



Duval County Public Schools

July 1, 2014, Regular Board Meeting

Ms. Becki Couch, Chairman
Ms. Cheryl Grymes, Vice-Chairman
Mr. Jason Fischer
Dr. Constance S. Hall
Ms. Ashley Smith Juarez
Mr. Fred "Fel" Lee
Mr. Ms. Paula D. Wright

ATTENDANCE AT THIS REGULAR MEETING OF THE DUVAL COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD: All Board Members were present. Dr. Nikolai Vitti, Superintendent, and Ms. Karen Chastain, Chief of Legal Services, were also 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 Steve Hall gave the invocation.

Pledge of Allegiance

[PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE](#)

Minutes:

Presentations

Board Members

[1. BOARD MEMBER RESOLUTION - MS. ESTELLE MCKISSICK](#)

Minutes:

Duval County School Board
Paula Wright, Board Member

Ms. Wright introduced Ms. McKissick to the audience and expressed her joy in being able to present the following Resolution to her in honor of her 50 years of service in education.

Resolution read: See attached.

After summarizing her experiences with Ms. McKissick over the years from the time she was a young child, Ms. Wright read a letter from the Honorable Congress Member Corrine Brown.

The letter reads as follows: See Attached

Mrs. McKissick then addressed the Board and public to summarize her past 50 years of service in education and her appreciation for her recognition.

Photos were taken at this time.

Communications

[1. GREEN CHAMPIONS](#)

Minutes:

Dr. Vitti and Board Member Jason Fischer helped present the following awards:

Marsha Oliver, Assistant Superintendent
Duval County Public Schools Communications

- Duval County Public Schools recognizes the importance of green practices and sustainability.
- Since 2010, it has participated in the Green Champions program led by DCPS' Energy Department.
- Each school identifies a staff member to serve as its "Green Champion" with the responsibility of promoting energy efficient behavior among its students and employees.
- Objectives of Green Champions include reducing cost by eliminating waste and conserving natural resources; incorporating sustainability into the curriculum; facilitating recycling programs at their schools; and managing site-based green teams that conduct green-themed activities throughout the year. These persons, who lead these initiatives voluntarily, also consistently identify opportunities to save energy and water at their school.
- During the past four years, energy and water consumption throughout the district have declined by more than 35 percent, and recycling quantities have increased while solid waste has decreased.
- The Green Champions program was also instrumental in Duval County Public Schools earning Florida's Best Green School District Award in 2012 and Florida's Sustainability Legacy Award in 2013.
- Each year, the district recognizes Green Champions whose leadership and support of their school's efforts have been successful.
- Joining us to make presentations to the Green Champion Award winners is Susan Carew, Director of Facility Engineering and Energy.
- Congratulations to the following winners:

Gold Level winners:

Robert Graver, Palm Avenue Exceptional Student Education Center

Unable to attend:

Colleen Iacuzzo, San Pablo Elementary School

Emma Arraya, Arlington Heights Elementary School

Jackie Weaver, Enterprise Elementary School

Margaret McCoy, Westview K8

Platinum Level winners:

Coy Trawick and, James Weldon Johnson College Preparatory Middle School with principal, Sharwonda Peek

Marcia Rivas, Twin Lakes Elementary School

Amanda Polematidis, Landmark Middle School

Unable to attend:

Mary Mott, also from James Weldon Johnson College Preparatory Middle School

Steve Sherrill, Sandalwood High School

2013-14 Green Champion of the Year:

- Teresa Gregson, Thomas Jefferson Elementary School

2. WEST POINT ACADEMY

Minutes:

- Duval County Public Schools' students and educators benefit greatly from outstanding community and business support of its mission to ensure that students are prepared for college, a career, and life.
- One such partner worked for nearly two years to provide unique opportunities to hundreds of students.
- The West Point Society of North Florida (WPSNF), an organization of graduates and friends of the acclaimed West Point Academy, has partnered with Duval County Public Schools in serving students in two middle schools.
- Members of the organization brought the West Point Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics or STEM Mobile Unit to Northwestern and Eugene Butler middle schools, where students built and programmed robots.
- They also sponsored the airfare for two students and a parent to travel to New York City for the West Point STEM Summer Workshop.
- Tonight, we express our gratitude to WPSNF who work so passionately and diligently in creating quality education opportunities for Duval County students.
- Join us in recognizing the representatives of the West Point Society of North Florida, William Brown and Andre Wright.

4. UNITED WAY CAMPAIGN RECOGNITIONS

Minutes:

- United Way of Northeast Florida has been a key contributor to improved lives and communities with a variety of services and programs that support Duval students.
- United Way has partnered with Duval County Public Schools and Duval Teachers United for many years.
- Tonight, we are delighted to recognize the outstanding Duval Schools that generously supported the annual United Way campaign.
- Joining us to share more about the campaign and introduce the winners is United Way of Northeast Florida's Executive Director of Philanthropic Outreach, Connie Hodges.
- (Accompanying her are Michelle Braun, CEO of United Way of Northeast Florida; Gracie Simendinger, United Way of Northeast Florida Manager of

Resource Development; and Terri Cicero, Duval County Public Schools' Director of Wellness.)

3. WELLNESS AWARD

Minutes:

When launching its strategic plan, DCPS identified developing the whole child as a key focus area.

- Healthy choices and behaviors are integral to this development, prompting Duval County to implement a program that promotes healthy eating choices, nutrition education, and physical activity.
- The Wellness Awareness Program encourages schools to develop a wellness plan and document their work in creating a healthy environment.
- At the end of the year, schools can submit the plan for an opportunity for consideration for the Wellness Awareness Program Award.
- This year, four Duval County schools are award recipients – two honorable mentions and two winners. Awards include cash prizes of \$1,500 and \$3,500, respectively, to be used toward enhancing each schools wellness program.
- Schools were selected based on their promotion of the district's wellness policy, program creativity, participation of students, sustainability, and overall quality of events and activities.
- The district's Wellness Director, Terri Cicero, has the list of this year's winners.

5. EMPLOYEE EXCELLENCE AWARD

Minutes: Up next, we have a special presentation to be made by former Board member and founder of the I'm A Star Foundation, Betty Seabrook-Burney. Mrs. Burney, welcome.

6. EVE AWARD RECIPIENT

Minutes: The final presentation of the evening recognizes an educator whose talent, commitment, and creativity have earned her recognition by students, peers, and the community.

- Kelly Delaney has been sharing her passion for the arts in the education field for nearly 20 years with the past 14 years in Jacksonville.
- She currently teaches three-dimensional art and sculpture at Atlantic Coast High School while also serving as the chairman of the school's fine and performing arts department.
- Ms. Delaney is known for inspiring learning among students by combining

art and community service in the classroom.

- A few of the community service projects she's led with students include providing bowls to the annual Empty Bowls fundraiser, creating painted banners for annual events at the Prime Osborne, and donating artwork to the Jacksonville Humane Society.
- Last year, her innovation and commitment earned her grants from Walmart, Target, and CVS to enhance the art culture and experiences for students at Atlantic Coast High School.
- For all of these good deeds and many more, Ms. Delaney was chosen as the 2014 winner of the EVE Award for Education, one of northeast Florida and southeast Georgia's most prestigious honors.
- Join us as we congratulate her tonight. Welcome Kelly Delaney, recipient of the 2014 EVE Award for Education.

Comments From Audience

COMMENTS FROM AUDIENCE

Minutes:

Tamara Williams, Principal of Young Women's Leadership Academy
Truitte Moreland, Principal of Young Men's Leadership Academy

The two principals shared letters they drafted for prospective students. The letters gave insight to the two academies.

