: [China Trip July 2012.pdf](#)

Human Resource Services - Staffing

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

Attachment: [HRS_Agenda_01-09-12_TRANS.pdf](#)

[2. MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS - SUPERVISOR OF PUBLIC RELATIONS/MARKETING](#)

Attachment: [HRS_Attach_01-09-12_MinQuals_PR-Marketing.pdf](#)

[3. MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS - SUPERVISOR OF DEVELOPMENT](#)

Attachment: [HRS_Attach_01-09-12_MinQuals_Development.pdf](#)

[4. MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS - VIDEO COMMUNICATIONS](#)

Attachment: [HRS_Attach_01-09-12_MinQuals_VideoComm.pdf](#)

Human Resource Services - Professional Standards

[1. SUSPENSIONS WITHOUT PAY](#)

Attachment: [HRS_attach_01-09-12_susp.pdf](#)

Administration and Business Services - Budget and Financial

[1. ADOPTION OF BUDGET RESOLUTIONS](#)

Attachment: [Spreadsheets for Jan Meeting 03.pdf](#)
Attachment: [Narr Jan Board Meeting.pdf](#)

[2. MONTHLY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS](#)

Attachment: [October 2011 Monthly Cash and investment Report.pdf](#)
Attachment: [October 2011 Board Statement Worksheet.pdf](#)

[3. DISTRICT'S FINANCIAL AUDIT FOR THE PERIOD ENDING JUNE 30, 2011, AND THE DISTRICT'S 2011 COMPREHENSIVE ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT \(CAFR\)](#)

Attachment: [2011 CAFR.pdf](#)

[4. NEW SCHOOL INTERNAL ACCOUNTS ACTIVITY SOFTWARE WITH ONLINE PAYMENT CAPABILITIES](#)

Attachment: [BENEFITS AND CHALLENGES SOFTWARE 2011.pdf](#)

Operations - Information Technology

[1. NETWORK MANAGEMENT SOFTWARE MAINTENANCE AND SUPPORT RENEWAL](#)

Attachment: [BENEFITS AND CHALLENGES FORM 1-10-12 CA.pdf](#)

Operations - Real Estate, Planning and Programming

[1. LICENSE AGREEMENT WITH JEA FOR WATER MONITORING WELLS AT JAMES WELDON JOHNSON STUDENT TRAINING CENTER NO. 54](#)

Attachment: [Jan 9 2012 B-C Agenda Item Well Monitoring AgreeJEA forJWJ No 54 11 30 11.pdf](#)

Operations - Facilities Project Design, Construction and Maintenance

[1. DISTRICTWIDE ROOF REPLACEMENT AT VARIOUS SCHOOLS: PHASE III \(CONSTRUCTION\) DOCUMENTS, DCSB PROJECT NO. M-83800, STAGE III](#)

Attachment: [BENEFITS AND CHALLENGES FORM M-83800 Stage III.pdf](#)

[3. MAGNET SCHOOL UPGRADES AT JOHN E. FORD K-8 SCHOOL NO. 154: AMENDMENT NO. ONE TO CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT CONTRACT/ALLSTATE CONSTRUCTION, INC./DCSB PROJECT NO C-91470](#)

Attachment: [Jan 10 2012 B-C Agenda Item C-91470 Amend 1 to Allstate Contract for John E Ford No 154 11 30 11.pdf](#)

[4. CHANGE ORDER REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER 2011](#)

Attachment: [Jan 9 2012 Agenda Item Change Order Report Chart for December 2011 12 14 11.pdf](#)

Attachment: [Jan 9 2012 B-C Agenda Item Change Order Report for the Month of December 2011 11 30 11.pdf](#)

[5. PERIODIC REPORT OF SUBSTANTIAL COMPLETIONS, FINAL INSPECTIONS, ORIGINAL CONTRACT AMOUNT AND NET SUM OF ALL CHANGE ORDERS ON MAJOR MAINTENANCE PROJECTS UNDER \\$1,000,000](#)

