



Duval County Public Schools

March 2, 2010, Regular Board Meeting

Mr. Tommy Hazouri,
Ms. Brenda Priestly Jackson, Chairman
Ms. Martha Barrett
Ms. Nancy Broner, Vice Chairman
Ms. Betty Burney
Ms. Vicki Drake
Mr. W. C. Gentry
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, Ms. Brenda A. Priestly Jackson, Board Chair, and the following Board members: Ms. Martha Barrett, Ms. Betty Burney, Ms. Vicki Drake, Mr. W. C. Gentry and Mr. Tommy Hazouri, present. Ms. Nancy Broner was absent.

Call Meeting to Order

[CALL MEETING TO ORDER](#)

Minutes:

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

Invocation

[INVOCATION](#)

Minutes:

Pastor A. W. Barlow, Esquire
Breakthrough Prayer Ministries

Pledge of Allegiance

[PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE](#)

Presentations

[1. GCA CUSTODIAL AWARDS](#)

Minutes:

--Our first presentation of the night recognizes schools and employees who have received 2009-2010 GCA Custodial Awards provided by Duval County Public Schools and GCA Services Group, Inc., which oversees the custodial management of our schools.

--Joining us tonight to help present certificates of recognition is Steve Gritzuk, GCA's District Manager and Wayne Atwood, the district's contract supervisor.

--Our first group represents our Schools of the Year at the elementary, middle and high school levels:

--Would the following principals and their custodial staff please join us up front?

--From Spring Park Elementary, we have Principal Pam Bradley-Pierce along with her custodial team;

--From Jefferson Davis Middle School, we have Principal Shilene Singleton and her custodial team; and

--From Frank H. Peterson Academies of Technology, we have Principal Greg McCandless, along with his custodial team.

-- This award is given to schools for outstanding custodial performance, management and cleanliness, and for maintaining the highest average score on evaluations throughout the school year.

--Our next group represents the Custodial Employees of the Year.

--Would the following employees and their principals please join us up front?

--From Bartram Springs Elementary we have Bora Gjorka and Principal Jud Strickland.

--From Joseph Finegan Elementary we have Donald Young and Principal David Pinter.

--And from William M. Raines High School we have Ernest Carter along with Principal George Maxey.

--Congratulations to each of you for a job well done. Your hard work provides a positive and clean learning environment for our students, and a productive working environment for our staff.

2. NEPTUNE BEACH ELEMENTARY SELECTED FOR LEARNING SCHOOL ALLIANCE

Minutes:

--Our next presentation recognizes one of our schools for their commitment to the district's mission of providing students with high quality educational experiences.

--Would Neptune Beach Elementary School's Principal Stephanie Manabat, along with teachers Jill Kolb, Marcia Barton and Heidi Taylor please come forward?

--Recently, Neptune Beach Elementary was selected as one of 40 schools from 19 states to participate in the National Staff Development Council's Learning School Alliance.

-- Neptune Beach was chosen based in part on its commitment to the council's principles and standards for professional learning, and evidence that the school is serious about increasing the capacity of teachers to meet the needs of their students.

--The alliance is a national initiative that helps educators learn from each other and works together to bolster quality teaching and student learning.

-- Teachers and administrators will be given tools and materials, coaching, a dedicated Web site to meet and discuss areas of concern, receive support from other teachers, access to trained facilitators, and the opportunity for face-to-face networking and learning at NSDC conventions.

--Congratulations to the faculty and staff of Neptune Beach for receiving this prestigious designation. Keep up the good work!

3. PRESENTATION TO THE BOARD - PATRIOTIC AWARD

Minutes:

--Our final presentation recognizes the Duval County School Board and several Duval County Public Schools' employees for providing outstanding patriotic support and cooperation to our employees.

- * Stephen Bright
- * Roberta Johns
- * Doug Ayars
- * Pat Willis
- * Vicki Black
- * Vicki Reynolds
- * Linda DeAbreu
- * Bonnie Cole

--Joining us tonight to tell us more about this award and to recognize our district is Mr. Phillip Speake, Chairman of the Florida Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, and his Executive Director Mr. Doug Corbett.

--I would like to thank the Florida Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve for presenting our district with this award. I would also like to thank Technical Sergeant Violet Simmons, who works in our business department, for nominating the district for this award. This recognition demonstrates our continuous commitment to our employees.

~~4. PRESENTATION TO THE BOARD -- 2010 VERY SPECIAL ARTS -- WITHDRAWN~~

5. SOUTH CAROLINA STATE UNIVERSITY PRESENTATION

Minutes:

--Our next presentation recognizes one of our district's many education partners.

--Would Mr. Charles Smith, South Carolina State University's vice president for student affairs, and Mr. Antonio Boyle, their assistant vice president for enrollment management, please come forward?

--Last month, representatives from South Carolina State University visited Jacksonville to host its South Carolina State University Weekend.

