



## Duval County Public Schools

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March 1, 2011, Regular Board Meeting

Mr. W. C. Gentry, Chairman  
Ms. Betty Burney, Vice Chairman  
Ms. Martha Barrett  
Ms. Becki Couch  
Mr. Tommy Hazouri  
Mr. Fred "Fel" Lee  
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 of Schools, Ms. Karen Chastain, Office of General Counsel, Mr. W. C. Gentry, Board Chairman, Ms. Betty Burney, Vice Chair and Board members: Ms. Martha Barrett, Ms. Becki Couch, Mr. Tommy Hazouri, Mr. Fred "Fel" Lee and Ms. Paula D. Wright, present

Call Meeting to Order

[CALL MEETING TO ORDER](#)

Minutes:

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

Invocation

[INVOCATION](#)

Minutes:

Reverend George Price  
St. Matthew Baptist Church

Pledge of Allegiance

[PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE](#)

Presentations

[1. NATIONAL POISON PREVENTION WEEK POSTER CONTEST WINNERS](#)

Minutes:

--Tonight, I would like to take a moment to recognize National Poison Prevention Week. It is important that we teach our students about the dangers of poisonous substances and how to avoid contact with harmful products, as well as teach them what to do in case of an emergency.

--In correspondence with National Poison Prevention Week, our first presentation of the evening recognizes two former students of James Weldon Johnson who received national awards in the 2010 National Poison Prevention Week Poster Contest.

--The National Poison Prevention Week Council, in conjunction with the American Association of Poison Control Centers, sponsors the poster contest each year as part of a year-round effort to educate communities about ways to prevent accidental poisonings in the home.

--At this time I would like to ask Chelsea Claverie and Maryam Shabbir, along with Sharwonda Peek, principal at James Weldon Johnson, and Margaret Cella, art teacher at James Weldon Johnson, to please come to the front.

--Chelsea and Maryam, now students at Stanton College Preparatory, won first- and second-place, respectively, in the older division of the poster contest while attending James Weldon Johnson.

--Their posters were selected from entries that were submitted to local poison centers throughout the country.

--Congratulations to Chelsea and Maryam, this is an incredible honor and we are proud of their achievement. The originality of your posters is impressive and I encourage both of you to continue expanding your artistic abilities.

--And I would like to give a special thank you to Principal Peek and Ms. Cella for inspiring creativity in our students and motivating them to reach their full potential.

## 2. 2011 TEACHER OF THE YEAR FINALISTS

Minutes:

-- Our next presentation recognizes the five Duval County teachers vying for the coveted title of Teacher of the Year.

--Would the following teachers and their principals please come forward?

- From Northwestern Middle, we have Edward Moore and his principal Robert Gresham;
- From Justina Road Elementary, we have Andrew Hubbuch (hubb-ick) and his principal Angela Maxey;
- From Beauclerc Elementary, we have Katy Burns along with Principal Annetta Kornblum;
- From Fort Caroline Middle, we have Andrea Miranda with her principal Jennifer Bridwell; and
- From First Coast High, we have Youmone (You-mah-nee) Berrien along with her Principal Deborah Smith.

--Congratulations to each of you for making it to this level of the competition. These finalists competed in a rigorous process that examines their teaching philosophy and practice, and this recognition is a testament to their hard work in the classroom.

--The 2011 Florida Blue Duval County Teacher of the Year will be announced at the EDDY Awards on Thursday, March 17, 2011, at the Times-Union Center for the Performing Arts. Duval County's Teacher of the Year will then go on to compete for the state-wide title.

--I would also like to take a moment to thank the Jacksonville Public Education Fund and the Schultz Center, for helping us recognize excellence in teaching.

--Again, congratulations to all of the finalists. I look forward to seeing you at the EDDYS.

## 3. 2011 SCHOOL-RELATED EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

Minutes:

--Our third presentation of the evening recognizes Duval County Public Schools' 2011 School-Related Employee of the Year.

--Would Rosemarie Wilkening and her principal Susan Phillips, please come forward?

--Ms. Wilkening, part-time English for Speakers of Other Languages paraprofessional at Chets Creek Elementary, was named Duval County Public Schools' 2011 School-Related Employee of the Year.

--Ms. Wilkening has worked for Chets Creek Elementary for nine years and has consistently won awards for her commitment and devotion to the school and its students.

--She currently leads the early intervention work with the kindergarten and first-grade ESOL students, and meets with small groups on a daily basis to work on improving their phonic skills and awareness. Ms. Wilkening also directs a Hispanic family outreach night in an effort to engage them as participants in their child's education.

--Ms. Wilkening will now go on to compete in the Florida School-Related Employee of the Year program, administered through the Florida Department of Education. She and other finalists will be recognized at the upcoming State Board of Education meeting this spring and the 2011 Florida School-Related Employee of the Year will be announced.

--Congratulations Ms. Wilkening, you are doing an extraordinary job and we wish you well at the state competition!

#### [4. MIDTOWN CENTRE PRESENTING CHECK TO DUVAL COUNTY ART PROGRAM](#)

Minutes:

--Our final presentation of the evening recognizes Duval County Public Schools' Art Programs.

--I would like to ask our own Jack Matthews to come to the front along with Ms. Desiree Dubon, Chairman of the Midtown Centre Foundation and Executive Vice President of Midtown Centre Office Park.

--The Midtown Centre Foundation was formed in 2008 by the principals of Midtown Centre in order to focus their community development efforts in Jacksonville.

--Part of its mission is to support the arts in the Duval County school district and our military families and veterans by hosting the annual public event "Midtown Festival" in Midtown Centre Office Park.

--This free event, held the first Saturday in November, provides a fun, diverse atmosphere for celebrating the arts, teaching environmental education, hosting activities for children, our community and the military, while honoring our many military families and supporting local artists and the Duval County Public Schools' Art Programs.

--The Foundation reaches out to receive sponsorship from local organizations and in-

kind donations to support the event.

--The venue allows local artists to display their art, while community and environmental organizations share information about their services and activities to children in the Kids Zone.

--All branches of our local military participate in the Festival and share a variety of displays including: helicopters, a rock climbing wall, a Navy Seal accelerator, Army and Marine vehicles, a WW II diorama, special forces display, a Coast Guard rescue boat, an AMTRAC amphibian vehicle and more!

--Midtown Festival extends invitations to all schools to participate in their chosen art form and allows their respective booster organizations to participate by giving free space to raise funds for their students.

--All proceeds from the event are equally divided and donated to the USO-Jax and the Duval County Public Schools' Art Programs.

--Ms. Dubon is here tonight on behalf of the Midtown Centre Foundation to present Duval County Public Schools' Art Programs with a \$4,000 check.

--In their ongoing effort to support the Duval County Public Schools' Art Programs year round, Midtown has also designated their town center building as a community gallery and funds the display of student art which is available to the public for purchase.

--Thank you Ms. Dubon for this generous contribution. We appreciate everything that the Midtown Centre Foundation does to support our art programs.

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The Chairman recognized and welcomed Boy Scout Troop 134 who was present in the audience.

## [5. SCHOOL RECOGNITION - DISTRICT 2 - SANDALWOOD HIGH SCHOOL](#)

Minutes:

### SANDALWOOD HIGH SCHOOL, HOME OF THE MIGHTY SAINTS, MADE HISTORY THIS YEAR. WE ARE AN "A" SCHOOL!

Sandalwood High School offers a wide selection of courses in four small learning communities. Three grade 9-11 communities, and the 12th grade community, offer standard, honors and a total of 16 Advanced Placement (AP) classes. In 2010, nearly 1400 students participated in AP exams, with 187 scoring a 3 or above. While each of the four small learning communities offers equal access to all levels of core curriculum, each has its own uniqueness and special offerings.

### Delta Community

The Delta Community provides all students with the opportunity to customize an academic schedule entirely of honors core classes. Additionally, the Delta Community is home to the Sandalwood's Early College Program. Currently there are 148 freshmen and sophomores participating in this accelerated, dual enrollment opportunity through a partnership with Florida State College at Jacksonville, South Campus. There is an anticipated group of 90 rising 9th graders entering the Early College program for the 2011/2012 school year. Successful completion of the Early College Program provides students with up to 60 college credit hours toward an Associate of Arts degree through FSCJ. College Placement Testing demonstrates that Early College students entering dual enrollment courses have the skills necessary to learn at a college level. All sophomores have passed the College Placement Test sections for Reading and English. Approximately 42% have also passed with Mathematics section of the CPT with a final testing opportunity in April, 2011."

### Sigma Community

The AVID Program, housed in the Sigma community, is built on excellence and consistent student academic achievement. Over the past four years, we have had the first AVID graduating class in Duval County, one of the first AVID Scholarship recipients, achieved Certification Status, and hosted AVID faculty from other schools to observe and interact with our teachers and students to improve their own AVID programs. Sandalwood AVID students learn a variety of skills, from organization, to SAT/ACT preparation, to college readiness, to character development. Our AVID faculty is dedicated to providing not only the highest quality of education possible but also to developing relationships with our students that support and encourage them to reach their full potential and offer them the resources and skills necessary to be successful in a college environment. We are in our second year of partnership with University of North Florida which provides AVID tutors and pre-interns in AVID classrooms. Additionally, UNF secondary education methods courses are offered each fall and spring semester on the Sandalwood campus, allowing UNF students the opportunity to gain field experience in content area classes. Our AVID family improves every year, through higher test scores, increased opportunity for leadership development, and strengthened unity as a team.