- First single gender school designed to meet student needs through a gender-based approach
- Leadership courses will help define leadership and apply leadership skills
- Three pillars for the Young Women's Leadership Academy--Scholarship, Success and Socialization
- Three pillars for the Young Men's Leadership Academy--Honor, Scholarship and Service
- Leadership courses will included seminars, debate, technology enhanced curricula, field experiences
- Student will develop leadership traits, problem solving skills and a focus on community service

Jason Bloom, Principal
Joseph Stilwell Military Academy of Leadership

Mr. Bloom helped the public gain a better understanding of the academy by giving the following information about it:

- All students will take a leadership course

- It will expose students to all branches of the military
- It will develop self discipline, leadership, citizenship and a sense of civic responsibility
- The cadet manual will outline an honor code as well as establish ranking systems and expectations for academic excellence.
- Students will receive exposure to the arts and music and participate in a military themed PT.

There is a desire to dispel any misconceptions:

- It will not be a boot camp or reform school
- Students won't have rifles nor will they be marching

To attend, parents must agree to the military theme and purchase of the school uniform. All uniforms must be purchased through the school's website to maintain a sense of uniformity.

Mr. Blooms wants to thank everyone for the opportunity to lead the school. They are receiving calls daily from people excited about the school and parents can call the school to schedule tours.

Chairman Becki Couch asked Dr. Vitti if he could explain to anyone watching how they would go through the process of going to any of the schools mentioned by the speakers. Dr. Vitti explained parents can either contact the schools directly, call the School Choice office or go to the school website to get more information. Parents simply opt in to attend. Students don't have to be zoned for the school area.

Gail Cullum, Director
Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University Dual Enrollment Program

This dual enrollment program provides students with a collegiate model of aerospace education to introduce them to jobs in the aerospace, aviation and other science, technology, engineering and math related fields. Our in class mantra--Be the best part of their school day; the most interesting, the most relevant. Our goal is to help our students visualize and embrace a science and engineering based future for themselves. Our program opened August 2013 at Paxon with two professors, seven classes and 178 students. Based on the strength of our fall semester at Paxon, the program grew to 13 Duval schools and 15 college professors in January. We've had quite a semester! Together with Embry-Riddle Assistant Director Kelley Barrera and strong support from Duval County's Director of Acceleration Program Wendy Dunlap, we provided Embry-Riddle unmanned aircraft systems and military history courses to 1015 Duval County high school students. These 55 classes provided the opportunity for each of these students to earn three free college credits. Students enrolled in unmanned aircraft

learned to program an iPad and fly an AR drone. Four of our Duval professors were sent to international conferences in Orlando as part of their continuing professional development. Thanks to Rama Thompson of WJCT, students from Terry Parker were interviewed on NPR twice. Four students from Forrest, Jackson and Mandarin experienced an airplane flight with an Embry-Riddle flight student and instructor. This was part of an all expense paid overnight college trip and finally, out of 3500 aerospace career academy high school students throughout the state of Florida, only 12 were selected to received the prestigious Embry-Riddle summer camp scholarships. Three of these were from Duval. Danesha Whitmore and Jonathan Smith from Raines and Joshua Etkins from Mandarin each received a \$900 scholarship to the Aviation Career Exploration Camp at Embry-Riddle in Daytona Beach which was last week. Like I said--we've had quite a semester! To tell you what happens next, I'd like to introduce you to the Assistant Director, Kelly Barrera.

Kelly Barrera, Assistant Director

Good evening. Currently we have three Duval County schools who are doing dual enrollment courses this summer; that's at Lee High School, at Sandalwood High School and also at Terry Parker. They are going to be completing these courses in Principles of Aeronautical Science, and in Military History in July. In the fall we're looking forward to adding two extra schools; one at Baldwin and also one at Fletcher High School bringing our total number of schools to 15 and our total number of professors to over 20. The other schools that we will continue serving will be Ed White, Englewood, First Coast, Fletcher, Lee again, Mandarin, Westside and also Wolfson. Not to forget Raines and Ribault and Jackson, Sandalwood and Terry Parker. We are also going to be offering some new courses this year. That will include Introduction to Engineering, Aviation Legislation and Fundamentals of Computer Programming. I'd like to close our update for you this evening with a quote from Dr. Don Johnson, President of Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University. He states, "The premise of Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University Aerospace Academy Program is simple: To provide rigorous, stem related courses and prepare high school students for college while giving them a clear pathway to college graduation and high paying jobs in a thrilling and dynamic industry." We look forward to continuing our relationship with Duval County Public Schools in the fall and we would like to take this moment to thank again Wendy Dunlap, Larry Rozier, and also we'd like to thank Andrew Post for their continued support.

Pastor R.L. Gundy

As a pastor and community leader, he is here to express his support of Item #5 on the agenda under the Academic Services category. The revisions to the Student Code of Conduct is long overdue and needed. As a former educator, one of his reasons for leaving that field was because of the zero tolerance attitude in the school system that targeted youth unfairly. After examining the proposed Code of Conduct, he sees that it provides consistency, gives a tool to principals and provides clarity to parents. He also has a concern about a proposal that includes the term "stand your ground" for the Code of Conduct. Stand Your Ground already provides legalized murder and violates the principle of non-violence and conflict resolution. Leave Stand Your Ground out, leave it alone, it's not needed. This is the best Student Code of Conduct book seen in

this district. You've done a great job putting it together--don't mess with it. The only thought he has which might make it better is to add conflict resolution to it. Approve it as proposed and move forward.

Kathy Smoot, Foster Parent

She and her husband researched school ratings and chose to build on the northside because of the high rating of Sheffield Elementary School. After moving, they learned the school would not take their foster children because of physical challenges. The district allowed one student to go to Sandalwood and bussed the other to Biscayne. After one year, they used the McKay scholarship to place students in private school. In 2010, both students attended North Florida School Special Ed. After explaining the physical obstacles of both students, she revealed they can no longer afford to keep the children in private school. Both children will have to be put in public school. Transportation is scheduled to arrive extremely early but the nurse cannot arrive at 4:30 a.m. to get children ready in time for the early pick up. Can anything be done to help their situation?

Dr. Vitti directed Mrs. Smoot to a staff member who would be able to help them.

Lawrence Hills, Director

Duval County Teen Court/Neighborhood Accountability Boards

The proposed policy for the Student Code of Conduct ranks among one of the best in the state. The revision effort included educators, mental health and substance abuse providers, law enforcement, faith-based providers, local and state legislative representatives and even parents of students. The end product shows improvement in the way in which it reads to lay individuals, it has more clarity and gives examples and scenarios to help with clarity. It reduces redundancy. The district has taken a good product and made it great. There is separation between elementary and secondary schools, which was critical. He is in full support of the Student Code of Conduct proposals.

Samuel Hall, Board Member

The Bridge of Northeast Florida

Introduced Shariffa Spicer, CEO of The Bridge of Northeast Florida

She acknowledged and thanked the hard work of the community leaders in the room such as Estelle McKissick and Connie Hodges. Their efforts have an impact on our students. She recognized Dr. Vitti, Andrew Post, Dana Kriznar and Principal Pamela Davis as enriching the students in The Bridge to Success (BTS) program. The program is a partnership with The Bridge of Northeast Florida, Communities in Schools and the I'm a Star program reaching students who are behind two years academically and not striving. The Bridge has been offering the community wonderful services dating back over 30 years. She thanked everyone for all their hard work to support The Bridge. Their litany--We are The Bridge, we care about each other and we will never be alone.