--This two-day event included a battle of the bands, a march for literacy and an on-the-spot admissions and scholarship fair, where nearly \$1

million in scholarships were awarded to Duval County Public Schools' students.

--On behalf of Duval County Public Schools, I would like to personally thank South Carolina State University for providing our students with the funding necessary to ensure they move on to a post-secondary career.

--In these tough financial times, I am sure that this money will lessen the stress on these students and their families, and make their college experience an enjoyable one.

--Again, thanks for helping us meet our goal of creating a college-going culture.

Comments From Audience

[COMMENTS FROM AUDIENCE](#)

Minutes:

Ms. Hope McMath, Executive Director at the Cummer Museum of Art and Gardens and I'm here to speak about our annual very special Arts Festival that we have at the Cummer Museum which will be held March 23-26, 2010. This festival is an example of one of the most powerful partnerships between the non-profit sector, the school system and the entire community. The festival started 15 years ago and that first year, we served 250 children with disabilities as part of the festival and utilized the talents of only 50 volunteers. This year, we'll see 2,400 students with varying disabilities and bring in over 1,400 members of the community as volunteers to be a part of this festival. The festival is one-of-a-kind in this country and we're the only museum who does such a thing in which we build an entire week long event that is meant to bring the beauty and power of the arts into the lives of children with disabilities. We have a very strong literacy component tying in with a special exhibition that celebrates the history of jazz and we see this as an opportunity to impact student learning and to bring the community in contact with our students. The festival is just one day and it's a culminating event for a year long series of programs that we do in which we're providing training for teachers, both in inclusive and self-contained settings; free tours for children with disabilities throughout the year; and providing resources for the classroom. This year, we're hosting an exhibition of art created by special education students at S.P. Livingston Elementary which opens this week. We're hoping you'll find the opportunity to visit the festival this year and we've included a packet of materials for you and in this packet, there is a book signed by the author and illustrator, Paul Rogers, called "Jazz - A, B, Z" with poems. There's information about the exhibit as well as a DVD of previous festival activities. We know from evaluating the festival and speaking to the teachers who bring the students that the festival has an

impact on the children who come. Many of these children are those often left out of the cultural loop, but the other untold story is the impact that our students and teachers have on those 1,500 volunteers that come to the festival...they are changed by having interactions with these children and their teachers. Their view of what our schools system does every day is absolutely altered by the experience of the museum. So, I hope you'll be able to join us. Thank you. *(Board Member Barrett suggested that, perhaps, the Board could all meet on March 23 for the luncheon and festival, which would be wonderful.)*

Mr. Jack Matthews said the month of March is designated as Youth Art Month and here in Duval County, we start that off with our annual senior high exhibition which begins March 11 and our Superintendent will be there on hand to say a few words and presenting certificates. That will be followed in April by the elementary library shows in 15 libraries; then our middle school exhibition at Florida State College at Jacksonville, Kent Campus; and then in May, the Best of Elementary show. The theme this month is "Everything Old Is New Again". I have created for each of you a set of cards based on this year's senior high work, so the art work is new and is printed on recycled paper...so, we have the old and new there and attached to it is a calendar with all of the dates for our shows. I encourage especially those who have not attended before, to put it on your calendar . Thank you so much.

Mr. Glenn Frommer and I run a non-profit, Empowerment in Florida and we're contracted with the public education and we help individuals with disabilities get jobs...mainly, your students when they graduate school. Last year I came here to speak when you were deciding the food service contract and I spoke about the previous vendor and how well they were doing. At that meeting, I was contacted by Chartwells' and they said they would keep up the same agreement and they have really done that and I wanted to come here and give them recognition and a plaque and to let them know how important it is to us and the students who graduate from the school system. I think you should consider with all of the vendors you work with that they should consider hiring some of the people who have many difficulties pursuing employment. Thank you.

Ms. Susan Greene, president-elect of the Cathedral Arts Project Board and tonight, representative for ACE (Arts for a Complete Education). You do many things for us - your commitment for a full and complete arts education is recognized and appreciated by many of us. Personally, I've interacted with, virtually, everyone represented here and it's been a long history of support and we look for it to go forward. CAP provides after school arts education for 1,200 elementary aged students in Title I elementary schools and it is our hope and plan to serve more children in more schools. Quite simply, we couldn't do what we do without you. You provide the classrooms, the gyms, the multipurpose rooms where we conduct our classes and we teach each and every child two afternoons per week for a full school year. You also work and partner with us in that we hire some of the arts education teachers that work for Duval County Public Schools and that's reflective of CAP's commitment to a bonafide excellent arts education experience for our children. So, you hire the best and we hire the best and we're very appreciative of where we intersect in terms of of our faculty and we have tremendous buy in from our principals. Thank you for your support.