### Omega Community

Omega's Academy of Information Technology is a nationally recognized career academy and a member of the National Academies Foundation (NAF). The academy is supported by an active advisory board made up of local business partners and community stakeholders as well as a parent booster club. There are currently two programs of study within the academy, Information Technology and Geospatial Information Systems. Both include 4-year progressive courses, and our GIS program is one of only two offered in the state of Florida. Students leave the academy with industry standard certifications, including earning Florida Ready to Work credentials. Seniors just completed the GIS certification exam, with a 100% pass rate. All have been accepted to colleges of choice next year.

During the academy's first year, a freshman student, David Burkins, was awarded a \$1,000 scholarship from the software company, Lean Key. During our second year, our lead teacher and a group of five academy students were invited to present our utilization of project based learning at the annual NAF Conference in Orlando Florida. The participating students received the highest ratings of any other presentation at the

conference. Our Geospatial Informational Systems students participated in the creation of Cedar Point Preserve which is a county park on the Northside of Jacksonville, and the beatification of several urban parks in Jacksonville. The academy programs have received numerous grants totally over \$200,000, including the most recent from the Jacksonville Chamber of Commerce.

A second career academy is the planning stages and will be launched next year. Over 100 students have applied for the new Culinary Arts Academy, a program to prepare students for advanced degrees in Culinary Arts or employment in the field.

#### Alpha Community

The Alpha Community provides the capstone academic experience for Seniors. Students complete their graduation requirements with a variety of course offerings from AP, Dual Enrollment and numerous electives. The Alpha Community is focused on increasing the graduation rate through collaboration and early interventions. Our Alpha family has seen the graduation rate increase from 58% in 2009 to 62% in 2010. With the implementation of interventions, ALC, Compass and Ramp-up we hope to see these numbers continue to increase as we prepare our students for success after graduation. This year we are focusing on College Readiness in reading and math. College readiness in reading rose 21% and college readiness in math improved 10%.

#### Athletics

This past year twenty-three Sandalwood athletes made First Team All Conference. The boys Baseball team were district champions and made it to the third round of the state playoffs. The girls Fast Pitch softball team finished 3rd in the Gateway Conference Tournament. This year the girls finished fourth for the ALL Sports Trophy and the boys finished third. Varsity Football went to the second round of the state playoffs; one wrestler won the conference wrestling match and advanced to state; and our boys Golf team finished fourth at the state meet, second in the Gateway Conference and second in district.

#### Silver Eagles Air Force Junior ROTC

The Sandalwood AFJROTC unit has been ranked "Outstanding Unit" since inception in 1993. In 2010 the Sandalwood Silver Eagles were crowned State Champions in Drill and Color Guard. At the Inter-service Nationals, Color Guard placed third, competing with units around the country. Each cadet, and the unit as a whole, live by the mottos, Integrity First; Service Before Self; and Excellence in All We Do.

#### Band

The Sandalwood Band Program is on the rise, with continued enrollment growth and Excellent ratings from the Florida Bandmasters Association. The Band program encompasses concert band, small ensembles, marching band and guard. We continue to provide community entertainment through concerts and parades, while participating in FBA sanctioned events throughout the year.

#### Drama

More than 200 students participate in drama classes at Sandalwood, with an additional 52 involved in the after school drama club. This year 33 students performed at the Florida Thespian district festival returning with 8 superior ratings, 14 excellent ratings, and 11 good ratings. Our main stage productions this year include the Grandparent

Night Dinner Theatre performance of "Jack vs. Jill" and the reprise of that production along with a very successful run of "The Absolutely Insidious and Utterly Terrifying Truth About Cat Hair." The drama club supports the Miss Sandalwood and Mr. Ugly pageants with set designs and technical support, making these pageants annual favorites for all. The next performance, "Dinner With the MacGuffins" will be showing in March. Additionally, 16 students are preparing for their performances at the Florida Thespian state festival.

Sandalwood High School excels across the board. Academic performance, student leadership, high quality instruction and unlimited opportunity for participation in clubs and activities make Sandalwood a leading Duval County Public Schools high school.

## Comments From Audience

### COMMENTS FROM AUDIENCE

Minutes:

The Chairman said we're going to move a little bit out of order evening to take up a very important matter, first. As you know, this district has been working very hard and diligently to improve our schools that have been referred to as Intervene Schools. Those schools have been challenged and need significant improvement. As part of the district's plan is to try to engage a broad-based community organization that will play a major role in partnership with the Duval County Public School Board and take ownership. Some of the issues we face in making sure these schools succeed, not only now, but in the future.

It is my great pleasure to announce that an organization has been brought together and the name of it is Duval Partners for Excellent Education. This has been in the works for many weeks. The Superintendent, Board members Burney and Wright and myself have spent many hours talking with members of the community and working to try and make sure that we called on those folks that we believe will make a huge difference in our schools. We are very proud and excited that we have been able to bring together a group of men and women from business, education, affected communities and leaders in our city who are all dedicated to the best interest of our children and are committed to helping these and other schools succeed. I do want to thank the law firm of Holland & Knight who have volunteered to establish a 501(C3) organization and have done that without compensation and they will make their services available to the new organization to assist them, establishing the bylaws, all on a pro bono basis. We really appreciate, particularly, Jim Main and Buddy Schultz, at Holland & Knight for providing those services now and in the future, to this organization.

I want to thank the Superintendent and Board for all of the work we've done. We met this afternoon and discussed this in great detail and most importantly, and many of them are here tonight, on very short notice. I really and sincerely want to thank these

dedicated community servants who have stepped forward and agreed to help us with this very important project....not only for our schools, our children, but for our city and, Mr. Pratt-Dannals, would you please introduce the members of this organization and any comments you may have.

The Superintendent said if you want to find someone to do great work, find people who are already busy doing great work and all of these people are extremely involved in a number of activities and the fact that they said "yes" to this in addition to their commitments, I think speaks volumes to the fact that this is a huge, important area for our community and they are willing to form this support organization to help us. I'd like to introduce them:

John Baker, Chairman of the Board, KIPP Jacksonville; Chairman of the Board, Tiger Academy, Executive Chairman, Patriot Transportation; Former CEO, Florida Rock and Patriot Transportation

Pete Carpenter, former CEO and Vice Chairman of the Board, CSX Railroad

Carrie Davis, Executive Director, Wealth Watchers

Hugh Greene, President/CEO, Baptist Health Systems, Chairman of the Board, Jacksonville Chamber of Commerce

Dr. Adam Herbert, former President, University of North Florida, former Chancellor, State University of Indiana

Ken Manuel, Associate State Director, SACS/CASI Advanced Education, former Regional Superintendent, Duval County Public Schools

Ms. Estelle McKissick, Director, BEST Academy at Bethel Baptist Institutional Church, former Principal, Duval County Public Schools

Ms. Roslyn Phillips, Chief Community Officer, City of Jacksonville

Dr. Roy Singleton, Retired Associate Professor of Education, University of North Florida, Acting Chairperson, Communications Department, Edward Waters College

Dr. Marcella Washington, Professor of Political Science, Florida State College of Jacksonville

Dr. Alvin White, Educational Field Consultant/Immediate Past Florida Chair, SACS/CASI Advanced Education, former Chief of Staff, Duval County Public Schools

Reverend Marvin Zanders, Pastor, St. Paul A.M.E. Church

Ms. Eunice Barnum said concerning the Duval Partners for Excellent Education, Inc., I would have rather seen parents from these failing schools or schools not making AYP as part of that committee as well as students from the various schools because the students are there all day, every day and can give you the answers to the questions you

are seeking. We need to take time to listen and talk with the students. What will be the accountability piece monitoring the committee? We had the Community Assessment Team and many of those serving on that committee are now serving on this new committee. We have the District Strategic Plan 2009-2012 and Six Steps to Stronger Schools - well, how did that work out for us? You're making decisions about us, without us, parents and students, but we want you to know that we'll hold you accountable. We have allowed you, time and time, the Jacksonville elite, to decide what you think is best for our children and that has not worked out well for us. Now, that you have assembled people together that think they know more than parents and children, I just say in all of your planning, put an accountability piece there because if not, we, the community, will hold our own accountability piece. Also, on February 17, President Obama signed the America Recovery and Reinvestment Act. Through this law, more than \$100 billion dollars was appropriated for educational programs. I'm asking why Ribault, Raines, Jackson and NorthShore did not receive their fair share of the money. Why didn't they receive the \$13 billion dollars that was given to Title I funds? Have a great day?

Mr. Edward Exson said responding to the business leaders, calling for an independent Board with power to hire and fire principals, teachers and schools personnel (Times-Union letters from readers). Teachers are not the problem at the Intervene schools! Instead, they should be asked where the outcry is for the depressed/dysfunctional communities that the Intervene schools are located? With your silence on those conditions for years, you did, in fact, sanction the status quo. How does one expect those failing students to excel with the pernicious atrocious effects of policy, practices, preachers, politicians and some parents that they have to endure? Many factions are culpable for the conditions thrust on these children. The business leaders basically have had a zero sum total effect in uplifting the distressed communities of the students that they purport to enrich their lives with a good education. One of the business leaders that signed the letter, his success is not a result of his genius, but by political connections with tax payer's money from the JEDC (for me, that smacks on corruption). While others saw tax money diverted from poor black communities to be used for gentrification. Jacksonville has demonstrated that a vibrant economic high tide does not raise all boats. It is treachery to claim it is in the interest of the students, it's other motives. With the travesty that took place in the last gubernatorial election, the aim of the business leaders is acting is a surreptitious move as a precursor for the Governor to run roughshod and bust unions and bring a peonage service workers force to Florida. The Governor wants to take collective bargaining out of the state's Constitution! Business leaders (signatories to the letter), your request is merely a sham and bamboozle!