Attachment: [Jan 9 2012 B-C Agenda Item CSC-CFI-Cont Sav on Projects under \\$1M Report 11 30 11.pdf](#)

Attachment: [Jan 9 2012 Agenda Item CSC-CFI-Cont Sav on on Proj Chart](#)

[for Dec 2011 12 14 11.pdf](#)

Operations - Purchasing and Logistics

1.SURPLUS PROPERTY RETIREMENT REPORT

Attachment: [04Jan12.pdf](#)
Attachment: [NEW BENEFITS AND CHALLENGES FORM 1-9-11.pdf](#)
Attachment: [ROSUMFY12.pdf](#)
Attachment: [January 2012 W.pdf](#)
Attachment: [RORET FY12.pdf](#)
Attachment: [05Jan12.pdf](#)
Attachment: [06Jan12.doc.pdf](#)

2. STUDENT TRANSPORTATION SERVICES - GSA 5

Attachment: [BID TABULATION SHEET GSA 5.pdf](#)
Attachment: [BENEFITS AND CHALLENGES FORM GSA5.pdf](#)

Minutes: Board Chair Betty Burney said I want to commend the Operations department and to specially thank Mr. Doug Ayars and Mr. Paul Soares for your due diligence in making certain that a group of individuals who are in our community a few years ago, had been displaced and many of them lost all of their livelihood when we privatized. Thanks to your due diligence in holding workshops and encouraging minority participation in this GSA process, we do have minority participation and even though we know that there are so many that could not be made whole, at least there was an attempt to make some of them whole. I do appreciate your due diligence and your hard work and service in that area.

3. ASPHALT SEALCOATING AND STRIPING

Attachment: [B & C - Asphalt Sealcoating and Striping.pdf](#)
Attachment: [ASPHALT SEALCOATING STRIPING.pdf](#)

Discussion

Operations - Facilities Project Design, Construction and Maintenance

2. PRE-QUALIFICATION OF CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTORS FOR EDUCATIONAL PROJECTS

Attachment: [FORM Board Approval - Renewals Jan 9 2012 .pdf](#)

Minutes:

Board Member Becki 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 lists of pre-qualified contractors. - PASS

Vote Results

Motion: William Gentry
Second: Fred Lee

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

Board Member Travel

[BOARD MEMBERS TRAVEL](#)

Minutes:

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

January 25-27, 2012 - FSBA 25th Annual Day in the Legislature - Tallahassee, FL
Barrett, Couch, Gentry, Lee and Wright

February 22-24, 2012 - FSBA Certified Board Member (CBM) Program Training Module - Ocala, FL - Lee

April 19-23, 2012 - NSBA 72nd Annual Conference - Boston, MA - Couch

Motions:

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

- January 25-27, 2012 - FSBA 25th Annual Day in the Legislature - Tallahassee, FL - Couch, Gentry, Lee, Wright - PASS
- February 22-24, 2012 - FSBA Certified Board Member (CBM) Program Training Module - Ocala, FL - Lee
- April 19-23, 2012 - NSBA 72nd Annual Conference - Boston, MA - Couch

Vote Results

Motion: Thomas Hazouri

Second: Martha Barrett

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

Superintendent's Travel

[SUPERINTENDENT'S TRAVEL](#)

Minutes:

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

Superintendent:

February 1-3, 2012 - FADSS Winter Leadership Conference - Tallahassee, FL

April 12-13, 2012 - American Association of School Administrators (AASA) - Invitation Only event (Focus on What Matters Most: Making School Improvements a Reality) - New York, New York NOTE: Expenses will be reimbursed to the district.