Mr. Gary Olivoras said I'm a little surprised you let a former member of the Charter

Revision Commission in here....I wanted to have a chance to come and speak to you tonight because what happened in the Charter Revision process, I think was a disservice to this body here and to a larger extent, to the citizens and voters in this community. I don't want to question the integrity or character of any of my fellow commissioners. I do, however, question the results of what occurred and I think that's fair. I think what happened with regard to the issue of an elected vs an appointed School Board did not occur the same way the debate occurred with an elected vs an appointed Sheriff. In the case of the Sheriff, the Sheriff was allowed to come in and make his case and then outside experts were allowed to come in and speak for and against that issue. To be quite frank with you, when the Sheriff from Orange County came up and spoke, having the experience of having been appointed and elected, the debate ended before that gentleman left the building. You, were not afforded that same process. Several of you and the Superintendent came in and spoke, presented information and the progress in the district and then a steady stream of outside experts were invited in to tell us how important it would be to change to an appointed or mayoral controlled model. You may remember, I objected to some of these things and I didn't understand why we didn't hear the other side to this. It bothered me when I took it upon myself to go after the fact and do some followup research on our speakers, many of the assertions they made as fact, were actually very questionable at least, if not just out right wrong. We received information from New York City but they forgot to tell us that New York City spends twice as much money on their students and that 15% of their students graduate with what we actually have is a Certificate of Completion. They forgot to tell us that the mayor of New York City is now not highly regarded and that 6 in 10 New York City residents want to change to another model of governance after just a few years. That's a problem. The other side was not given a chance to speak. We heard that there were elected districts in the state that do have a higher graduation rate and we heard from somebody who knows that there are districts with elected Board members who, for whatever reason, are achieving higher gains than we are and we never got to hear those voices. All we heard was that it has to be appointed or a hybrid model...something with the mayor....but, again, the information we were provided from these experts and when you went back and looked at it, you saw...in the case of Chicago, they came up with their own way of testing, the passing score shot through the ceiling...imagine that! I'm here tonight to remind you Board members, your constituents and your parent organizations, since the next phase in this process is going to the City Council, I would encourage everyone to blow up their email accounts and their in baskets with emails, letters and phone calls asking, "Why weren't both sides heard on this issue?" When we heard both sides in the case of the Sheriff, we made an informed decision and the decision was obvious that an elected model performed better and gave citizens direct access just as I'm standing before you here, tonight, as a citizen. We would lose that because an appointed model...you just don't have to listen and that's what Sheriff Dennings told us. The decisions in Orange County when he was an appointed Police Chief were made behind closed doors. I don't think the voters in this community want that to happen. I think they want to have input in the process just as the Superintendent is going around the county, now, discussing this. Citizens want their input and they want direct access to you when they have a concern or gripe, but that's what you are there for. Appointed School Board members are going to have a deaf ear because they don't answer to the citizens and they answer to the mayor and that's going to reduce their access and it will remove our educational system from the citizens to whomever the mayor chooses to appoint and

the power brokers chose to put in place. I don't feel the Charter Revision Commission received a full, fair accounting in this measure and I wanted to share that with you tonight. Now, I hope the citizens of this community will let the City Council members know that they are not happy with this. Thank you.

Mr. John Turner said it's that time, again, to Rally in Tally. This month the PTA and other organizations will once again hold a protest march in Tallahassee. They will swarm the State Capitol carrying protest signs and change: "No more cuts; no more cuts!" They do this because they have been misled into believing the reason why Jacksonville has so many failing schools is because our state legislators refused to give us our fair share of the budget pie. Nothing could be further from the truth! So, where do they get this nonsense from? Well, I will show you. Here is a propaganda pamphlet from the Florida PTA which provides a long list of talking points and tips on how to trick parents into joining the protest movement. One method is to write editorials to the Times-Union and to include the talking points that according to the United States Census Bureau, Florida ranks 50th in education spending. However, that is just not true. The actual Census Bureau shows Florida ranks 25th and not dead last as the Florida PTA claims. Another organization that puts out false information is Save Duval Schools.org. They claim that Florida spends less than \$7,000 per student which is not true either. Florida averages over \$10,000 per student which is the state average. Jacksonville spends far more than that. If you go by what the president of the DTU said last month, Jacksonville could get the national average of \$11,000 per student and then we could finally start helping our underachieving students. How much more money do we need to get the national average of \$11,000? This year, the school budget is over \$1.7 billion dollars and we have roughly 123,000 students. If you divide the number of students in the total dollar, you get roughly \$14,000 per student. That is far more than the \$11,000 that the DTU president wished for. Yet, Jacksonville has the worst school district in the state of Florida and why? Clearly, we really don't have a money problem; it lies elsewhere. I recommend that the parents should rally in Tally, however, I recommend instead of chanting "no more cuts", they should chant, "Fire the bad teachers; fire the bad teachers!" Thank you for listening.