Pam Paul, Executive Vice President
Jacksonville Public Education Fund

She was there to commend the district for their inclusiveness of the community and revision to the Student Code of Conduct. As a participant in the committee, she is in agreement with those comments given earlier. The nine month process was transparent, diverse, inclusive and produced a high-quality product. The code should be clearer to families and teachers. Well done on partnering with the Bridge, I'm a Star and CIS. Dr. Vitti is drawing on the academic expertise of the district and the expertise of the community for development and social/emotional support.

Bill Hodges
Communities in School (CIS)

He thanked Dr. Vitti for allowing CIS to be a part of the Bridge to Success program. Also thanked Andrew Post and Dana Kriznar for guidance. Students in the program have many issues: homelessness, hunger, lack of proper clothing, medical coverage, abuse/neglect, violence in their community but they look to the positive rather than the negative to improve attendance, academics to insure promotion and increase self worth/esteem. CIS was awarded a \$71,000 grant in part from Juvenile Justice to put in a pilot after-school program at Westside High School in hopes that it's success will allow expansion in future years. He closed with a quote by one of the students about the BTS program. He said, "Mrs. Brown has helped me become more motivated. She has helped me build my confidence, she keeps me on track, she has helped me obtain my Social Security card so that I will be able to get my state ID to apply to schools and jobs. Mrs. Brown listens to me and provides me with advice. She even helped me develop my hobby of surfing by giving me a used surf board that I repaired to use this summer." That is the definition of wrap-around services.

Gretchen Lynch, Past President
Duval County Council of PTA

She served on the Safety and Discipline Task Force Committee. In this, her third year serving on the Student Code of Conduct committee, she was thrilled to see the room full of not only people who regularly served, but new ones from other community groups as well. She served on the Level 2 Violation Committee and saw it yield the progressive discipline, restorative justice, engaging the parent and easy to read code and insuring that students are treated the same without regard to the school they are attending. All committees reconvened to combine their reports into the final draft which is what will be voted on tonight.

Diallo-Seko Seabrooks

He is here to support the new Student Code of Conduct which shows a progressive move, shutting the doors to the prison pipeline treating each individual as an individual without regard to race.

Comments From Parent Organizations

[COMMENTS FROM PARENT ORGANIZATIONS](#)

Minutes:

Margaret Godke, President
Duval County Council of PTA

This month many of our local unit leaders and DCCPTA board members will be traveling to our Florida PTA Leadership workshop and convention. We will take time to gather with PTA leaders from across the state and take classes to build our leadership and advocacy capacity.

July is a busy month for our PTA treasurers who are completing their end of year audit reports to be turned into their school bookkeepers. PTA's must complete their local unit officer forms for Florida PTA to receive their membership cards and to be on record as an active PTA.

At this time, we have completed two of our President's and Treasurer's Required Training sessions. Two additional summer opportunities are available at branch locations of the Jacksonville Public Library on July 30 at the South Mandarin branch and August 12 at the Highlands branch.

Our first General Meeting of the new school year will be Tuesday, August 19 here in the Cline Auditorium at 10:00 a.m.; all are welcome.

Comments From Employee Organizations

[COMMENTS FROM EMPLOYEE ORGANIZATIONS](#)

Minutes: There were no employee organizations at the meeting.

Chairman's Report

[CHAIRMAN'S REPORT](#)

Minutes:

Becki Couch, Board Chairman
Duval County School Board

According to board policy 2.13 RESPONSIBILITIES AND AUTHORITY OF THE BOARD, SECTION IV--ANNUAL PLANNING AND EVALUATION

- a. Set explicit priorities as a Board for Board professional development annually

Recently the board has received professional development on various topics from Florida School Boards Association (FSBA) and Center for Reform of School Systems (CRSS). This professional development is crucial to the performance of this district. It allows board members to become familiar with best budgeting practices, how to properly communicate with constituents and keeps us abreast of the latest education and legislation and how it impacts our district. During the FSBA training we received timely information regarding several bills that went into effect today that have a significant impact on our district. Some of these bills include SB 1642 which allows for a one-year transition for the new Florida Standards Common Core as well as includes ELL students in the school grade calculation after two years of being enrolled in a school. SB 850 which will repeal the Special Diploma, creates a new voucher called a Personal Learning Account, and increases the number of students eligible for the Step Up for Students Voucher. This bill will have a significant impact on our ESE students and the services that are provided to them.

During our CRSS training the board was trained on Effective Board meetings, Focused Board Agendas, and Effective Committee Structures. We reviewed the role of the board regarding management oversight, strategic budgeting, and the importance of the board adopting their own core beliefs and commitments. Our board has a commitment to be the most effective board possible by refining our skills and we are able to do this through professional development. Board Member Fel Lee and I have recently received the Certified Board member Distinction from Florida School Boards Association for 96 points of professional development with awareness in key areas such as boardsmanship, school finance, state/federal legislation, school law and policymaking/policy oversight.

Congratulations Mr. Lee!

Superintendent's Report

[SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT](#)

Minutes:

Dr. Nikolai Vitti, Superintendent
Duval County Public Schools

I just want to use the Superintendent's report to give an overview of the changes that were made to the Student Code of Conduct (SCC). Obviously, we had talked about this already in the workshop but I thought it was an opportunity for the public to see just, generally speaking, the changes that are being recommended based on the recommendations from the Task Force. I'll start the presentation in going very broad about successes that I think we had this year regarding discipline and then also, I talked about some areas of improvement.

One, when we look at successes, I think it was a part of this Code of Conduct Task Force. We had about 60 to 70 individuals on the Task Force. That group met four times in a large group and then 13 times in subcommittees to review the one through four violations so I think we made a tremendous step forward in being more inclusive and engaging the community broadly on multiple levels from district personnel, school based personnel, parents, students, community-based organizations, non-profit organizations across the county. As many of you know, we placed deans at all of our secondary schools this year, that means middle schools and high schools, and we did that to allow for one individual to take ownership of the implementation of the Code of Conduct and then build relationships with students that are especially what we all call repeat offenders; those that are often in trouble. We also created In School Suspension Program (ISSP) in every middle school and high school so that we would have an in house alternative to outdoor suspension. We continue to build the capacity of our administrators and deans in progressive discipline. We'll talk more about that in a minute.