Motions:

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

- February 1-3, 2012 - FADSS Winter Leadership Conference - Tallahassee, FL
- April 12-13, 2012 - American Association of School Administrators (AASA) Invitation Only Event (Focus on What Matters Most: Making School Improvement a Reality - New York, New York - NOTE: Expenses will be reimbursed to the District - PASS

Vote Results

Motion: Martha Barrett

Second: Thomas Hazouri

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

For The Record

FOR THE RECORD

Minutes:

WJCT CHANNEL 7 RECOGNITION:

Board Chair Betty Burney said I would like to give special recognition tonight to WJCT Channel 7. It has come to my attention that this is the last night that WJCT will do a live broadcast for us. We'd like to thank you so very much for the partnership and for all you have done to make our citizens in Jacksonville aware of what took place at our Duval County School Board meetings. Would everyone please join me in giving WJCT a hand.

Superintendent, would you please explain to the public very briefly what will take place now that WJCT is no longer there. I don't want the viewing audience to think that we're having a break in service.

Mr. Pratt-Dannals said we'll be taking over the production of the Board meetings so they will still be available. I'll ask Ms. Johnson, in Communications, to describe the specifics and channels.

Ms. Jill Johnson, Executive Director for Communications, said the meetings will remain live on Comcast as they are now on Channel 99 but they will also be available on your website. There will be a link and as soon as we get it, we'll put it on our website so people will be able to find out where to go and we'll promote this through all of our channels but it will be so that you can look at it via the web. People who currently have AT&T Uverse, DishNetwork or some other satellite providers were not able to watch it live, either.

FOR THE RECORD:

Mr. W. C. Gentry said I'd like to commend the Superintendent for his leadership over the past four years that has brought this district to where we are now. We're seeing the fruits of your hard labor and the policies set by this Board but it has been through your leadership and direction, I think, that we're seeing the huge movement in this district. Education reform takes time and alot of people seem to forget that. It's very clear that we're on the right course and if we stay the course, this is truly going to become one of the greatest urban districts in the nation. You should be very proud; your staff should be very proud and certainly these principals, teachers and most of all, our students who are not only achieving but are the beneficiaries. I wanted to commend you for your leadership. The news has been great and we should celebrate it and we should ignore the few "naysayers" who can always find something cynical to say and celebrate the great things that are happening. The graduation rate and school grades are just two things that stand out and there has been so much during the last few months. It's a very exciting time and I'm glad to be on the Board and participate in the good times as well as some of the rugged times.

This Board has had to make some hard decisions this last year and I want to, again, commend you and Ms. Burney for her leadership with the difficult decision involving one of our school principals. It was absolutely the right decision and I commend our Board and unequivocally supporting the decision you made and it is made and so, we're moving on. Hopefully, those few people who still continue to question it will accept and be supportive of their school as Ms. Burney has suggested to them. I know it hasn't been easy and no one likes to make those hard decisions but it was the right one. Maybe it's just the lawyer in me but I have to say, that grand larceny is not a prank and perjury is not a gray area nor is it one that involves discretion, even a principal. Those are crimes and wrongful acts that require punishment. Thank you.

Ms. Martha Barrett complimented the Superintendent, staff, teachers and principals for the wonderful grades we received. Present and past Board members do make tough decisions and back in 2005 when we decided to add more rigor to the graduation requirements and it was the right thing then and a tough decision. We must keep it up.

I enjoyed being at Lake Lucina and I thank Mr. Ayars and his people for the new playground over there. They have waited a long time and it is well deserved and we appreciate it. Thank you.

Mr. Tommy Hazouri said I tag along with Mr. Gentry and Ms. Barrett. Ms. Burney, I want to thank you for the meeting you held last week at Raines High School; well done and well controlled and as you suggested, we need to move on. We want Raines and all of the students to achieve from elementary through high school. You did an outstanding job and we appreciate the community and the northwest community but we know we have a job to do and we still have Andrew Jackson, my alma mater, to deal with. I'm seeing everything to start to gel and that is what is really important. You can't turn this education system around on a dime. We depend on the legislature and the Department of Education. We haven't made up all of the dollars we've lost.

The three schools that received A's in spite of what we heard tonight, I'm really proud of the successes of all of our schools, particularly, our high schools. Robert E. Lee High, all the struggles they go through with huge school construction. Their "topping off" is this Thursday, January 12 at 11:30 am.