Ms. Cindy Edelman said I'd like to thank you, the School Board Chair, the School Board members and the Superintendent for giving me the opportunity this evening to speak with you and thank you for your leadership on behalf of students, especially during these extremely difficult budget times. I'm a teacher, a member of the Board of the Community Foundation in Jacksonville, as well as the Jacksonville Education Public Fund (JPEF) and a philanthropist and I wear all four of those hats this evening and in those roles, I'm an advocate for quality education for all students in Duval County. I'm here tonight to urge you to approve the public, private partnership that will create schools for the future - Academy at the Bridge of Northeast Florida. This partnership between the district, the Schools for the Future and the Bridge, reflects two years of

tireless work by incredibly dedicated staff people representing the partners of Learning to Finish which includes the district, the Community Foundation, the Public Education Fund, the Childrens Commission and United Way who have sought to bring the very best research-based practices to Jacksonville to serve our most disenfranchised students. This school reflects a highly innovative and supportive approach that will remediate and accelerate over-aged students - we have approximately 15,000 - that will successfully graduate and really for a small amount of money of district funding that is required. It leverages on the other hand, \$340,000 in private funding from the Carnegie Corporation, from the Charles Stewart Foundation as well as the Jacksonville Public Education Fund. It's really a "win-win" all the way around. Learning to Finish has helped the district transform its structure, policies and programs for these over-aged students by providing over \$500,000 worth of original research, travel to cities, showing best practices and model programs as well as exposing people to experts to guide strategic planning. As a result, the district now has a new office of Multiple Pathways and support services and a very well Strategic Plan for over-aged students that improves programs and reallocates dollars. I'm very dedicated and devoted to Dr. Terri Stahlman and Dana Kriznar and I applaud their leadership and dedication. They have proven themselves to be eager partners and fierce advocates for over-aged students. I would really encourage you to support the Schools for the Future. I'm afraid it will be sending the opposite message to national funders if you don't. Thank you.

Mr. Jack Matthews said that throughout the United States, the month of March is declared as Youth Art Month and in Duval County, it is no different and we began our annual exhibitions with the senior high exhibitions on March 10. I encourage each of you to put it on your calendars to attend that evening at FSCJ South Campus, 5:00 o'clock; in April, middle school exhibitions and May, the Best of Elementary. On March 25, we will have Elementary Library exhibits and those will be placed in 15 of our city libraries. Our calendars on Looking Glass and we make it available on our website so please look at that and I encourage you to come. We'll have an invitation on your desk in the morning. I know this is a very daunting time for us and I know the kinds of funds that have to be cut in order to meet the budget, but I want to thank each of you for your continued support of the arts in Duval County. You have been remarkable each year of the 13 years that I have been downtown and I know our newest members are supporters of the arts. I taught one of them, so, I very much look forward to the continuous support that you give. So, at this time, I have something for you...some people may call it a bribe...no, but I have the president of the Duval Art Teachers Association, Terry Woodlief, here to help us and to help remember that it all starts in elementary school. Even though you all don't drink coffee, you all are receiving a mug with a piece of student artwork on it with two packets of gourmet coffee and the calendar of all the events that are going on through the rest of this school year. I do want to thank you, again, as I know you have some difficult decisions to make and I appreciate everything you do for us.

Mr. Willie B. Hall said I stand before you as a product of Duval County Public Schools and one of the Intervene Schools - William M. Raines High School. I want to commend the Board members for the recommendation you gave to the Commissioner of Education in the support of these Intervene Schools and not accepting the options that were trying to be forced upon the district. I would like to encourage you to continue to

support these schools in the process you have currently put in place and to not accept those options that are before you. The second thing, I noticed on the agenda that was mentioned about the ATOSS program for the school district. I'm not sure if you are voting on this tonight, as far as the funding and the program in general, but I want to encourage you to support that program. It is a program that is imperative for the success of our students by keeping them out of the streets, helping them not to be truant and teaching them life skills. I want to talk about a Student Committee and I commend you on establishing the committee with community leaders to address the concerns of the Intervene Schools. I believe it is imperative that you form some sort of student committee whereby you will receive feedback from the students who attend the Intervene Schools on a regular basis.

Ms. Terry Woodlief, President of the Duval Art Teachers Association. I represent all of the art educators in Duval County and want to thank you so much for supporting us in the past. You have come to our fundraisers, kept our programs in place and we know that some bad budget cuts are coming. We just want you to think about or imagine the sound of squeals of delight when children are told they are going to art class that day or think about the child that struggles with math and reading and comes to art class and excels and then takes that positive attitude and that self confidence back and applies it to his other academics. I was one of those students and I know many others. I would like for you to remember that students in art classes learn to think "outside of the box"; they think creatively and that they are going to be our inventors, innovators and our dreamers of tomorrow. So, I hope that when you make these decisions about budget cuts in the future, that you will not only think with your head, but think with your heart and make those decisions. Thank you.

Ms. Libby Blumberg, Riverside Fine Arts Association, said I have a friend named Ellen. She is a second grader in my Creative Movement class. The other day, she came to me with a worksheet and wanted help with the word "moisture". It was a multiple choice question with three possibilities: animals, plants or water. As always, I said, "What do you think the answer is?" She said, "I think it's animals." For some reason, I didn't correct her but I would soon find out why. A little while later as we were studying the process of photosynthesis through creative movement, we came upon the part of the cycle in which the rain falls from the clouds, onto the plants and into the soil. Ellen was beautifully trickling down, covering the plants with her water and soaking it into the soil as she descended toward the floor. So, I said, "Ellen, guess what? This is the word that you asked me about, earlier...that word that starts with an M?" She thought for just a moment and joyfully exclaimed, "moisture!" My name is Libby Blumberg and I am a veteran dance educator of 25 years. After many years of teaching in a classroom setting, I have recently made the transition to the non-profit sector. With this work, I have the pleasure of providing free visual and performing arts classes and programs to students in our community who would not, otherwise, have the opportunity. Both programs are represented by the Jacksonville Chapter of ACE (Arts for a Complete Education). The work of this organization is vital. These people are devoted and they provide the kind of "ah ha" moments experienced by my friend, Ellen, and I thank you for your support, thus far and I ask that you continue to lend your helping hand in recognizing the importance of arts education. I realized recently that my transition to the non-profit organizations was my way of saying "thank you" for the support that they gave me as a classroom educator for 13 years. It has come full circle and it feels perfect. I believe and I hope that you believe that the word

"complete" in Arts for a Complete Education is exactly what we will understand. That the arts are something that's part of a child's education needed to make it complete and simply can't be taken away. Thank you.

Mr. Eddie Diamond, Jr. said tonight I'd like to discuss education. My task is to convince people 15 smarter than myself to travel in a different lane. The condition of our community is deplorable. I've heard senators say that teachers need to be held accountable. I say that senators need to be held accountable. The School Board is not at fault and they are doing their job. What we have here and I'll have to call out to the reverend to help me out. The condition of your community is in deplorable shape. We have kids going to prison every day and we have the finest educators there is. There is no such thing as failing schools. The only thing is that you have a failing community. We have a sub-culture with a different language and we have to face that fact and, senators, show me the money. Where is the money? Come all the way from the White House down to Jacksonville. Everything needs support - art, music, sports. How do you expect students to do what you can't do?

Mr. John Turner said Jacksonville has a reading problem. As bad as the reading problem is, it is more pronounced with black students than white. For example: Raines H.S. which has the highest black population rate of 97% also has the lowest reading scores according to the 2010 FCAT. Did you know that 69% of the 10th graders at Raines scored at the lowest reading level? Now compare that to Mandarin H.S. with a 20% black population and the reading failure rate drops to 23% or in other words, Raines has a failure rate 3 times that of Mandarin. Sadly, this reading problem and achievement gap between white and black students in Jacksonville is nothing new. I have here an old chart that covers the reading gap between black and white students from 1998-2007. However, the achievement gap likely pre-dates 1998 but that is as far as this chart goes. Although this chart does show some improvement over the years it is due to the introduction of FCAT. Still, even with the modest gains made with the introduction of FCAT you should note and I can't stress this enough, the achievement gap between white and black students remains very wide and at almost a perfect parallel. Why is that? Over the years I have heard all sorts of excuses for this very wide and consistent reading gap. From it's the students fault, to the parents fault or the black culture fault. Some here in this room have stated it is the black leaders and/or their pastors fault. I even heard one school board member blame it on the free lunch program. Oh really? Just what are they putting in the free lunches that make black students to sick read? I'm tired of hearing these excuses. I say excuses because I have yet to see a credible report that backs up those claims. Yet, I know of several reports from reading experts that prove what the real problem is as well as the solution. The real problem lies in how we teach students to read. Since the 1950's when the book "Why Johnny Can't Read" by Rudolf Flesch came out, we have known that "phonics" is the best way to teach students to read. We have also known that the inferior method called "whole language" is the main culprit behind our low reading scores. Furthermore, we have since learned that the "whole language" technique hinders black students far more than white. Hence, the biggest reason for the low reading scores among black students in Jacksonville is a failure to place an adequate emphasis on phonics. Yet, in the School Board's Comprehensive Blue Print for Reading I can not find where you even admit to this well documented fact. Instead, the School Board will continue to waste millions of dollars on remedial reading programs.