Mr. Lonnie Wright said I'm here tonight to speak and give recognition to Chartwells Food Service. The representative they sent out this evening had to leave so I just wanted to let the City of Jacksonville and School Board members know how much of a good job they are doing and how much of an impact they have on the students. I work solely with students with disabilities and they're leading the charge with giving our kids an opportunity to go on to the next level and become successful. That's all I have to say and thank you.

Mr. Bruce Stamper I want to first recognize all of you for the hard work you do with the budgetary shortfalls...it's quite a job. However, that's not my primary objective here. My son attends Paxon School for Advanced Studies, a 10th grader, 16 years of age and on February 23, 2010, my son was brutally attacked after school, unprovoked and it's on tape. The video speaks for itself. As a result of the attack by a fellow student, my son sustained a stroke due to an obstruct of the carotid artery which is a major stroke. He is still hospitalized and is improving somewhat. There is not much data available to determine the long term adverse effects so we don't know what the future holds. The events that led to this attack suggests that it was possibly not preventable but maybe avoidable. On January 19, my son was involved in an altercation with Student A. My

son was never in trouble before and he's a very mild mannered child and we felt very fortunate for his being admitted to Paxon. He was working to become an Eagle Scout by the end of this year and we're hopeful that will still happen. Relative to the fight that occurred on January 19, the individual who fought, I later learned this was his 3rd fight this year (Student A) where they were loading the buses. Someone blew a whistle and my son stopped fighting and waited and the other student and a friend took off running. My son was taken to the office and was suspended and when he came home he explained what happened. In essence, Student A was present at this fight on February 23 with Student B...why would Student A be allowed to be standing there instigating a fight and attack on my son?

Ms. Jackson said staff will talk with you on your way out regarding this incident, Mr. Stamper, and we appreciate your sharing this with us.

Mr. Edward Exson spoke on Education Matters - every awaking morning as a result of not having a good formal education, my head pains as though it was induced from an alcohol hangover, many more with like circumstances suffer. My almost eight decades of observations and analyzes, supported by eminent psychologists studies and evaluations on social science and behavioral science, an appointed School Board will be far more detrimental than an elected one, given Jacksonville's history. Notwithstanding, the proponents for an appointed Board makes no sense and would have no better outcome. The real reason for the condition we're in is failing schools, education, wealth gaps, deviant behavior are the effects of policies and laws, past and present. Such policies include an economically depressed area of people that some call economic colonization that were methodically and systemically imposed, legislated or sanctioned by consent, with prior approval by the ruling class. Some of the persons failing in school, dropouts or incarcerated their only opportunity was exposure to failure! Being callously dehumanized, programmed and controlled, success for the masses of blacks becomes impossible. Any intelligent person can see that it takes tens of thousands of dollars to incarcerate and that is preferred policy over education. The most egregious conspiracy theory should apply. Post civil right, the plight of so many blacks was exacerbated by the powerful ordaining black pastors and other black leaders as the guardian of black people, provided they have the temperamental dispositional viewpoint that would be against the betterment of their own people. These so-called leaders tragically give proxy to the rulers for a reward to self gain. Do not rule out that a lot of the criticism of the School Board is just a ploy to keep the middle class from seeing how they are duped as the blacks...while desperately trying to head off a revolution, the middle class and the poor taking back their rights which they had abdicated.

Mr. Stanley Scott said I was reading the letter from former Mayor John Delaney concerning the letter that Mr. Gentry wrote and I was disappointed in him because he stated that Jacksonville was better off since 1960 and 1970. I guess if you're making \$300,000 a year then things definitely look good from your advantage point. Apparently, he hasn't walked through downtown lately. I spent a whole day downtown and I was totally disappointed. It wasn't the people or the buildings - it was just the entire place and I saw disappointment with the working people and I'm not talking about the homeless downtown. I spent two hours in City Hall and I've never seen so many disappointed looking people in my life. What's wrong with this city? We do have

a problem with the education system, I must say. I've come up with my own solutions and that you come up with four zones; each one with its own School Board and Superintendent, being independent. Each Board would be funded per student and the present Board would become an Over Sight Committee as we must make some changes here. We don't have problems just in Jacksonville. The President was talking about the drop out rate. The kids are not achieving because they have a settling level. Kids are going to school not to be creative thinkers but to get a job. That's not education and if you think that's education, we're in trouble in America and we are...just look around. We must make a change here; we must put our petty agendas to the side, status for the future of our kids. We need to stop this back and forth, appointed and all of that and do the job. Thank you.

The Chair said that Board Member Nancy Broner was unable to join us this evening and sends her regrets. She was snowed in and could not get a flight back in time. This is only the second meeting she has missed in her almost 8 year tenure. I wanted to let the public know that was unavoidable.

Comments From Parent Organizations

[COMMENTS FROM PARENT ORGANIZATIONS](#)

Minutes:

District Advisory Council - Rachel Raneri, Chair:

The District Advisory Council met February 22. We received some very important and detailed information.