We had this year's Code of Conduct reviewed, 2013-2014, reviewed by all student twice, at the beginning of the year and at the middle of the year to ensure that our students truly understood what the infraction was and the consequence and I think we talked about the changes which will be much clearer to them. Overall, we reduced outdoor suspensions and indoor suspensions. We have a chart on that I'll show in a minute. We also reduced student arrests, despite not being able to use civil citations for misdemeanor battery, which is ultimately a fight and we started to include the Parent Academy. Part of the Parent Academy works with the Code of Conduct in general so we could engage parents at a greater level. This is a simple graphic that shows that over the past year, we had been successful in reducing the amount of indoor and outdoor suspensions. If you look at outdoor suspension, we did reduce it by about 10% as compared to last year and this is total base. And then by about 34% if you look at indoor suspensions. I think this is an important time to take a minute to discuss numbers. There is nothing about these numbers that are linked to principal evaluations. There's not a quota that principals have to abide by. Generally speaking, this about a change in culture which is that you do need to have firm consequences for behavior but at the same time you have to build a relationship with students and problem solve as to why bad decisions are being made by children so they don't repeat that same bad decision. There was no mandate. There was no decree to reduce outdoor/indoor suspension but any research will indicate that an increase in outdoor suspension or in school suspension does not lead to student achievement. In fact, it's the opposite. So the more you create the culture where there are clear consequences with an opportunity to problem solve, is when you start to reduce those numbers. We have more work to do. The evidence of improvement is not necessarily in reduction of numbers but certainly an increase in numbers does not also indicate that you're moving in the right direction. Often people look at these numbers and indicate well, if

numbers are increasing then we're being firmer regarding expectations of conduct. It's actually the way that you create a safe learning environment, it's being very clear with what proper behavior looks like in creating clear consistent and fair implementation of consequences, not linked to numbers one way or the other but ultimately, when you do look at research, lower rates of outdoor suspensions and indoor suspensions indicate, especially when coupled with increases in student achievement, that the culture is being developed with children who clearly understand the difference between wrong and right and when they do make the wrong decisions, there's an adult that's working with them to make the better decision moving forward. This is a snapshot of where we are with arrests this year. We were able to reduce the amount of arrests by about 13% and this is, I think, a tremendous work on behalf of Chief Kauffman and his officers. He deserves a lot of the credit and his officers, especially when you consider a misdemeanor battery could not lead to a civil citation. So those numbers could have been lower. Again, no quota linked to this. It's not on Chief Kauffman's evaluation, but as we've been saying over and over again--we cannot arrest or suspend our way out of problems.

Now we have to get at the core root as to why children are making the decisions that they're making, even when negative, and move the behavior in a new and positive direction. So the Task Force went about a gap analysis of our previous Code of Conduct. One area that was highlighted was the need to distinguish between an elementary code of conduct and secondary code of conduct. We know that children, when they're younger in the more formative years, are able to understand or, we have to take ownership of teaching children right from wrong and simply giving them outdoor suspension or using more punitive measures early on does not necessarily lead to positive behaviors so there was a need to create a distinction between the elementary and secondary code of conduct. We also had to be clear with implementation of an infraction to consequence. Now that happens through leadership at the school level and through consistency but the document itself, the Code of Conduct itself, can lead to better implementation of consistency if the identification of the consequences are clearly articulated and outlined coupled with clear consequences.

One challenge that we had in the previous Code of Conduct is that a certain infraction in one school could lead to discipline that looked very different from the same infraction at another school, so we wanted to create consistency but at the same time leave flexibility for administrators to make decisions based on the infraction that took place. We obviously wanted to incorporate a more progressive discipline model so that there are clear consequences for infractions but we're scaffolding the severity of those consequences based on the infraction and frequency of the action where we believe that when students make the wrong decisions, there's an opportunity to teach children how to make the right decisions, not just penalize them in the use of a punitive model. In addition to that, we had to be clear, and this is about training in implementation as well, in what needs to happen at the classroom level regarding classroom management before referrals are written to deans and assistant principals. When we talk about next steps we'll talk more about CHAMP training.

There was a lot of redundancy and duplicative areas in the Code of Conduct. A lot of infractions were repetitive and that lead to confusion. We also had to do a better job of differentiating with fighting. This has been an issue that certainly has been at the

forefront of our school district over the past year and a half and I think beyond that, our previous Code of Conduct was a "one size fits all" approach to fighting by labeling all fighters as mutual combatants. We all know that there are different causes and effects to fighting. Oftentimes there is a clear victim and there is a clear perpetrator. Other times there are two individuals that premeditatedly decide to fight before, obviously, a fight occurs. Oftentimes, there are students who react to being attacked, and then a fight occurs. The former Code of Conduct puts them all in the same boat or bucket and the consequences were equal for both and there needed to be a distinction. In this proposed Code of Conduct, it delineates and identifies consequences for a perpetrator, for someone responding to an attack, a mutual combat and more of a dispute that doesn't lead to actual fights. So now when these interactions occur in our school, the school site administrators will have the leeway and the language to deal properly with different incidences.

The use of electronic devices--we have to become, I believe and the Task Force believes, much firmer on the use of electronic devices. We want to promote a culture of technology and the use of technology through bringing your own device but that should be contained to the classroom--not outside of those classroom walls. So although our previous policy did not allow for the use of devices in schools, many times they were infrequently or inconsistently applied. Moving into the '14-'15 school year, children can bring electronic devices to school, whether it's a cell phone or iphone or an ipad but they can only use it for educational purposes. If they need to make a phone call and it's emergency related, they have to get permission from a principal or school personnel to use it. They cannot use it in the hallways, they cannot use it at lunch in the cafeteria. It has to be approved use. In addition to that, we are very clear that the use of a device in a premeditative way to record a fight could lead to consequences similar to even being involved in a fight. In addition, if a device is used to record a fight, even if it was not premeditative, that could be grounds for consequences as well. What was linked to the electronic device conversation was that we do not want to perpetuate a culture that social media is used to promote violence or to sensationalize violence. At the same time, we want to protect the use of technology in our classrooms, especially with a student's own device, but not in a way that perpetuates violence.

There was also a need to distinguish between the possession of alcohol and tobacco and the sale of alcohol and tobacco and that is clearly outlined in the Code of Conduct.

So next step--the Code of Conduct is a vehicle for better implementation of practices and strategies that lead to a safe learning environment. It is not a silver bullet. So all of our challenges in Duval County Public Schools do not go away with a better Code of Conduct but it is a step in that direction and it leads to the opportunity for a more consistency of implementation regarding discipline and safety. So the next steps is to train our deans and ISSP teachers in the new Code of Conduct. Each school, moving forward, will also create a school wide discipline plan which will be created, in partnership with teachers, parents and students. Coupled with the discipline plan will be foundations. Planning with foundations has always been in the district, the PBS plan (Positive Behavior Support), and that's an opportunity to clearly define what positive behavior is. Too often we focus on negative behavior and we're not talking about what positive behavior looks like so that would be emphasized at every school. We will insure, moving forward, that when students are going to ISSP which is in-school

suspension, we have a--what we call the return policy which is as students are returning to the classroom, they meet with a guidance counselor, that ISSP teacher is problem solving with the students to understand what exactly happened and that we accomplish resolution after there is conflict between students so that there is peace moving forward to going back to the regular school environment where we use preplanning, early release and faculty meetings to train everybody on the Code of Conduct. Not mentioned on this slide will be a uniformed referral process and form. We will have one form that will be uniform throughout the entire district and then, hopefully, if we move into a portal system, we will be able to issue referrals electronically so that they can be stamped as submitted and then clearly defined at what is the consequence for those referrals. We'll continue to reinforce foundations in CHAMP training. All of our specialists, those are district level coaches, in reading, math and science have been trained on CHAMP over the summer. We will continue CHAMP training district wide and we will also make sure that our school based administrators are trained in CHAMP. It talked earlier about the school wide discipline plan coupled with the PBS plan and then lastly, we did use some cultural sensitivity training district wide but we will go deeper with our deans, our ISSP teachers and our SRO's moving into next school year.