Problems created by the "whole language" technique. Would't it be easier and cheaper to just do the right thing from the get go? That is placing a heavy an emphasis on "phonics" for grades K-6th instead? Perhaps I am wrong on all of this but then again I have yet to see anyone from the school board prove otherwise. So, I ask that the School Board take a hard look at the benefits of "phonics" and re-consider that the reading problem is not due to the lack of motivation of the students or the lack of funding but simply due to how you teach students to read. Thank you for listening.

Mr. Stanley Scott said you need to get down to business and I don't come here to make friends. I disagree with Eddie Diamond because you are responsible. You are in the learning role. You are getting busy people because you are playing "catchup". No one can answer the bell. There is intellectual stupidity. Look at your track record because you have failed. This is appalling.

Mr. Trey Csar, president of Jacksonville Public Education Fund (JPEF), said we are in support of the Duval Partners for Excellent Education, Inc. and this is a critical first step. Even with the \$90,000 for new funding, this is a critical juncture for the lives of these students and I encourage your approval. Also, it is our responsibility to educate all children and we support the Duval County Public Schools partnership with The Bridge of Northeast Florida and Schools for the Future.

Ms. Nina Waters said I didn't know before this afternoon that I would be here. I got up this morning a read the Florida Times-Union and had to make a decision to change my day, as I do most days, unfortunately. On New Year's Day, I made commitment that I would schedule one day a week to have dinner with my husband and that I would calendar that and I would hold it sacred and that was tonight. On my way in, my son of 27 years who lives in Atlanta and rarely calls me, called me and said, "Mom, I had a really rough day." I told him that I have to go into a School Board meeting and that I'll call him later. So, here I am and I don't have to be here and I don't get paid to be here and I don't get paid to do this work. Six years ago, the Community Foundation made a decision to address public education reform in Duval County. We could have funding the arts, environment and alot of other things. It was a bold step for this Community Foundation. We worked with the district and we looked at all of the studies that have been done over many years and our Board decided we would work with the district and we have done that. We have worked for six years to build trust and to respond whatever it is you have asked us to do and we have done it in good faith. We began the Learning to Finish partnership over four years ago, transitioning to the Jacksonville Public Education Fund. The Community Foundation, over the past six years, has made a \$5,000,000 investment in the Public Education system - not charter schools - not anything but the Public Education system. When Learning to Finish started, we came to the district and asked, "What do you need and how can we add the most value?" Four partners - DCPS, The United Way of Northeast Florida, The Community Foundation and the Jacksonville Childrens Commission then added the Jacksonville Public Education Fund when it was founded worked together tirelessly to build the Learning to Finish initiative. You were driving the train, you were at the table, you told us what you needed and we did what it is you asked us to do. So, here we are, tonight, with a plan that your staff was intimately involved in developing and I would say a very talented and dedicated staff. We have responded. We have gotten data. We have built what we thought is what the district wanted. This has been a significant investment of private individuals and the district. There are 25 community

partners at the table - from Communities in Schools to Boys & Girls Clubs to the Department of Juvenile Justice to the NAACP - meeting for two years at the table. I want to say to you that we have held up our part of the partnership and I'm asking you, tonight, to hold up yours.

Ms. Ashley Smith Juarez said thank you, Mr. Chairman, Board members, and Superintendent for your thoughtful consideration of the proposal for Schools for the Future. I am the Executive Director of the Chartrand Foundation and am here to lend some perspective from philanthropy in terms of this proposal. Many foundations, as you've heard tonight, corporations and community partners invest their time and financial resources in the education of our children here in Jacksonville. These private dollars play a critical role in developing demonstration projects, enhancing academic experiences in school culture as well as increasing wraparound services for students. I can only speak specifically to the Chartrand Foundation experience, but I know others and, likely, even yourselves would agree that these resources are critical to the success of Jacksonville's children. Many would also agree that growing the resources available is critical to continuing to move forward as a school system and as a community, together. Our Foundation has been represented at the annual Grant Makers for Education Conference, nationally, for the past five years and this year, I was very pleasantly surprised to arrive and find that many national funders from across spectrum in the country are looking at Jacksonville as now being on the map for education reform, for working together, for having these partnerships that are hand-in-hand between the private and public sectors. People around the country are beginning to look at us as a place that is receptive to innovation that's poised for reform and it's a place to invest. Grant Makers for Education is currently considering bringing its Urban Education Study Tour to Jacksonville which will bring many of these funders and representatives from foundations from across the country to Jacksonville as an opportunity to see the work that we're doing. One example of this work is Schools for the Future. You've heard about the economics with the new investment from Duval County Public Schools of \$90,500 will be able to leverage \$343,000 in outside funding, private funders, many budget that coming nationally to Jacksonville. The School Board has embraced other creative solutions such as Teach for America, the Learning to Finish collaborative, KIPP and many others. Schools for the Future is another key opportunity for public/private partnership. This vote will send a message to philanthropic and other partners about the Board's willingness to embrace bold ideas and welcome private investment. Thank you.

## Comments From Parent Organizations

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

Minutes:

District Advisory Council - Rachel Raneri, Chair:

Good evening, the District Advisory Council met last night. I would like to thank all of the staff members who were able attended and those that sent us a report.

Superintendent Pratt-Dannals gave us an update on what we may be facing in light of the budget shortfall. We also discussed some of the possible scenarios for the Intervene schools and their feeder schools.

Ms. Dana Kriznar brought us a wealth of information on non-traditional forms of education available through the school district.

I would like to remind all Principals and SAC chairs that your bylaws should have been sent to Pat Carley and that the minutes should be sent to her monthly.

Our next meeting will be on the third Monday of March since the 4th Monday will be during Spring Break. So we will meet on March 21st at 6:00pm in the 6th floor conference room. We hope that a school board member will be able to join us.

Parent Advisory Council - Sharon Hodges, Chair:

To chairman W.C. Gentry, board members, and Superintendent, I am reporting on behalf of the DCPS Title I Parent Advisory Council.

Title I Parent Advisory Council participated in number events during the month of February. We began with our sub-committee meeting on Tuesday, February 8, 2011 where parents, principals and community stakeholders were engaged in great dialogue relating to challenges of parent involvement and positive ways to encourage parent involvement.

We also distributed petitions; that were addressed to the Commissioner of Education, Eric Smith, to advocate on behalf of the 4 intervene schools.

Later that day, PAC board sent out an email blast to encourage parents, caregivers, and community stakeholders to sign, distribute and collect petitions to save our 4 intervened schools. They were also encouraged to send a personal note to the Commissioner on how the 3 options he proposed will affect our community.

We followed up by conducting a "Petition Drop Off event" at the Highlands Library on Sunday, February 13th, from 1PM to 4PM. This gave participants an opportunity to drop off the petitions that they collected. We received over 300 petitions.

On February 16th, District Parent Involvement Staff invited PAC members to participate in a webinar training called The Title I Parent Involvement Set Aside: What can I spend it on? The training was conducted by Dr. Zollie Stevenson Jr. from Bowie State University, who explained in detail how Title I funds should be spent and the responsibilities from a district and school level.

Title I Parent Involvement Department sponsored Mardi Gras Carnival on last Friday. Many of our parents and students attended, this multi-cultural event, where they were

greeted by a stilt-walker as they approached Cuba Hunter Community Center. Participants navigated through an array of learning activity stations all centered on the Next Generation Sunshine State reading and math standards. It was a wonderful learning experience for all.

On February 28th, we had the privilege of meeting with Ms. Kendra Thomas, AP for Andrew Jackson, to discuss how PAC can support their efforts through parent involvement. Our goal is to meet with all of Principals or APs at the intervene schools to offer our support. Our mission is to encourage parents to get up, get out, and get involved with their child's education.

Please note that we have a parent involvement email address which is [Title1pac@duvalschools.org](mailto:Title1pac@duvalschools.org), just another avenue for parents to leave messages, questions or concerns.

We want to thank Kathy Leroy, Chief Officer for Academic Services and her staff for providing outstanding math trainings designed for parents in mind. Trainings were helpful and informative; parents were pleased about the wealth of information received. Again, thank you Mrs. Leroy.

This concludes our report. Thank you and have a great evening.

#### Duval County Council of PTAs - Melissa Kicklighter, President:

Good evening! My name is Melissa Kicklighter, and I am here on behalf of the Duval County Council of PTAs. February included a whirlwind of advocacy related activities, including the legislative letter writing campaign, grassroots advocacy training, and the Jacksonville Rally to Stop budget cuts to public education. While the calendar says that Love Your Public Schools Month is over, we will continue to send that message to our legislators day in and day out as they make important decisions the will impact our public schools. We hope that all of the members of our school communities will join us in communicating with our lawmakers through phone calls, e-mails, faxes and letters – so there is no doubt in their minds that we are done with the cuts and expect that they will find a way to properly fund public K-12 education during this legislative session!