Mr. Doug Ayars addressed the DAC on the planning related issue concerning the ACE Process in reviewing Communities and School Management. He explained the possible scenarios of the configuration of the middle schools.

Ms. Terri Cicero, from the Office of Community and Family Engagement introduced Mr. Ronald Cage. Mr. Cage does workshops on Dads Involvement.

Ms. Selinda Keys brought us up to date on the FCAT preparations, and other District news.

After attending several Area Advisory Council meetings, I have repeatedly heard that elementary principals have a challenge with dealing with disruptive students, if there is not an ISSP location, similar to the ATOSS program.

Ms. Dana Kriznar, Executive Director of Alternative Education and Behavior

Support, was able to address this issue. She explained all of the different interventions that are in place for the principal's use. We discussed some of the different programs that are available. She also told us that do to good teaching, teacher intervention, student intervention and parent intervention, our student suspensions numbers are down. Ms. Kriznar also spoke about the Youth Risk Behaviors Surveys that were done by middle and high school students.

Our School Liaison Officers from the Navy, Ms. Judy Cromartie and Dawn Mills brought us information on the many programs that are available to our Military families.

I shared with the group that every school is supposed to have a Wellness Committee that speaks to the wellness of the staff and students at the school. The District Wellness Committee speaks to the wellness of the District employees. It is hoped that with the rewrite of the SAC handbook this summer, the school wellness committee will fall under the guidelines of the School Advisory Council.

We received a great deal of information and still adjourned the meeting at 7:20! A special thank you goes out to the School Police Officers who have stayed to allow us to hold the monthly District Advisory Council meeting.

The next meeting will be on Monday, March 22 at 6:00 pm in the 6th floor conference room.

PTA - Annette Worthen, President:

Good evening I am Annette Worthen, President of the Duval County Council of PTAs/PTSAs. We are gearing up for the PTA Rally in Tally which will be held on March 25th from 11:30 to 1:30 on the steps of the Capitol. Before and after the Rally, Ted Corley our Legislative Chair is arranging for local PTA leaders and students to meet with the legislators representing Duval County. These local PTA leaders and students will have the opportunity to discuss the negative impact that funding cuts have had on their school and the program cuts that have affected them personally.

One of our goals when we meet with the legislators is to not only persuade them to restore the previous cuts, but to make provisions for an adequate, stable source of funding for education when the stimulus dollars run out. More information about the Rally can be found on the www.floridapta.org or www.dccpta.org website.

In preparing everyone for the Rally in Tally, at our February DCCPTA General meeting a Legislative workshop for PTA/PTSA leaders was conducted by Ted Corley. He had several hand outs including PTA talking points and Duval County Public School talking points; he coached the PTA leaders in attendance on how to talk to the legislators, proper etiquette when addressing them, how to clearly state their position and most importantly how to ask a legislator for their support. Julie Delegal, the representative from Save Duval Schools then spoke to us about how to start letter writing campaigns, the proper ways to write a letter to a

legislator and the newspaper. Contact information for all the area legislators was distributed. Ted did a wonderful job in organizing the workshop and we appreciate his and Julie's efforts.

The next Teacher Supply Depot opening is scheduled for Thursday March 11th from 3-6. Books a go-go will have several books available for all Title1 elementary schools. Chris commented today that donations are rolling in and just about every square inch of floor space currently has give away items on it. For teachers that want to attend the invitation only give away in May, you are welcome to bring the project examples with you when you come to the opening or you can send them to her through school mail. If you have any questions, would like to make a donation to the Depot or volunteer please call Chris at 381-7480.

The March meeting of the DCCPTA will be on March 16th with hospitality beginning at 9:30 and the meeting starts at 10AM. This will be the election meeting so it is important that all PTA Presidents and delegates attend so that their voices can be heard through their vote.

PTA is appreciative of the support of each of the School Board members, the Superintendent, and the District Staff. If there are any issues that the School Board or Superintendent would like PTA to address, please call on us.

Comments From Employee Organizations

[COMMENTS FROM EMPLOYEE ORGANIZATIONS](#)

Minutes: There were none.

Student Achievement, Reform Activities, And Reports

[1. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT](#)

Minutes:

The Chairman spoke about the Paul Robeson Summit that was held on Saturday, February 27 and it was in conjunction with myself, as a School Board Member with the Duval County School District and the Honorable Anthony Hill sponsored it.

Background of Paul Robeson:

Paul Robeson was a famous African-American athlete, singer, actor, and advocate for the civil rights of people around the world. He rose to prominence in a time when segregation was legal in the United States, and Black people were being lynched by racist mobs, especially in the South.

Born on April 9, 1898 in Princeton, New Jersey, Paul Robeson was the youngest of five children. His father was a runaway slave who went on to graduate from Lincoln University, and his mother came from an abolitionist Quaker family. Robeson's family knew both hardship and the determination to rise above it. His own life was no less challenging.