Reports

Approval of Agenda

[APPROVAL OF THE JULY 1, 2014, AGENDA](#)

Motions:

That the Duval County School Board approve the July 1, 2014, Agenda as submitted on June 24, 2014, with the following changes:

1. Presentations - Communications -
Item 6 - Eve Award Recipient -
Added Item
2. Academic Services - Item 1 - Focus
Acquisition and Implementation -
Revised Agenda Item; Revised
Attachments
3. Academic Services - Item 5 - Public
Hearing and Approval of Revisions to
the Code of Student Conduct -
Revised Attachments
4. Human Resource Services - Staffing -
Item 11 - Human Resource Services - PASS
Transactions - Revised Attachment

5. Human Resource Services - Staffing - Item 13 - Reappointment of Social Workers, Specialists, and Psychologists - Attachment Added
6. Human Resource Services - Staffing - Item 14 - Reappointment of School-Based Administrators - Attachment Added; Attachment Revised
7. Human Resource Services - Staffing - Item 15 - Reappointment of District Administrators - Attachment Added
8. Human Resource Services - Staffing - Item 16 - Reappointment of School-Based Instructional Personnel - Attachment Added

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](#)

Motions:

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

- June 9, 2014 - Regular Board

- Meeting - PASS
- June 10, 2014 - Board Workshop
 - June 16, 2014 - Policy Handbook Review Committee Meeting
 - June 17, 2014 - Committee Meeting & Board Workshop

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 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

1. [FOCUS ACQUISITION AND IMPLEMENTATION](#)

- Attachment: [SIS Statement of Work Exhibit B-DCPS-Final 6-25-14.pdf](#)
- Attachment: [FOCUS-DCPS COVER CONTRACT-FINAL-6-25-14.pdf](#)
- Attachment: [SIS Pricing-Payment Schedule Exhibit C - DCPS Final-6-25-14.pdf](#)
- Attachment: [SIS Software Escrow Penalty Final Exhibit D - 6-25-14.pdf](#)

Minutes:

Board member Cheryl Grymes:

Asked the superintendent to give a quick overview of what will be different about the Focus system and how the system was selected.

Superintendent Vitti:

Genesis has been the system used for student data throughout the system for years. While many people are comfortable with Genesis, it is outdated. It is unable to run data reports quickly and merge data with other platforms. Focus is a more updated system that has been used by other districts comparable to the size of Duval County, namely Pinellas and Orange counties. The system will allow the district to modernize and be more efficient when the district goes to the portal system. This school year will be used as a pilot year; 15/16 will be the full implementation year.

Board member Cheryl Grymes:

Do you feel everyone will have the time they need to insure implementation will go smoothly?

Superintendent Vitti:

There may be struggles at first with people who are comfortable with Genesis, but when it's fully implemented, feedback should prove the Focus system is more advantageous to have than Genesis.

Board member Cheryl Grymes:

Part of the reason why you chose this system is there are other districts in Florida already using it?

Superintendent Vitti:

Mainly smaller districts, however, Orange and Pinellas counties--comparable to our size--are also using it. From the standpoint of cost, Genesis would be requiring \$2 million to upgrade which would still leave us with an outdated system. Spending that same money on a newer system made more sense.

2. [AGREEMENT FOR SERVICES WITH THE GALLUP ORGANIZATION, INC.](#)

Attachment: [GallupEducation CONTRACT DuvalCounty Faa 2014 v final.pdf](#)

3. [BLENDED LEARNING AGREEMENT FOR AMERICAN GOVERNMENT COURSE](#)

Attachment: [BLPDuvalUSGOVTv4.pdf](#)

6. [PARTNERSHIP TO CONTINUE WRAP AROUND SERVICES FOR OVER-AGE SECONDARY STUDENTS](#)

Attachment: [Communities in Schools 2014v2.pdf](#)

Attachment: [fourth amendment 2014.pdf](#)

7. [PARTNERSHIP TO CONTINUE SERVICES FOR OVER-AGE SECONDARY STUDENTS AT THE BRIDGE OF NE FLORIDA](#)

Attachment: [Second Renewal and third amendment 2014v2.pdf](#)

School Choice and Pupil Assignment

8. [CHARTER SCHOOL CONTRACT FOR GLOBAL OUTREACH CHARTER ACADEMY, INC. TO OPEN GLOBAL OUTREACH CHARTER ACADEMY](#)

Attachment: [Global renewal 2014 vfinal.pdf](#)

9. [FIRST AMENDMENT TO THE SCHOLAR PREPARATORY ACADEMY CONTRACT](#)

Attachment: [Scholar First Amend \(2\).pdf](#)

10. [FIRST AMENDMENT TO THE SEASIDE COMMUNITY CHARTER SCHOOL CONTRACT](#)

Attachment: [Seaside First Amend 2014.pdf](#)

Human Resource Services - Staffing

11. [HUMAN RESOURCE SERVICES TRANSACTIONS](#)

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

12. [SUBSTITUTE TEACHING EMPLOYMENT SERVICES](#)

Attachment: [Duval-KES_2014vfinal.pdf](#)

13. [REAPPOINTMENT OF SOCIAL WORKERS, SPECIALISTS AND PSYCHOLOGISTS](#)

Attachment: [HRS Attach SOCIAL-WORKERS SPECIALISTS PSYCHOLOGISTS REAPPOINT 2014-2015.pdf](#)

14. [REAPPOINTMENT OF SCHOOL-BASED ADMINISTRATORS](#)

Attachment: [HRS Attach SCHOOL-BASED ADMIN REAPPOINT 2014-2015_R.pdf](#)

15. [REAPPOINTMENT OF DISTRICT ADMINISTRATORS](#)

Attachment: [HRS Attach DISTRICT ADMIN REAPPOINT LIST 2014-2015_3.pdf](#)

16. [REAPPOINTMENT OF SCHOOL-BASED INSTRUCTIONAL PERSONNEL](#)

Attachment: [HRS Attach INSTRUCTIONAL REAPPOINT 2014-2015.pdf](#)

17. [MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS FOR 10 MONTH TEST CHAIRPERSON](#)

Attachment: [HRS_Min_Quals_10moTestChairperson_07-01-14.pdf](#)

Human Resource Services - Professional Standards

18. [SUSPENSION WITHOUT PAY AND TERMINATION - JULIE BENNETT](#)

19. [SUSPENSION WITHOUT PAY - COURTNEY SPRUILL](#)

Administration and Business Services - Budget and Financial

20. [CERTIFICATES OF PARTICIPATION \(COPS\) RESOLUTION](#)

Attachment: [Certificate Resolution School Board.pdf](#)

22. [ONLINE PAYMENTS FOR SCHOOLS' INTERNAL ACCOUNTS AND ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES](#)

Attachment: [Duval County School Board PA \(BAMS\) \(6 17 14\).pdf](#)

Attachment: [Duval Kev Addendum final.pdf](#)

Attachment: [TR175 BOA 2.pdf](#)

Attachment: [TR175 BOA 1.pdf](#)

21. [MONTHLY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS](#)

Attachment: [April 2014 Cash and Investment Report.pdf](#)

Attachment: [April 2014 Board Statement Worksheet.pdf](#)

Attachment: [April 2014 Monthly Financial Statement Narrative.pdf](#)

23. [QUALIFIED ZONE ACADEMY BONDS RESOLUTION AND DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY](#)

Attachment: [QZAB 2.pdf](#)

Attachment: [211-00015 I2 Resolution Making Required Assurances to DOE - Final\(1\).pdf](#)

Operations - Real Estate, Planning and Programming

24. [APPROVE AN ACCESS AND LAND SWAP AGREEMENT WITH JEA AND THE CITY OF JACKSONVILLE FOR EXCHANGE OF LAND AT THE DUVAL COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS ADMINISTRATION BUILDING NO. 3001](#)

Attachment: [JEA-DCSB Southside Generating Station Access and Land Swap Agreement V13 6-9-14.pdf](#)

Attachment: [JEA Land Exchange Exhibits Road Plan only 5-7-14.pdf](#)