On March 12, our Superintendent's Leadership Academy students will be working to prepare for participating in constructive conversations with our legislators. Last month, they wrote heartfelt letters addressing their concerns about the future of education. Many of the students also proudly participated in the Mayoral Candidate Forum at the Schultz Center. Next steps include the Florida PTA Rally in Tally on March 24 and a "Postcard Protest" to the budget cuts that will be delivered to the Governor the day of the rally. We will meet in the DCPS parking lot at 6:00 a.m., travel to Tallahassee courtesy of buses donated from First Student, meet with legislators, attend the Rally then travel back knowing that we all did our best to advocate for the students in Duval County! Information about the "Postcard Protest" will be sent out to all the schools soon.

Our March 15 County Council General meeting will include Hospitality and Hot Topics training on Audits and Procedure Books, so that our local unit leaders are prepared to successfully transition as the school year ends. We will also be holding our election of officers for the 2011-2012. And, in support if the launch of the new district reading

initiative, we will have a representative from the Jacksonville Public library join us to present information about the many resources that are available through the library to support our students.

I also want to mention that the next Teacher Supply Depot giveaway will be held on Thursday, March 10. Teachers who write a letter or postcard to one of our lawmakers while they are at the depot will be given an extra bag to fill with priceless treasures from the depot. A few other important dates include our PTA Night at the Jacksonville Suns, which will be held on Wednesday, May 11, our Spring Leadership Workshop on Thursday, May 19, and our Annual Presidents' and Principals' luncheon - scheduled for Tuesday, May 24 at the University of North Florida University Center. More information about all of these events will be shared as they get closer, but I wanted to let you know that they are all in the works as we speak!

Special thanks to the members of the Duval county School Board, the Superintendent and all districts administrators and staff for their support of work of PTA in our schools and around the community!

## Comments From Employee Organizations

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

Minutes: *No employee organizations.*

## Student Achievement, Reform Activities, And Reports

### [1. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT](#)

Minutes:

I'd like to talk a little more about our Intervene Schools and our response to it. At our last Board meeting, the Board approved a plan to submit to the Board of Education in Tallahassee, Florida. In that plan, we laid out the programs that we expected to place in these schools which I think are very important to their success and we also talked about a community-based organization which would be part of our plan. That plan was submitted to Tallahassee and we were told it was not compliant. We expect to submit additional information to the Board of Education before March 15 and it's my hope now that we've done more on the organizational side, that it will become more clear to the Board of Education, that we are compliant and that we are in good faith, undertaking to comply with this system of differentiated accountability.

I believe there's been some confusion and misunderstanding regarding the positions

the Board has taken and I'd like to go over a few of those things. We are in this system of "differentiated accountability" and, presently, there are four schools that are considered Intervene Schools which are: North Shore K-8, Andrew Jackson High, Raines High and Ribault High. We agree that there is no excuse for these schools being allowed to be in this condition. As an institution, I believe our school district and our city have failed these communities and children. There's no question about it. This School Board accepts the responsibility to correct the problems and that is what we are undertaking to do. We have no issue, whatsoever, and I feel everyone on this Board would applaud a system put into place that measures all children's performance so that we can identify schools where some children are not succeeding and address those issues. There needs to be a system in place to require that those sort of issues be addressed. That is not the issue that we have as a School Board. The issues we have with differentiated accountability and the questions that have arisen with the Commissioner of Education...the Board of Education, has to with the implementation of solving the problem. I know the Superintendent is going to speak to it and I won't spend much time on it since he will, but just this week, on February 28, the Florida Association of District Schools Superintendents wrote to the Board of Education a letter on behalf of all superintendents from all school districts throughout the state of Florida raising the very issues that we have raised regarding the differentiated accountability model pointing out that as it has been written, with the rules and regulations that have been promulgated by the Board of Education, that it can not be implemented...that it can not succeed. When we made our application, we refused to check off the boxes that we knew led to failure and not success. Now, the entire state of Florida has brought these matters to the attention of the Department of Education and to the Commissioner and we're hopeful that they will now be addressed as we requested a month ago.

We have agreed, as a Board, to a document called, "*The Relationship Between the Duval County Public Schools and the Duval Partners for Excellent Education*". The Duval Partners for Excellent Education is an independent organization that has been established to assist the Duval County Public Schools in doing what is necessary to return these schools to a high level of excellence. We anticipate, through this organization, that not only will it assist us in improving the schools, but also in attracting children back to these schools and making these communities and schools viable, again. We thought it was important to lay out our views and how we will proceed in regard to differentiated accountability. First, the model contemplates that if there's not sufficient improvement by the schools, the district must make certain governance decisions. As a district, we fully expect these schools will show significant improvement this year. They showed significant improvement last year and everything we're seeing shows that are succeeding. We, of course, will do nothing that will in any way impede their success. We expect the schools to continue to succeed. We will not check off a box to the Board of Education suggesting that we do not expect them to succeed. We expect by the end of this year that we will have some changes in the rules and have more flexibility at those schools. With more flexibility and with the contracts that we can enter into with the Duval Partners for Excellent Education, we will be able to do all sorts of things at these schools.

After reading some of the articles and emails I received, there was some confusion about the programs that would be put in place at these schools. The plan of the school

district is to have in each of these schools, what I call is, a Career Academy type of model so that each student can be in an academy, identified with a particular course of study such as at Andrew Jackson right now, as a medical magnet with some 200 students in it, by increasing that to 400-500 students. All those students would work and move together as a cohort. It's a very effective model and has been used around the country and we believe it will be very effective in these schools. Choosing models for each school that fit the character of the community and children and their interests and also fit with the feeder schools so as children come up from elementary, middle and high school, they will progress out of high school and on to college. It is a good model and we're not creating eight new schools when there used to be four, we are taking three high schools and creating colleges within those high schools which we will develop on a year-by-year basis and not all at once. It is a good plan and a model that has been used elsewhere and being used now in our Career Academies which has been very successful. It's something we need to do to rebuild these schools. I'm disappointed that there has been some misunderstanding by some members of our community in regard to that.

One of the things the Board wanted to make very clear, today, we agreed, again, and put in writing so it's crystal clear, with respect with what is going on with the differentiated accountability model, that this School Board has determined that it is essential to the well-being of the children, communities and the City of Jacksonville, to maintain William Raines High School, Jean Ribault High School and Andrew Jackson High School. One of the proposed options - the state of closure - is not acceptable. This Board will not accept that at all. Many of the members of this Board were born and raised here. Many of us are old enough to have gone through the 1960's and 1970's and we will not see thousands of our African American children bused from these neighborhoods, again. In Tallahassee, the Commissioner of Education may not be aware of the circumstances of this community, but we are and that is not an option and that's why we made it clear when we filed our submission last month. In our submission, we laid out the plan by calling together and pulling together some of the leading community leaders of our city. They are educators and business people who pull together and have a tremendous experience level that will assist us with these schools.

We explained why we're not checking off the boxes because the system the state was proposing was incapable implementation. There was no valid data to support the options the state was asking us to choose. We know that is the case and the superintendents from all school districts in the state have pointed that out to the State of Florida, as well. We believe we have chosen a good course, good program and now have a great partner to be successful and now, we need the support of everyone, not only to make these four Intervene schools successful, but we need the support of everyone in this community to deal with the issues we face in Tallahassee in terms of budgeting. It seems as if once we over one crisis, we're facing another one.

There was a letter written by some prominent businessmen to the newspaper suggesting an alternative that we rejected. We know those gentlemen who are very responsible and respected and we appreciate their interest in assisting us. We need people in this community who have contacts with the Governor and legislature to step us and to assist us and the Superintendents Association in fixing this flawed model of differentiated accountability so not only our schools, but the schools throughout the

state, can be put on a plan whenever they start getting challenged and a plan that will be successful and not one doomed for failure. We, also, need everyone's assistance in terms of the budget.

I've spoken longer than I've meant to and I haven't even addressed the budget and I hope the Superintendent will. We had a number of people who came tonight talking about the arts and this Board has been very insistent that we believe art and music are essential for a child's education. However, they are not considered "core" subjects which we are required by law to deliver. We had a lengthy workshop last week. The district has been working since last October to try to prioritize and identify areas that we may, possibly, could cut because there are, literally, no other areas left to cut. We came up with a total of \$17,000,000 to cut out of our budget of which \$3,000,000 was art and music. We're looking at a \$90,000,000 deficit. Everyone needs to appreciate that if Governor Scott's proposed budget or anything close to it is passed, that we can not have art and music, extra curricular activities, or busing for magnet schools. We probably won't be able to have five days a week of school. It takes huge, drastic, draconian cuts in order to meet those demands. I'll conclude with this to put it in perspective, five years ago, the State of Florida's approximate budget for Florida schools was \$7,200 per child. These last five years, costs have gone up. The proposed budget, per child for Duval County is \$6,000. We must work together to make our schools successful that have been challenged and we have left behind in the past and for which we accept full responsibility. We need everyone in the community to help us with this and we greatly appreciate this group of men and women who have stepped forward to help us. We need the rich, powerful and politically connected, Tallahassee insiders and everyone to step up for children. The state must decide, *"Do you want to cut two billion dollars in taxes from the wealthiest corporations and put it on the backs of your children or not? What is our priority?"* We need your help in trying to get that message to Tallahassee as to what the priority ought to be. Thank you.