In 1915, Paul Robeson won a four-year academic scholarship to Rutgers University. Despite violence and racism from teammates, he won 15 varsity letters in sports (baseball, basketball, track) and was twice named to the All-American Football Team. He received the Phi Beta Kappa key in his junior year, belonged to the Cap & Skull Honor Society, and graduated as Valedictorian. However, it wasn't until 1995, 19 years after his death, that Paul Robeson was inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame.

At Columbia Law School (1919-1923), Robeson met and married Eslanda Cordoza Goode, who was to become the first Black woman to head a pathology laboratory. He took a job with a law firm, but left when a white secretary refused to take dictation from him. He left the practice of law to use his artistic talents in theater and music to promote African and African-American history and culture.

In London, Robeson earned international acclaim for his lead role in *Othello*, for which he won the Donaldson Award for Best Acting Performance (1944), and performed in Eugene O'Neill's *Emperor Jones* and *All God's Chillun Got Wings*. He is known for changing the lines of the *Showboat* song "Old Man River" from the meek "...I'm tired of livin' and 'feared of dyin'....," to a declaration of resistance, "... I must keep fightin' until I'm dying....". His 11 films included *Body and Soul* (1924), *Jericho* (1937), and *Proud Valley* (1939). Robeson's travels taught him that racism was not as virulent in Europe as in the U.S. At home, it was difficult to find restaurants that would serve him, theaters in New York would only seat Blacks in the upper balconies, and his performances were often surrounded with threats or outright harassment. In London, on the other hand, Robeson's opening night performance of *Emperor Jones* brought the audience to its feet with cheers for twelve encores.

Paul Robeson used his deep baritone voice to promote Black spirituals, to share the cultures of other countries, and to benefit the labor and social movements of his time. He sang for peace and justice in 25 languages throughout the U.S., Europe, the Soviet Union, and Africa. Robeson became known as a citizen of the world, equally comfortable with the people of Moscow, Nairobi, and Harlem. Among his friends were future African leader Jomo Kenyatta, India's Nehru, historian Dr. W.E.B. Du Bois, anarchist Emma Goldman, and writers James Joyce and Ernest Hemingway.

In 1933, Robeson donated the proceeds of *All God's Chillun* to Jewish refugees fleeing Hitler's Germany. At a 1937 rally for the anti-fascist forces in the Spanish Civil War, he declared, "The artist must elect to fight for Freedom or for Slavery. I have made my choice. I had no alternative." In New York in 1939, he premiered in Earl Robinson's *Ballad for Americans*, a cantata celebrating the multi-ethnic, multi-racial face of America. It was greeted with the largest audience response since Orson Welles' famous "War of the Worlds."

During the 1940s, Robeson continued to perform and to speak out against racism, in support of labor, and for peace. He was a champion of working people and organized labor. He spoke and performed at strike rallies, conferences, and labor festivals worldwide. As a passionate believer in international cooperation, Robeson protested the growing Cold War and worked tirelessly for friendship and respect between the U.S. and the USSR. In 1945, he headed an organization that challenged President Truman to support an anti-lynching law. In the late 1940s, when dissent was scarcely tolerated in the U.S., Robeson openly questioned why African Americans should fight in the army of a government that tolerated racism. Because of his outspokenness, he was accused by the House Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC) of being a Communist. Robeson saw this as an attack on the democratic rights of everyone who worked for international friendship and for equality. The accusation nearly ended his career. Eighty of his concerts were canceled, and in 1949 two interracial outdoor concerts in Peekskill, N.Y. were attacked by racist mobs while state police stood by. Robeson responded, "I'm going to sing wherever the people want me to sing...and I won't be frightened by crosses burning in Peekskill or anywhere else."

In 1950, the U.S. revoked Robeson's passport, leading to an eight-year battle to resecure it and to travel again. During those years, Robeson studied Chinese, met with Albert Einstein to discuss the prospects for world peace, published his autobiography, *Here I Stand*, and sang at Carnegie Hall. Two major labor-related events took place during this time. In 1952 and 1953, he held two concerts at Peace Arch Park on the U.S.-Canadian border, singing to 30-40,000 people in both countries. In 1957, he made a transatlantic radiophone broadcast from New York to coal miners in Wales. In 1960, Robeson made his last concert tour to New Zealand and Australia. In ill health, Paul Robeson retired from public life in 1963. He died on January 23, 1976, at age 77, in Philadelphia.

One of the focuses and puposes behind the summit is that people say "why?" You know, when you see demographics vs statistics, they talk about populations that are most challenging. We know in our district, our males are the most challenged. We have particularly African American males, Latino males or lower socioeconomic that are not where they need to be in being proficient, but one thing they do throughout the time in the system is usually participate in sports. Overwhelmingly, we start where they participate in sports so through conversations with Superintendent Pratt-Dannals we show them where they need to be and not just us saying but people from the community sharing with them that it's nice they're playing sports, we appreciate the discipline you're showing by doing that; however, just maintaining the 2.0 GPA is insufficient for you to

actualize your life options. It helps a lot when other young people say it, hear it and for that day, they heard the message re-emphasized over and over, again.