Attachment: [JEA Land Swap Agreement Exhibits Road Plan Parcels 6-5-14.pdf](#)

Attachment: [JEA Land Exchange-Proposed School Board Parking 5-7-14.pdf](#)

Operations - Facilities Project Design, Construction and Maintenance

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

Attachment: [July 2014 Agenda Item CSC-CFI-Cont Sav on on Proj Chart for June 2014.pdf](#)

26. [CHANGE ORDER REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF JUNE 2014](#)

Attachment: [July 2014 Agenda Change Order Report Chart for June 2014.pdf](#)

27. [PRE-QUALIFICATION OF CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTORS FOR EDUCATIONAL PROJECTS](#)

Attachment: [Board Approval - Renewals 07-2014.pdf](#)

28. [SECURITY SYSTEMS REPLACEMENT/UPGRADES AT DUNCAN U. FLETCHER](#)

MIDDLE SCHOOL NO. 63/DCSB PROJECT NO. M-83980/OFDC-ITB-010-14:
CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT AWARD

Attachment: [M-83980 Contract for Sec Sys Replace at No 63.pdf](#)

29. DISTRICTWIDE ENERGY CONSERVATION/LIGHTING RETROFITS AT VARIOUS
SCHOOLS GR 4 PH 3-2/DCSB PROJ NO. C-91580/OFDC-ITB-008-14: CONSTRUCTION
CONTRACT AWARD

Attachment: [C-91580 Contract for DWERLR Gr 4 Ph 3-2.pdf](#)

30. DISTRICTWIDE ENERGY/LIGHTING RETROFITS AT VARIOUS SCHOOLS GR 5 PH
3-4/DCSB PROJ NO. C-91580/OFDC-009-14: CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT AWARD

Attachment: [C-91580 Contract for DWERLR Gr 5 Ph 3-4.pdf](#)

31. CONTINUING SERVICES CONTRACT FOR ASBESTOS ENVIRONMENTAL
CONSULTING SERVICES/DCSB PROJECT NO. M-83700/OFDC-RFQ-003-14:
SELECTION AND CONTRACT AWARD

Attachment: [M-83700 RFQ-003-14-Asb Environ CSC Contract-GLE
Associates Inc Final 6-4-14.pdf](#)

32. EGRESS COMPLIANCE AND FIRE SPRINKLER SYSTEMS ADDITIONS AT DUNCAN
FLETCHER HIGH SCHOOL NO. 223/DCSB PROJECT M-83680: CONSTRUCTION
CONTRACT CHANGE ORDER NO. ONE

Operations - Purchasing and Logistics

33. SURPLUS PROPERTY RETIREMENT REPORT

Attachment: [Retirement Order Highlight outline JULY 2014Agenda.pdf](#)

Attachment: [Copy of ROSUMJULFY15Agenda.pdf](#)

Attachment: [Copy of JULY FY15 RETIREMENTAgenda.pdf](#)

Attachment: [Copy of FY14 Last three FY year annual averages July
Agenda.pdf](#)

Attachment: [06July2014Agenda.pdf](#)

Attachment: [07July2014Agenda.pdf](#)

Attachment: [04July2014Agenda.pdf](#)

Attachment: [05July2014Agenda.pdf](#)

34. DAY CARE SERVICES

Attachment: [Final Daycare list 2015-16.pdf](#)

General

35. VOLUNTARY STUDENT ACCIDENT INSURANCE

Attachment: [HRS Attach 2014-2015 Voluntary Student Accident Ins Rates 07-01-14.pdf](#)
Attachment: [HRS Attach 2014-2015 Voluntary Student Accident Ins Brochure 07-01-14.pdf](#)

36. [DISTRICT WELLNESS PLAN 2014-2015](#)

Attachment: [2014-15 Wellness Plan.pdf](#)

Discussion

Academic Services

4. [PUBLIC HEARING AND VOTE; MODIFICATIONS TO THE 2014-2015 STUDENT PROGRESSION PLAN](#)

Attachment: [2014-2015 Major Change Doc v.2doc.pdf](#)

Minutes:

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

Motions:

- A. CONDUCT A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE REVISIONS TO THE 2014-2015 STUDENT PROGRESSION PLAN.
- B. FOLLOWING THE PUBLIC HEARING, APPROVE - PASS THE MODIFICATIONS TO THE 2014-2015 STUDENT PROGRESSION PLAN.

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

5. [PUBLIC HEARING AND APPROVAL OF REVISIONS TO THE CODE OF STUDENT CONDUCT](#)

Attachment: [DRAFT Elementary Code of Conduct - 07-01-14-REVISED.pdf](#)

Attachment: [DRAFT Secondary Code of Conduct - 07-01-14.pdf](#)

Minutes:

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

Jason Fischer, Board Member:

This is an issue I brought up in committee and I think there are a lot of really good things that the community brought to the table as far as updating the Student Code of Conduct (SCC). I think that there are a lot of great revisions that have been made and all of them were really covered tonight by Dr. Vitti's presentation so I won't go back and reiterate some of those. Those did address a lot of issues I had initially when I came on the board.

There is still one there that plagues me and this is one that I brought up in committee. I do like that there is a move to differentiate between who initiated the fight and who is the victim in this situation. I think it is a move in the right direction but I don't think it gets us to properly protecting victims rights whether you look at cultural norms or legal rights that are afforded people to not be punished for simply defending themselves. So I worked with legal council to draft a policy change and that's what each of you should have a copy of in front of you. Before I actually make the motion, I'll explain what you have in front of you so that way you have an understanding. The first item at the top is what's being proposed right now so this isn't my amendment. This first part is what it looks like in the current proposal. The amendment that I am about to put forward is number two. That's the way it would read clearly if placed into the SCC and the third piece was put together at the bottom so you can see the comparison of what was specifically changed. So the different words are lined out or added. But it's cleaner if I just kind of do the amendment as the number two section so that's just to kind of explain the document to what's before us. So madam chair I would like to move for both the elementary and secondary codes of conduct that we change the note in 2.09 fight (mutual combat) so that the note is stricken and the amendment will read: Self-defense is described as actions(s) to block an attack by another person, to shield yourself from being hit by another person, or to use appropriate physical force necessary to stop the person from attacking you. The amendment would also reflect changes in 2.12 striking the language that's currently there and to state what it says in item two: a student that responds to a physical attack with a combative response that does not qualify as self-defense (as described in the note to section 2.09 above).

Cheryl Grymes, Board Member:

She thanked the efforts of the Task Force. Members of the Task Force who spoke tonight felt like work was meaningful, clarified things and made things more unified throughout the district. She feels comfortable with what the Task Force produced. Although she can appreciate Mr. Fischer's concerns, she feels they should stick with what the Task Force recommends.

Becki Couch, Chairman:

Asked Dr. Vitti to review the changes made that now differentiate between the attacker and victim.

Dr. Vitti, Superintendent:

The most significant one was to strengthen 3.16. It originally required medical documentation proving bodily harm as the result of a fight. The proposal removes that requirement. In the former SCC, all involved in a fight were put into the same category and given the same consequences, regardless of whether they were mutual combatants or not. In the proposed CSS, there are different categories of individuals involved in fights and separate consequences for each. The concern he has of the language in the proposed amendment is the term "appropriate physical force." He does not want administrators to be expected to interpret that in each case. He feels the proposed CSS from the Task Force allows administrators to distinguish between initiating a fight and responding to a fight. He is concerned that the proposed language will create an impression that responding with "appropriate physical force" without any consequences will create a justification for the use of violence in a school setting.