## [2. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT](#)

Minutes:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As Mr. Gentry said, on Monday, a letter was delivered to Commissioner Eric Smith by the Florida Association of District School Superintendents (FADSS) and in this letter there was an outline of some concerns about the current differentiated accountability model which is the model that the Intervene Schools are identified under and outlined a number of concerns we and our Board have been articulating over the last six months. So, one of the areas was questioning the decision was to stay with the old high school grades as determinant for exit from differentiated accountability. As many of you know, there's a new high school grading formula that is much more inclusive of the full range of activities and important targets that high schools have. This was supported by the Department, appropriately so, supported by both Houses, was a non-partisan issue and included items like graduation rates, participation in success in acceleration courses (college level courses) and readiness for college work. It really included the work of 11th and 12th graders that have been left

out of the high school equation. In addition, there's another set of targets that have been established for School Improvement Grants and these are the schools that have been identified by the state of Florida as being in the lowest performing categories and we have eleven of those schools. To continue within the School Improvement Grants, there's a wide range of targets that you must meet and you must meet a certain percentage of them so it's a much broader definition of success than previously was available through the high school grading system. One of the challenges was that high schools have received much lower grades than middle or elementary schools. I've often said that elementary grading is too easy and high school grading is too hard and middle school may be just about right. So, instead of looking within each of those grade clusters to identify the lowest 5%, the state decided just to do the lowest 5% so over half of the schools that were identified were high schools. Again, that's not just in Duval County, that's throughout the state. So, from the beginning, there was a problem in terms of the definition on how schools got in and even greater concern in terms of how schools got out of the Intervene status. One of the items in the list says that needs to be reviewed.

The second item we articulated was that the statute calls for one of three options if our Turnaround options does not move schools forward significantly enough. Those are closures which Mr. Gentry indicated we are not interested in. It would be different if we were in a position where we didn't have enough students to support the schools within the geographic zone. Our challenge is attracting back to the three high schools the students who have left because we lost almost half of them to other schools. There are plenty of students within those attendance zones to support all three schools. Our task is to make sure we create those programs of excellence to attract back to the school to those students who have made other choices. So, the second point that we had made was that there are no organizations that meet the criteria of the other two options. These other two options are a Charter organization or a Management organization and especially in the area of high schools for organizations that take over existing students with an existing attendance zones, there isn't anyone with a track record of success. The one that comes closest to it is Green Dot in Los Angeles. I spoke to the CEO about two weeks ago and it is not currently in their Strategic Plan to expand and even if it were, it would take them at least two years worth of planning time in order to be able to do so. So, part of the problem is that they don't exist and second of all, if they did, they would need at least two years worth of planning time in order to serve communities. The current time line within the differentiated accountability model says we receive the results in June and we stand up whatever this alternative management group might be, in August. It's simply an untenable timeline so this letter agrees with that. It says they don't exist and the timeline is not realistic. We further argued that some of the items requiring specific staff to be moved should be more flexible in terms of making determinations based on performance. The other area was a length of time this organization may have to make progress. The statute says they have one (1) year to make progress and if they don't, then it will be the responsibility of the Board to find another group. If you can't find a single group, how do you find another group? So, there are major problems with the way the statute is written and Duval County Public Schools raised those questions and the same questions have now been raised by the Superintendents' Association throughout the state of Florida. So, what are the two remedies that are proposed? It is to request that the State Board use their authority to say that we will continue in the Turnaround process for one more year and during that time, craft an appropriate criteria for entering and

exit into the Intervene area. I think there's broad agreement that we need accountability. There needs to be a process where we identify those lowest performing schools, assist them and make sure they get better, but that the current system is flawed. Secondly, set up a committee in collaboration with the Board of Education, superintendents, assistant superintendents and others who have broad background experience in understanding the impact of how we will craft these criteria in order to come up with a better plan to be implemented next year and not this summer. I think it's important in saying that's now a widely held belief that's been stated and not just the belief of the Duval County Public Schools.

The second area I wanted to discuss had to do with the budget and as Mr. Gentry said, we are looking at a \$97,000,000 shortfall. That's an estimated \$70,000,000 loss of funding, \$37,000,000 worth of fixed costs which we will make every effort to reduce significantly, but there are going to be some fixed costs increases, which totals a \$107,000,000. We have \$10,000,000 in our fund balance to apply to that leaving a net of \$97,000,000. That is over a 10% reduction in our Operating budget. In the past as you know, we've done significant staff cuts and in fact, a report by ERS which is a group that we contracted with and with the help of the Jacksonville Education Foundation Fund, looked at how we spend funds, how it aligns with our Strategic Plan, how it relates to our results and gives us advice as far as how we might look at things differently. We received the first of many reports they will give us and said we are the least top heavy of all the groups they've studied including a little better than Charlotte which is a very equivalent district. There is a certain amount of district staff that is necessary in order to develop programs to assess effectiveness and to comply with the necessary things that come from the Department of Education just in terms of providing the data that is required by the Department. So, those are some things we've done. We've changed the secondary schedule; school consolidations and look at that process, again, reduced travel significantly, transportation reduction from 2 miles to 1.5 miles and redoing magnet transportation. Part of our review, is looking, again, at magnet transportation and see if we need to make dramatic decreases.

The challenge is even if we're able to do all \$17,000,000 that came out of our Administrator process, if in fact, because it has been proposed, comes to fruition, we're still \$80,000,000 short and the only place you can get that is through numbers of staff or through furloughs. So, it will have dramatic impact on things like electives, art, music and physical education which was mentioned earlier and that's not just at the elementary level, but the secondary level, having to look at anything that we're doing that's not directly funded by the state. We do a lot of things for students that aren't directly funded. If you look at our \$186,000,000 worth of unfunded or underfunded mandates, \$100,000,000 of it is because we don't have enough instructional time to what is required by the state. Some of the things they are requiring are good things. Every year, the legislature passes some other requirement without the funding and then tasks the Department of Education to monitor the progress or report back to the legislature whether or not it's working. Well, who gets to collect the data and present it to DOE so they can then present to the legislature? So, schools and district offices have to collect all of this information in order to do it. We simply do not have the time to do what we need to do and do it well so we need some assistance with those unfunded and underfunded mandates. I think there's a recognition given where the state is financially that will probably have to take some reductions, but we simply can

not take the volume that is currently proposed without draconian cuts which means fewer instructional days, draconian cuts to programs or teachers' salaries and benefits which is very unfair given the fact that the vast majority of our people are underpaid compared to equivalent work throughout our society, whether that is in the private or public sector. We need your help!

As part of this, we're going to have three community meetings. I want to compliment our principals, PTAs and others. We had over 1,000 people at each of the budget meetings last year. It was incredible with the kind of concerns and support that we received from parents and others in the community. It's an opportunity for people to weigh in. Those meeting dates are:

March 21, 2011 - Andrew Jackson High School

March 22, 2011 - Ed White High School

April 4, 2011 - Atlantic Coast High School

All are at 6:00 pm and we encourage all concerned citizens to show up and provide input and spread the word.

## Reports

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

Minutes: *No Operations report this evening.*

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

Minutes:

Comments by Patricia Willis, Deputy Superintendent:

Tonight we have just a brief statement on FCAT WRITES. Then it will be followed by the Monthly Turnaround Report by Mr. Bellamy.

The FCAT Writing Assessment was administered in our schools today for grades 4, 8 and 10. As we visited schools today, we found the students were focused, engaged, and responding well to the writing prompts. The Teachers and Administrators, as well as many volunteers and parents, were very supportive of our students. Students were motivated and said they felt they were well prepared to test.

FCAT Writes Make-ups will be completed over the next couple of days.

As soon as this test is completed, of course students will continue to prepare for FCAT Reading, Math and Science which will occur a little later this year (in approximately 24 days) April 11-15, 2011.

We continue to encourage our students to do their best. I now turn it over to Mr. Tony Bellamy for the Monthly Turnaround Report.

Comments by Tony Bellamy, Cluster Chief - Turnaround Schools:

Tonight, I will give the Turnaround School update in the areas of School Improvement (specifically our Intervene Schools) and Instructional Vacancies within our Turnaround Clusters.

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT – Intervene School Update

- Concerning FCAT Writes today, I am proud to report tonight, that student attendance, at our 4 Intervene schools, was excellent! At Andrew Jackson High School, 212 students out of 226 were tested representing 90% of their sophomore population. At Raines High, 245 students were tested out of 272 representing 91% in attendance and at Ribault Senior High, 222 students tested out of 239 representing 93%. At North Shore K-8, out of the 173 students total (101) 4th graders were tested and (58) 8th graders representing 92% of their tested population. Each principal did a good job on motivating students and encouraging them to do their personal best.

- As we are currently preparing to implement each Intervene school's academic program and acceleration options, it was important that we first make contact with our Principals, Parents and students. In order to better communicate this information the following steps were taken.

- o On February 23, our Intervene Principals and their Feeder Pattern schools held a Principals' meeting with the Deputy Superintendent and district staff to discuss and review program implementation for each Intervene School and for feeder pattern schools. These program options for each school were designed to allow students to receive continuity of academic programs from elementary, middle and then to our high schools.

- o On Friday, February 25th, the following communication was sent to parents concerning Feeder pattern Informational Meetings:

- ? A Parentlink message was sent out via the phone, notifying parents of upcoming Informational Meetings for schools within the Intervene High School Feeder patterns.