I want to thank the Schultz Center for Teaching and Leadership because they opened up that facility to over 800 young people and the young people were decent and in order. It was a phenomenal occasion. Our goal at the summit is to help young people understand that they must choose a vocation that will in some way allow at least two years of post secondary something. It's not an option. Dropping out of high school, as I told them the other day, you would make \$8,000 a year when you work...that they must choose two years of post secondary something for a vocation and they must have a voice and a vision of where they want to see themselves and we hope by meeting the resource stewards, that they would do that.

I want to thank Board Member Burney and Board Member Jimmie Johnson for coming out and sharing that date. Also, the Superintendent was there all day long as a steward, as well. I'd like to at this time because otherwise I don't want to miss someone, I'd like every member of Duval County Public Schools staff who came and gave their time Saturday to stand up...thank you...and that doesn't count the folk who aren't here tonight. They gave time for registering young people, walking with the young people, engaging the young people, all day and it was so important.

I also want to thank the Summit Planning Committee. You can have a vision for something but it only goes so far until other people buy into it. Through divine order in my estimation, Mr. Pratt-Dannals, you charged Mr. Ayars with this assignment who assigned Mr. Paul Soares. I will tell you Mr. Soares with his background, we shared a common vision. You talk about logistic realigning, everything so it flows so smoothly and he made everything happen. I thank him so much for the coordination that was put into that particular day and for thinking of everything from the smallest detail.

We started with thinking about 400-500 students and about three weeks ago thanks to Jon Fox's championing it, we doubled our number. We shared about 1/2 second of panic and we were divinely accommodated. Thank you so much, Mr. Soares, for keeping on target and moving the program along whether I could be in attendance or not.

I also would like to thank Barbara Langley, the Schultz Center, Heidi Van Pelt who not only spoke that day but gave his time in preparing and planning this week, Jon Fox, Karen Hanson, Vick Morris, Carolyn Girardeau, Larry Roziers (our backup guy), Nan Worsowicz, David Conte, Becky Lambert, John Phillips, Antonio Kirkland, Jackie Scott, John Rivas, Rick Townsend, Leslee Russell, Chris Engle, Burnadette Tetlow, Stephanie Bond, Jill Johnson, and Keith Pittman. You all were definitely a blessing to the young people on that day and I thank you so much as you're a blessing to me.

I'd like to announce that we have a Charter Revision Commission Workshop to address those issues on Thursday, March 4, 2010 at 1:15

p.m. in Room 613 and we welcome the public to listen to the Board members address their concerns and develop strategy as we will move forward on this issue.

2. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Minutes:

The Superintendent echoed Ms. Priestly Jackson's assessment of Saturday's Paul Robeson Summit and thank her for her leadership in this effort. It was truly monumental and thanked Mr. Paul Soares for his Navy organizational experience and thanks to all of our staff that helped with it as it was very worthwhile.

We also, this past week, had a major event. That was we were able to bring the beginning training for the International Baccalaureate program expansion to Duval County. In the past, one of the challenges particularly with the IB program was we had to send people all over the country and in some cases, all over the world, to get this training. Congratulations to Dr. Carolyn Girardeau for her leadership in this and for bringing this to The Schultz Center, and Mr. Gentry, former chair of the Schultz Board, and the Schultz Center for providing the logistical support. This is the model we want to do in many areas where in the past, we had to go get the training, bring the training here and the Schultz Center not only becomes not only the training center for Duval County Public Schools, but for the whole region and in some cases, the entire Southeast. I think it was a great example of that kind of preliminary work that's necessary to get that done. The enthusiasm of the teachers was excellent and they're excited about being a part of this program. The was part of an effort that was Board/Superintendent driven to make sure that by this fall in all of our high schools, we had a least one of four acceleration programs and those being the IB, the ACE program out of Cambridge University in England, the Early College/High School program where students can earn an AA degree while still being in high school, and the Advanced Placement Honors Program which is a mirror of the Honors Program at Stanton College Prep and Paxon School for Advanced Studies. Again, we want to make sure that parents of students know that they have at least two if not more great choices in Duval County Public Schools. One being their neighborhood school or an adjacent school that has one of these acceleration programs or still some of the dedicated magnet offerings that we're continuing to support. We have a great start on moving forward on the Board initiative.