Ashley Smith Juarez, Board Member:

She emphasized that the safety of our students is of paramount importance. The proposed CSS allows for relationships between students and adults to create a positive school culture through reporting student concerns and grows good citizenship. Along with Ms. Grymes, she thanks the Task Force for their hard work. The immediate Past District PTA President, Ms. Gretchen Lynch took the concerns of all parents to the committee table when working on the CSS and her opinion on this item means a great deal. She then asked Ms. Chastain to give her legal interpretation of the term "appropriate physical force."

Karen Chastain, Chief of Legal Services:

The purpose of the amendment was to set up the self defense of not being obligated to first retreat, if that is possible. The word "appropriate" is to keep the responding action on the same level as the initiated action. That is open to interpretation.

Jason Fischer, Board Member

To address criticisms of his proposed amendment:

By allowing a student to stop an attacker, it would somehow encourage violence. Self defence, is in fact, ending a violent action. Also, some are concerned the amendment would allow retaliation. Retaliation is centered on revenge which is not the same as self defense. The proposed SCC is still a punitive model on victims. Although differentiating between an attacker and victim is important, simply doing that alone doesn't go far enough to protect a student. He's open to other amendments that uses more specific language if "appropriate physical force" is too broad of a term. He doesn't agree with consequences in place for victims.

Dr. Hall, Board Member:

She is thankful to the Task Force for their efforts. The proposed SCC is certainly not a perfect document but it works to build on what we had in the past to make it better. As a board member, we are responsible for the guidance of the schools and people who have to implement our policies. The training of our personnel and better classroom management will lead to the use of our SCC with fairness and equity across the board. Our main concern is fairness and equity. We also provide students with due process. When conflicts are investigated early, then our professionals can do the best they can to provide appropriate consequences. We as board members can't address all scenarios. Adequate training will strengthen it's implementation. She supports the language presented by the community. As the new CSS is utilized it can be tweaked as needed.

Paula Wright, Board Member:

Dr. Vitti took a comprehensive approach to revising the CSS with the community. We can move forward with the document as proposed and tweak it later if need be but we shouldn't assume there will be problems.

Motions:

1. That the Duval County School Board conduct a public hearing on the revisions to the Code of Student Conduct, 2014-2015 outlined in the attached summary.

- PASS

2. That subsequent to the public hearing, the Duval County School Board approve the 2014-2015 Code of Student Conduct.

Vote Results

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

Motions:	
2.09 (FIT) Fighting (Mutual combat, mutual altercation) – When two or more persons mutually participate in physical violence that requires physical restraint and/or results in injury.	
NOTE: Self-defense is described as action(s) to block an attack by another person, to shield yourself from being hit by another person, or to use appropriate physical force necessary to stop the person from attacking you.	
* * *	
2.12 (ZZZ) Response to Physical Attack – A student that responds to a physical attack with a combative response that does not qualify as self-defense (as defined in the note to section 2.09 above).	
Vote Results	
Motion: Jason Fischer	
Second: Fred Lee	
Rebecca Couch	- Nay
Jason Fischer	- Aye
Cheryl Grymes	- Nay
Connie Hall	- Nay
Ashley Juarez	- Nay

Fred Lee	- Nay
Paula Wright	- Nay

Board Member Travel

[BOARD MEMBERS TRAVEL](#)

Minutes:

Fred "Fel" Lee, Board member

Asked who else was going on the trip. The Chair answered three others were approved last month. Board member Lee was absent from that meeting.

Motions:

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

- September 30 - October 2, 2014 - Jacksonville Chamber Leadership Trip - Nashville, TN - Fischer - PASS

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	- Aye

Superintendent's Travel

SUPERINTENDENT'S TRAVEL

Minutes: There was no travel for the superintendent this month.

For The Record

FOR THE RECORD

Minutes:

Fred "Fel" Lee, Board Member:

I want to also express (even though I do not see her here anymore) the friendship and support of Connie Hodges. I think she has been what we look for in a community partner. I know sometimes people say that the school board doesn't necessarily work with people well, but that's just an example of how that just is not true. We have always worked extremely well with United Way and is very supportive and Connie, I appreciate your friendship.

Second, because I was down under and was not here at the last meeting I wanted to express my sincere appreciation to the teachers and school administration, district administration for another year and look forward to the new year starting here. I know that the school year comes very, very quickly and I already hear of people running around worried about how it's not far away. I know there's a lot of work done during this time and I never can go out and shake everybody's hand but there's sincere appreciation for everything you do. I know it's a very, very tough job.

Jason Fischer, Board Member:

I, too, want to thank Connie for her years of service; what a tremendous partner she's been for the school board and, really, for all the kids in our school system and that's really why we're all here so I'm thankful for her service in that regard.

Tonight we celebrate some really great achievements in our district whether it's energy professionals better using electricity and water and reducing costs and consumption in those areas; the new magnate program at Stilwell Military Academy which I'm super excited about--I can't wait until it opens up next year; and the single gender opportunities that are going to be available for students and families next year. Next year can be a really, really good year.

We also approved some new charter schools but where I want to focus the ending of my comments is really on what we just went over and in some ways we moved

forward with a better written SCC, one that's more progressive, one that delineates better; one that's more clear. Great strides were made there. I'm thankful for the community's input and their hard work on the process. The fight to better protect victim's rights will continue. This is an issue near and dear to my heart and if you're punished for being a victim, I will never give up on you. In fact, if you defend yourself and you're punished, I would ask that you contact my office. I'd be glad to defend and advocate for you in every way possible.

Paula Wright, Board Member:

I just want to say to Connie Hodges--I know that the best is yet to come. I know that she's gone but I've known Connie for a number of years--I won't say how many years! I've known her and one good thing is anyone who meets Connie and you know her beyond two months, you can say she's a friend of yours because she's always there for you and I appreciate that.

Also I want to remind everyone that summer school has started for our kids and in addition to them having fun and learning at the schools, I also want to remind you about the summer reading programs at the Jacksonville Public Libraries. I'm thrilled about Communities in Schools' (CIS) \$71,000 grant to do additional work with students beyond school hours at Westside High and I'm looking forward to see just how the military academy at Stilwell is going to look as well as the gender programs at Eugene J. Butler; thank all the partners. I want to pull up my pictures of the Celebrity Basketball Game. (Laughter) I not going to have pictures, Dr. Vitti, but not before I saw you slide. It was fun. Dr. Vitti and the team of celebrities did an awesome job playing with the students. It was a celebrity basketball game. It was all in fun. I left at half time. I don't know who won but I appreciate the fact that people like to share; several city council people, Mr. Gary at Florida Blue, all came out to support the homeless children in this city and that's the most important aspect. I also want to take this opportunity to not just thank the staff but in particular Mr. Post. Mr. Post met with the community group Concerned Citizens in Support of Education last week and discussed, along with CIS and a couple other partners, how they could better serve the James Weldon Johnson Academic and Career Center. They are serving approximately 90 over-age students. That's what's so important. All the partners came together and we talked about ways we could insure we are not duplicating so that the students could receive the necessary resources and as many different resources they need as possible, so I want to thank Mr. Post for all of his work in those programs and in particular Emery-Riddle with the 15 schools that they're serving.