Condolences to Richard Cohee's family who went to Jackson but more importantly, he worked for the school system; Police and Fire Pension Fund; worked for me as mayor and several other mayors in Finance. He set a standard and integrity was his main thrust. You could always depend on Dick. He passed away unexpectedly at the age of 59 last week and we do offer our condolences.

Mr. Fel Lee said thank you to the Superintendent, your staff and the entire Duval County Public Schools organization, teachers, paras...everyone who touches a child each and every day and thank you for a job well done this year. We know we still have a long way to go but it's good to reflect and step back and celebrate the accomplishments. I appreciate the time that you have given to say "thank you" to your staff and organization.

Thank you to the Chairman for your leadership; to Board member Wright and several others for your leadership with our priority schools. You have been very diligent with

all you are doing and it's very much appreciated. We know it's been a tough year but I'm extremely excited about this year seeing much coming together.

I want to express my condolences to the Baker family.

Ms. Paula Wright said I'm elated about the success that our high schools have particularly have received and they've earned it and deserve it. It's not just about the high schools; it's about our community. It's not just about the northside community or the southside community - it's Jacksonville. So, when we do good, all of us - it's a positive reflect on all of us.

I'd like to take this opportunity to congratulate our Superintendent, all of the Cluster Chiefs, district staff, students and teachers. One of the celebrations that I attended , DTU representatives were there. It was a true partnership with many coming together to share in the good news. That's what it is all about - to bring it all together for the whole child. I'm just appreciative of all the effort and particularly to the Board members here as well as others before us who paved the way by having another vision to increase the rigor in our high school acceleration programs. That is one of the reasons why we are celebrating right now. Thank you, thank you and let's keep focused and remain vigilant about the FCAT in February and FCAT Florida Writes and then the FCAT in April because we need continued progress. So, thank you, each and everyone who had any part in helping our high schools to achieve the scores that they did.

Ms. Becki Couch said I would like to add to the congratulatory comments that were made tonight and Wednesday. Thank you to the Superintendent, the district staff, administrators, teachers and students for all of their hard work and improving the high school grades this year. Dr. Carolyn Girardeau and her team for the high school programs have done an outstanding job implementing programs for our high school students that provide college and career training which is part of the school grade. Often times we hear the negative "nay sayers" that show up here. In the past, it was only 9th and 10th graders really that counted and 11th grade science and now we county every child in high school which is a more holistic approach to grading the school. That needs to be communicated to people.

I'd also like to thank Elaine Mann who is now retired and was in charge of high school programs. Much of her hard work and vision helped our schools increase their grades this year.

Anyone who wants to find out more in how we got to the point we are with our high school grades, maybe they should show up at Magnet Mania and More so they can actually talk with the students, see their work, see the work of the administrators and the district staff and then get an appreciation of the great things that are happening in our district. I invite everyone out to Magnet Mania in a couple of weeks.

Ms. Betty Burney said I'd like to thank Pastor Ted Corley for the timely prayers he sends to us every month. Thank you so much; we need them and will continue to need them and appreciate it.

To the Superintendent and the staff, I echo the sentiments of my fellow Board members - a job well done! This was hard work. My favorite two words in the dictionary - "Believe" and I used to wear a pin that I lost that said "Believe" which is a powerful word. We believed in 2005 to move our students and we continue to believe that it can. The other word is "Empowerment" - with this momentum that we see now, we can empower our students and once they're empowered, the possibilities are endless.

I'd like to say a special "thank you" to Councilwoman Denise Lee who partnered with me and the "I'm A Star" Foundation. In December, we were able to provide 1,000 sheets and blankets to the homeless. So, thank you to all of you who assisted in that endeavor.

As we talk about moving on and moving forward, I'd like you to join William M. Raines High School for the "MLK, Jr. Day of Service" (Martin Luther King, Jr.) that will be put on by the students Friday, January 13, 2012 at 1:00 pm.

Adjournment

[ADJOURNMENT](#)

Minutes:

The meeting adjourned at 7:31 p.m.

Isd

Superintendent

Chairman