- ? Fliers were created and sent home via students referencing the meetings.

- ? A district letter to all parents with this information concerning dates and times of each Parent meeting were mailed.

- o The Feeder Pattern Informational Parent Meetings are scheduled to begin this week, the week of the February 28, 2011.

INSTRUCTIONAL VACANCIES

- And finally tonight, in the area of Instructional Vacancies, we are currently showing 3 vacancies in our Elementary Turnaround Cluster and 5 in our Secondary Turnaround Cluster. Out of the 8 total, (4) are from resignations that were submitted in January and February, (1) from a school creating a new position, (1) 97 day dismissal (1) for job abandonment and (1) retirement. As we continue to work with our Human Resource Department, we are confident that the positions will be filled with qualified applicants as soon as possible.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes our Turnaround Report for the Month of March.

## Approval of Agenda

### [APPROVAL OF THE MARCH 1, 2011, AGENDA](#)

#### Motions:

That the Duval County School Board approve the March 11, 2011, Agenda as submitted on February 22, 2011, with the following changes:

1. Operations - School Choice and Pupil Assignment - Item 1 - Charter School Contract for Renaissance Charter School, Inc. K-8 Charter School - Revised Attachment - PASS
2. Operations - School Choice and Pupil Assignment - Item 2 - Charter School Contract for Renaissance Charter School, Inc. High School Charter School - Revised Attachment
3. Superintendent's Travel - Revised Agenda Item

#### Vote Results

Motion: Martha Barrett

Second: Betty Burney

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:

January 31, 2011 - Special Board Meeting

February 1, 2011 - Regular Board Meeting

Motions:

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

- January 31, 2011 - Special Board Meeting - PASS
- February 1, 2011 - Regular Board Meeting

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 Consent Agenda

## APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Minutes:

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. NEW ENGLISH FOR SPEAKERS OF OTHER LANGUAGES ENDORSEMENT PLAN

Attachment: [ESOLUPDATEENDORSEMENTMarch2011.pdf](#)

Attachment: [ESOLMarchEndorsement2011.pdf](#)

Attachment: [BenefitsESOLENDORSEMENTProgram32011.pdf](#)

### 2. OUT-OF-SCHOOL SUSPENSION CENTERS - THE JACKSONVILLE JOURNEY

Attachment: [BenefitsandChallengesForm-2010-2011-ATOSS.pdf](#)

### 4. AGREEMENT WITH K12, INCORPORATED, FLORIDA VIRTUAL SCHOOLS ACADEMY (FLVA), AVENTA, FLORIDA VIRTUAL SCHOOL (FLVS), CONNECTIONS ACADEMY, LINCOLN INTERACTIVE, AND CALVERT SCHOOLS

Attachment: [B-C -Agreement K-12 ETC.pdf](#)

Human Resource Services - Staffing

[2. MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS - EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, SCHOOL CHOICE AND PUPIL ASSIGNMENT OPERATIONS](#)

Attachment: [Agenda 03-01-11 min quals 1.pdf](#)

Motions:

That the Duval County School Board approve the attached Minimum Qualifications for the Executive Director, School Choice and Pupil Assignment.

Vote Results

Motion:

Second:

[3. MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS - SUPERVISOR, RELATED SERVICES, ESE](#)

Attachment: [Agenda 03-01-11 min quals 2.pdf](#)

Administration and Business Services - Budget and Financial

[1. MONTHLY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS](#)

Attachment: [December 2010 Board Statement Worksheet.pdf](#)

[2. ADOPTION OF BUDGET RESOLUTIONS](#)

Attachment: [March 2011 Narratives.pdf](#)

Attachment: [March 2011 Spreadsheets.pdf](#)

Operations - Information Technology

[1. 2011 TECHNOLOGY RETROFIT, PHASE III \(CONSTRUCTION\) DOCUMENTS - TP - 99850-76,166,210,233,235](#)

Attachment: [B and C March 2011 Retrofits.pdf](#)

Operations - School Choice and Pupil Assignment

[1. CHARTER SCHOOL CONTRACT FOR RENAISSANCE CHARTER SCHOOL, INC. K-8 CHARTER SCHOOL](#)

Attachment: [ATTACHMENT A Deliverables-corrected copy.pdf](#)

[2. CHARTER SCHOOL CONTRACT FOR RENAISSANCE CHARTER SCHOOL, INC.](#)

## HIGH SCHOOL CHARTER SCHOOL

Attachment: [ATTACHMENT A Deliverables-corrected copy.pdf](#)

Operations - Facilities Project Design, Construction and Maintenance

### 1. PRE-QUALIFICATION OF CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTORS FOR EDUCATIONAL PROJECTS

Attachment: [Board Approval - Renewals 03-2011.pdf](#)

Attachment: [Board Approval - New 03-2011.pdf](#)

### 2. PERIODIC REPORT OF SUBSTANTIAL COMPLETIONS AND FINAL INSPECTIONS ON MAJOR MAINTENANCE PROJECTS AND MINOR CAPITAL PROJECTS UNDER \$1,000,000

Attachment: [March 1 2011 Agenda Item Subs Comp Final Comp Chart for February 2011 02 07 11.pdf](#)

Attachment: [March 1 2011 B-C Agenda Item Periodic Report of Subs Comp-Final Insp-Cont Sav on Projects under \\$1M 01 31 11.pdf](#)

### 3. CHANGE ORDER REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY 2011

Attachment: [March 1 2011 Agenda Item Subs Comp Final Comp Chart for February 2011 02 21 11.pdf](#)

Attachment: [March 1 2011 B-C Agenda Item Change Order Report for the Month of February 2010 01 19 11.pdf](#)

### 4. INSTALL LIGHTING OCCUPANCY SENSORS AT VARIOUS SCHOOLS/PROJECT NO. M-84430/OFDC ITB-004-11: CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT AWARD

Attachment: [M-84430 11 02 01 Bid Tab to Install Light Occ Sensors at Various 02 08 11.pdf](#)

Attachment: [March 1 2011 B-C Agenda Item M-84430 Install Light Sensors at Various Cons Con Award PLACEMENT 02 08 11.pdf](#)

Attachment: [M-84430 11 02 08 MBE Approval Memo for Install Light Occ Sensors at Various Schools.pdf](#)

### 5. PARKING LOT LIGHTING UPGRADES AT FRANK H. PETERSON ACADEMIES OF TECHNOLOGY NO. 280/DCSB PROJECT NO. M-84310/OFDC ITB-005-11: CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT AWARD

Attachment: [M84310 Bid Tab483.pdf](#)

Attachment: [March 1 2011 B-C Agenda Item M-84310 Park Lot Light Upgrades at No 280 Cons Con Award PLACEMENT 01 31 11.pdf](#)

### 6. AUTHORIZE A JOINT PROJECT AGREEMENT WITH THE CITY OF JACKSONVILLE FOR THE STORMWATER PERMIT FOR ROBERT E. LEE HIGH SCHOOL NO.33, DCSB PROJECT C-91400

Attachment: [March 1 2011 B-C Agenda Item C-91400 Lee HS Stormwater Permit-COJ Joint Project Agreement.pdf](#)

#### 7. AMEND THE 2010/11 - 2014/15 LONG RANGE CAPITAL PLAN

Attachment: [March 1-2011 Board Agenda Item 7-5 Year Plan Amendment.pdf](#)

Attachment: [March 1 2011 B-C Agenda Item 5 Year Capital Plan Amendment.pdf](#)

#### 8. DISTRICTWIDE ROOF REPLACEMENT AT LANDMARK MIDDLE SCHOOL NO. 256: PHASE III (CONSTRUCTION) DOCUMENTS, DCSB PROJECT NO. M-83800, STAGE I

Attachment: [Reroofing Budget 256.pdf](#)

Attachment: [M-83800 Stage I MM Budget Sheet.pdf](#)

Attachment: [BENEFITS AND CHALLENGES FORM 2-14-11 M-83800 Stage I.pdf](#)

#### 9. DISTRICTWIDE ROOF REPLACEMENT AT ALFRED DUPONT MIDDLE SCHOOL NO. 66, DOUGLAS ANDERSON SCHOOL OF THE ARTS NO. 107, AND MATTHEW GILBERT MIDDLE SCHOOL NO. 146: PHASE III (CONSTRUCTION) DOCUMENTS, DCSB PROJECT NO. M-83800, STAGE II

Attachment: [Project Budget M-83800 Stage II.pdf](#)

Attachment: [Reroofing Budget 146.pdf](#)

Attachment: [M-83800 Stage II MM Budget Sheet.pdf](#)

Attachment: [Reroofing Budget 107.pdf](#)

Attachment: [Reroofing Budget 66.pdf](#)

Attachment: [BENEFITS AND CHALLENGES FORM 2-14-11 M-83800 Stage II.pdf](#)

### Operations - Purchasing and Logistics

#### 1. PROPERTY INSURANCE RENEWAL

Attachment: [BENEFITS AND CHALLENGES Property Insurance Renewal.pdf](#)

#### 2. SURPLUS PROPERTY RETIREMENT REPORT

Attachment: [RORET FY11 \(2\) MARCH.pdf](#)

Attachment: [March 2011.pdf](#)

Attachment: [07March11.doc.pdf](#)

Attachment: [ROSUMFY11MARCH.pdf](#)

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

Attachment: [05March11.doc.pdf](#)