Cheryl Grymes, Vice Chairman:

I, too, want to praise Connie for her work in the community for so many years. Connie certainly is the epitome of a servant leader, has given so much to this community and so much to the kids in our community. I also have to recognize Bill Hodges for loaning his wife. There's always a price to pay. He's also been a great servant leader to this community. But as always, it's hard when you're in a job like that and your spouse is in demand. So I applaud them as a couple. I want to congratulate Clay Yarborough, our new City Council President. Of course Greg Anderson as the Vice President. Clay, in particular, because of course he represents the Arlington

district. He's been a champion for Arlington and I certainly appreciate that and he's been a great partner for us. I know the track at Parkwood Heights that he helped fund and we're in the process of getting playground equipment at Lake Lucina. I appreciate him being very generous with those things that he can help us with that, of course, the community will have an opportunity to use also. So congratulations to Clay and I know he'll do a great job. I, too, just want to mention the Embry-Riddle dual enrollment program. I don't know who's responsible (Andrew? or Dr. Vitti?) I'm not sure but I mentioned at the last meeting being at Terry Parker and watching the kids with the drones. It just is bringing learning to life for so many of these kids. You've gotten so many accolades tonight. Are you done? No--we really do appreciate it 'cause we're bringing so many wonderful things to this district and I appreciate you and the superintendent for what you've done to bring those types of creative learning.

Ashley Smith Juarez, Board Member:

One thing I think I can confidently say about the school board is that we really enjoy those opportunities to see our students thrive. Their physical health and emotional well being, their academic success are all not just our charge as board members but they're personally important to us in what we do and that's why it's really fun to be able to get out and see things like the Jacksonville Helps basketball game where the adults were interacting with the kids. The kids--they're quick!--they worked hard and to see the adults really work with them was a really good time and a lot of fun and I learned that Kim Davis can sing! I did not know that about her. She did a tremendous job with the national anthem. It reminds us that our principals have many talents. I wanted to thank the I'm A Star Foundation for the work that they do to bring the community together to support students with particular housing issues in our district. I also wanted to congratulate and thank the Safe Routes to School work that was recently completed in the San Marco area. That was an effort with the school district, the health department, San Marco By Design and many other partners who came together to make sure that physical activity could be integrated into that walk or bike ride to and from school. It's a family activity and a place for safe routes to school for that matter; a safe time to and from school. Certainly, with the academic success of our students, we heard a lot about some of the new customized offerings that we will have. We've recognized that our student have different interests, different needs, that they'll respond differently to different learning environments and are making a real effort as a board to offer those different opportunities. I had the real pleasure of visiting Vistacon recently with a group of students who will be, in the near future, aging out of the foster care system. To see them developing leadership skills and understanding how their education and what they're doing now in Duval County Public Schools can max their career opportunities moving forward and knowing the strong partnership that is being built with Vistacon in the Englewood program; it was just a real treat to see those students and all the questions they had and everything they wanted to know and learn about engineering and medical devices and how to interview and what to look for in a job description. So all of those things contribute to building up our young people and making sure we do achieve that mission and vision that we have set as the school district. I would be remiss if I did not mention Connie Hodges and her work and support. Not just of her students through the full service schools program through Achievers for Life through all of their educational programs but also in an effort to support families through the Real Sense campaign and some of the employment focal points of the United Way as well as some of the health work that

they do. So they are truly focused on the whole child as they relate to the whole family. Her leadership there and envision that she set for that organization and her partnership and friendship with all of those who interface with United Way is certainly valued. She is a strong leader. She'll let you know when she disagrees but she is a team player. Those things are really valued in this district and I think that Michelle Braun who has taken that position will continue to be a strong partner to the district and to the community and I really look forward to working with her as we move forward on this journey.

Dr. Connie Hall, Board Member:

Thanks also to Connie Hodges for her leadership with United Way. She truly lead with energy and with passion. She'll be missed but I know she's going to enjoy sleeping in late in the mornings and sipping on her coffee. Also thanks to I'm A Star Foundation for bringing to the forefront the homeless situations of students in Duval County Public Schools. I stayed for the entire basketball game so we want to thank our celebrities who participated in that they were so excited to be a part of the losing team. I do believe, Dr. Vitti, you served as player and coach? Dual roles! Also to our students that were absolutely awesome! They were the all-stars. They worked up a little sweat but the celebrity team was drenched! It was very high impact! It was fun but for a great cause and we really thank the I'm A Star Foundation and the students that worked with them to really move this forward. We're looking forward to next year, aren't we? Also, congratulations to West Jacksonville Elementary School and R. V. Daniels Elementary School for earning the Five Star Recognition from the Early Learning Coalition. That's just absolutely awesome for parent engagement through the Parent Academy. I'm sure in the future we will recognize them at our board meeting. That's something to be very, very excited about. We did spotlight R.V. Daniels a couple of months ago at the board and there's some great things going on at that school. As I was driving down Myrtle Avenue the other day I saw all of these yard signs along the way and they were not political. They were signs inviting them to visit R.V. Daniels and enroll in their early childhood program. It's imbedded throughout that community and I say wow, what a great marketing strategy in order for the community to see what's going on and where to go with their young children to get them enrolled in early learning. Also let me share with you, two days before the nation celebrates Independence Day will mark the 50th anniversary of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. The landmark legislation that helped transform America. President Lyndon Johnson signed the Civil Rights Act into law on July 2, 1964. The act outlawed discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex or national origin. The law required equal access to public places and employment and enforced desegregation of schools and the right to vote. The Civil Right Act is considered one of the consequential legislation in American history. As the nation celebrates its Independence Day, July 4, it is a fitting time to remember the men and women who helped pass the Civil Rights Act of 1964 which helped America move toward a more perfect union but the work isn't over. Quality education is the civil rights issue of our time. Education is the gateway to participation in our democracy and our economic marketplace; the cornerstone of our civil rights. A good job, economic security, civil engagement and the American dream itself all begins with education. Closing the achievement and income gaps, lifting inner city communities out of poverty and creating and sustaining a diverse and successful middle class will not be possible unless

each child has equal access to a quality education. Thanks to our partners that worked with us during the last school term and we look forward to strengthening those partnerships and we look forward to improving and upgrading those partnerships where they truly make a difference with student academic success.

Becki Couch, Board Chairman:

Earlier in the chairman's report I mentioned the use of professional development for the board and I didn't mention that Board Member Wright was elected to the Executive Committee for the Council of Great City Schools so when she goes and travels to those events, she represents not only our district but also really the State of Florida so that is quite an honor to sit on the Executive Committee for the Council of Great City Schools and I wanted to recognize Board Member Wright for that achievement. She also got Vice Chairman for the Board Development Committee for Florida School Boards Association.

I want to also thank Betty Burney for her commitment to the students of this district. I had the honor of serving with her for two years on this board and I learned a great deal from her. Her continued commitment to the students of this district have gone far beyond the terms that she served on this school board and I truly appreciate all the work that she does for our student with her I'm A Star Foundation. I'm sorry I missed the game because it sounded like I missed quite a bit. Maybe they got it on video and I can see it. I'd also like to thank Councilman Jim Love, Board Member Lee, the Rotary and Friends of Stockton and Paul Soares for your continuing work that we're doing with Stockton Elementary School. I was unable to attend a meeting that you guys had but I appreciate you moving forward with that. I'm looking forward to the work that is going to be done at Stockton to develop the park that sits on property. This board is truly committed to the students of this district and while we may not always agree on every single agenda item, we are all advocates for children in the Duval County Public School district and we all would like to hear from our constituents and our students if they are ever in need of assistance from us.

Adjournment

[ADJOURNMENT](#)

Minutes:

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm.

lbl

Superintendent

Chairman