Attachment: [04March11.doc.pdf](#)

### General

1. RENAMING PAXON MIDDLE SCHOOL SITE TO JAMES WELDON JOHNSON COLLEGE PREPARATORY MIDDLE SCHOOL

Discussion

Academic Services

3. DUVAL COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS PARTNERSHIP WITH THE BRIDGE OF NORTHEAST FLORIDA AND SCHOOLS FOR THE FUTURE

Attachment: [BenefitsChallengesandMetricsForm-2010-2011-SchoolsfortheFuture.pdf](#)

Minutes:

Speakers:

- Ms. Betty Burney, Board Vice Chair
- Dr. Terri Stahlman, Chief Technical Officer
- Mr. Tommy Hazouri, Board Member
- Ms. Paula Wright, Board Member
- Mr. Ed Pratt-Dannals, Superintendent of Schools
- Ms. Patricia Willis, Deputy Superintendent
- Ms. Martha Barrett, Board Member
- Mr. Fred "Fel" Lee, Board Member
- Ms. Becki Couch, Board Member
- Mr. W. C. Gentry, Board Chairman

Motions:

1. That the Duval County School Board approve an agreement with the Bridge of Northeast Florida and Schools for the Future to partner in funding and operating an academic alternative school for 90 high school students housed at the Bridge of Northeast Florida for the 2011-2012 school year, in an amount not to exceed \$1,420,000. The objective of the academic alternative school is to serve overage students. - PASS

2. That the Duval County School Board authorize the Board Chairman and the

Superintendent to execute the agreement upon approval as to form and approve any amendments required to fully implement this agreement.

Vote Results

Motion: Martha Barrett

Second: Betty Burney

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

Human Resource Services - Staffing

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

Attachment: [HRS Attach 03-01-11 TRANS.pdf](#)

Minutes:

Mr. Hazouri said, "I have asked that this item be placed on the Discussion list so that I can disclose that one of the transactions listed on the Human Resources' agenda will inure to the benefit of my wife. 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 Human Resource Services employee transactions on the attachment.	- PASS
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Vote Results

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

## Board Member Travel

### BOARD MEMBERS TRAVEL

#### Minutes:

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

March 21-23, 2011 - FSBA New Board Member Orientation - Tallahassee, FL - Couch, Lee and Wright

March 23-25, 2011 - FSBA's 24th Annual Day in the Legislature - Tallahassee, FL - Barrett, Burney, Couch, Gentry, Hazouri, Lee, Wright

#### Motions:

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

- March 21-23, 2011 - FSBA New Board Member Orientation - Tallahassee, FL - Couch, Lee, Wright - PASS
- March 23-25, 2011 - FSBA 24th Annual Day in the Legislature - Barrett, Burney, Couch, Gentry, Hazouri, Lee, Wright

Vote Results

Motion: Martha Barrett

Second: Rebecca Couch

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:

March 15-16, 2011 - FADSS 2011 Spring Leadership Conference - Tallahassee, FL

March 23-25, 2011 - FSBA's 24th Annual Day in the Legislature - Tallahassee, FL

Motions:

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

- March 15-16, 2011 - FADSS 2011 Spring Leadership Conference - Tallahassee, FL - PASS
- March 23-25, 2011 - FSBA 24th Annual Day in the Legislature - Tallahassee, FL

Vote Results

Motion: Martha Barrett

Second: Betty Burney

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:

Ms. Becki Couch said I'd like to make a comment about something that has been said repeatedly at our Board meetings by a gentleman in the audience and this deals with phonics. If you look at our Reading Blueprint, we do teach phonics. My son is a first grader and he was in kindergarten last year at Chaffee Trail Elementary and he has been taught phonics. I, also, coming with a background in education and working for ten years in Duval County Public Schools, I have had intensive training in teaching children how to read. For those people who are interested in our Blueprint, just a few pages, page 3 in the Blueprint, #4 for first grade, it speaks of word work in phonics; page 20, #2 Phonological Awareness - if you look at the teacher training that we're suggesting, page 21, #3 Phonics and Word Recognition are mentioned. The standard that we teach in our Language Arts classes, the student will identify individual sounds and words, etc. Kindergarten, page 18-19, Phonological Awareness, #2 and then in Read 180 in our secondary schools, we have intensive reading and that has explicitly taught phonics. So, I don't know what Blueprint people are reading, but if you go on our "dcps website", you will find an abundance of information on phonics so we can dispel the myth that we only teach "whole word recognition". We do teach phonics. I have a son in school and I know we teach phonics. Thank you.

Ms. Paula Wright said I just want to thank the North Shore community and Ribault High School's community. We've had community meetings despite what we heard that there are no meetings being held. In fact, Cluster Chief Jackie Byrd and I were at North Shore two Saturdays ago for a community meeting with parents and students

about the Intervene Plan and then this past Thursday, we held a community meeting at Ribault High School. The Superintendent, Mrs. Willis, Cluster Chief Tony Bellamy and other staff were there. So, we are holding community meetings because we're concerned about making certain that all stakeholders, in particular, parents and students, understand the Intervene Plan and how it will impact our community. I want to dispel that myth that community meetings are not being held and please feel free to call the Superintendent and share your concerns about the Intervene Plan. We all get our share of emails and calls and welcome the emails and I welcome the calls because that is how we learn, build relationships and grow further. The Intervene Plan process is very important to our community and I don't want to make light of it. Thank you.

Ms. Betty Burney said I would be remiss if I did not say and on behalf of other Board members, Reverend and Mrs. Corley come to all of our Board meetings and they stay and he sends us a prayer once a month and so we do appreciate what the two of you do. Thank you so much for being concerned citizens. You stick with us throughout the evening. The other thing that I want to say is that Raines High School held a parent meeting at the school and the parents were very pleased with regards to the plan. Mr. Bellamy provided assistance. I want to thank all of the teachers, principals, Cluster Chiefs, etc. for your hard work and congratulations on getting one FCAT under your belt.

Mr. Fel Lee thank you to all the staff as you have been working very hard and it's very tough times but there are many people who care about what you are doing and a wonderful job. Superintendent, that goes to you, also. We know how hard you are working and we're appreciative. I'd like to say to my fellow Board members, I appreciate you, too, and sometimes you need to hear it, also. I appreciate the spirited dialog and it means a lot to me and I think we all care about the same thing.

Ms. Martha Barrett said I went to the Save the Schools rally on February 22 and it was a great event, very successful...with Melissa Kicklighter, PTA, and Jacksonville Public Education Foundation. The Chairman and Superintendent did a great job and it had a good turnout. Also, the movie entitled, "Race to Nowhere" we all saw in San Marco was really a good movie with spirited conversation. On the Consent Agenda tonight, was the renaming of James Weldon Johnson - so congratulations. Paxon Middle School will now be named James Weldon Johnson. He was a great citizen in Jacksonville. There's a wonderful exhibit of him at the Ritz Theatre.

Mr. Tommy Hazouri gave a reminder about the election on March 22, first Primary and Early Bird Voting starts next Monday. A couple of Saturdays ago, I spoke briefly to a group of kids who were participating in the People to People Program and they were going to Australia. Some were from our district and this program began in 1956 by President Eisenhower when he brought a group of 100 business people to talk about what he wanted to do and Walt Disney was one of the persons invited and that's where he got the idea and inspired about "It's a Small, Small World". That's where his music came from and his amusement park piece came from. Since 1983, over 350,000 people participating in that program. The kids all have to pay their own way to Australia and it appears to be a great program. One student was from Chets Creek Elementary School in Duval County. Last week, Carol and I went to the Chinese Celebration of Language and Culture at Mandarin Oaks Elementary School. If they can speak English the way they speak Chinese, we'd be doing great work. Rufus Payne was

the only one that didn't participate but they are part of it because their instructor was out due to a death in the family. Attending was Mandarin Oaks, Ribault Middle, Raines High, Stanton, Atlantic Coast, Mandarin High and Mandarin Middle - all did several performances and it was outstanding. I've never seen rap done in Chinese - much better than doing it in English.

Mr. Ed Pratt-Dannals wanted to recognize that we lost a young person with over 123,000 students, more often off campus, and in this case, we lost a young man who was a soccer player at Kirby-Smith Middle School. I'd like to thank everyone involved with their response: Ms. Marshall, the principal, the faculty, the other school that played them, after Josh passed. Everyone recognized as a great leader, a great young man with a great heart and if you read the newspaper article, his parents continue to give his organs so others might live and I think it's a great tribute to him and his family and how sad and unfortunate it is, and yet, their response, I feel is a model for all of us in terms on how to handle tragedy with great dignity and humility. I just want to take my hat off to the family and everyone involved. It's a terrible situation and yet, somehow they've managed to present it as a way that's as positive as you can be given the circumstances.

Mr. W. C. Gentry said I just want to say that we've got a great Board. There's a lot of respect and trust. We're growing to know each other and we have many challenges ahead of us. We're only going to be able to deal with them successfully by working together and we've been doing a great job of that. I particularly want to say how much I appreciate the work of the Superintendent who gives new meaning to the word "tireless", but I know every member here has also been doing a great deal. We have a lot ahead of us, but I'm very optimistic about how we're going to do it because we have a great team.

Adjournment

[ADJOURNMENT](#)

Minutes:

The meeting adjourned at 9:42 p.m.

Isd

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Superintendent

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Chairman