We are going to have some budget meetings and I invite the public to attend those:

March 11, 2010 6:00 pm Sandalwood High School
March 16, 2010 6:00 pm Frank Peterson Academies of Technology
March 18, 2010 6:00 pm Ribault High School
March 20, 2010 6:00 pm Mandarin High School

We want students, teachers, parents, businesses, non-profits and anyone interested in

the future of education in Duval County. We are the focal point in improving the community and we depend on the community and they depend on us to improve our results for students so they can be prepared for the future. We are facing a huge budget crisis on top of last year's budget crisis. The purpose of these meetings is to present some information as to a few things in our recent success; to present the information as what we're looking for this coming school year and to garner the input and support of the public at large and answer questions about the information. Also, to ask, "*What would you recommend if you had to reduce?*" I emphasize "considering" as there have been no final decisions but this is a critical time for education and not just here in Duval County, but all over the state. All Florida districts are impacted by this and at this point, we're facing a potential overall shortfall of \$125,000,000 on just over \$900,000 budget. That's about a 15% reduction on top of the reductions we've already taken and I'm a former math teacher and I haven't figured out how to do it. We need to present this and garner your support in hoping to minimize that number and provide some support guidance as to direction which is ultimately is the Board's decision.

I would like to comment on some statements made earlier by a presenter on budget information about revenue that comes to the state. The report that was misquoted, it came out last April and I assume they will update it again..it's from the National Census Bureau and it's not a Duval County Public School document. It has 2006 date which was the most recent they had as of last April. 2006 was a pretty decent year for public school funding in the state of Florida. Since then, it has drastically dropped so this was in a good year for comparison and, again, go consult the report and don't believe me. When they added up the total of state, local, and federal funding and compared it to income, Florida was dead last amongst the 50 states. If you don't account for income, we were still in the high 30's...around 37th or 38th. That was not a misquote on the part of either the PTA or Save Duval Schools. The other figure that was quoted was the amount of money per student. You have to look at how you're calculating that...just the money from the state, local money, federal money, capital money? What we typically use is the money that comes to us from the state which is appropriate to ask the state about because that's state money and it is less than \$7,000 per student, if you're looking at the Operating budget. If you look at the Capital budget, that does add to that, but that is not usually the figure that's quoted nationally when you're talking about how much money you have per student because that equates to programs, teachers, transportation, instructional materials, the core of the school district, but it is important when you're looking at numbers, like the graduation rates, that you're comparing apples to apples and when you compare apples to apples, this state of Florida is woefully behind in funding public education. Until we address that as a state, we will not be competitive economically. Our economy used to be based on agriculture, tourism and growth. The most important of which was growth. The last two years, the state of Florida has lost net population. That has crippled our housing industry, real estate industry and all of the things that fed off that growth. So, Florida has to come up with a new model. We need to have students better prepared academically at the pre-K, K-12, state college and university level in order to compete for higher paying jobs and that's the only way we can work our way out of this hole we're in.

I echo the comments earlier of Mr. Olivoras about the Charter Revision Commission and I'm not going to get into the specifics of their recommendations at this point, but

my shared disappointment in terms of the process. I did discuss with the Chairman that all of the outside speakers represented one view which was for an appointed Board and that was disappointing from the standpoint of a process and being able to have the Commission to hear from all sides.

We have the FCAT coming up this coming week. Every school I've gone into is excited and prepared and I would say in particular, our high schools are as prepared as I've ever seen them...great and positive response in terms of how well Florida Writes went last month. They're ready and are still preparing and I feel very confident that we're going to see positive gains and results because of some of the changes which in some cases, have been very dramatic at our high school level. With the support of Mr. Bellamy and the rest of the high school team, as well as what's happening at the elementary and middle school levels, I'm very optimistic at this point in terms of positive growth when we receive those results in May and June.

Reports

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

Minutes:

Mr. Ayars wanted to add some comments as to what Mrs. Rachel Raneri shared on the scenario about getting back together with the community in the northwest quadrant and take a look at the scenario that was developed about the future of James Weldon Johnson program, Eugene Butler and so forth. We last met on December 14, 2009 and we've workshopped it since. I was able to give the District Advisory Council a summary of that workshop discussion, but now it's time to get back on March 9 and we hope to have another ACE meeting and get toward the detailed planning. There are many good options and ideas in there and we'll begin that very aggressive process on March 9, 6:00 p.m. at Northwestern Middle School. Thank you.

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

Minutes:

Ms. Willis said I'd like to echo the Superintendent's comments around our FCAT administration which is next week and say that all of the schools where we have visited...our teachers have worked hard, our students have been focused and they certainly can be confident as they go into the FCAT. We want parents to know that the

administration window is March 9-19, 2010 and we want all students to get a good night's rest, eat a good breakfast and go in and be confident. They have done everything that they need to be prepared. We want to commend our schools, our students, our principals and administrators for the work that they have done and encourage them to do their very best.

Tonight, we'd like to ask Dr. Jeanne Ballentine to give an overview on the RTI (Response to Intervention) and the progress of the implementation in the district:

RTI - Dr. Jeanne Ballentine:

Response to Intervention (RtI) is a new mandate in education that shifts the responsibility for helping all students become successful from the special education teachers and curriculum to the entire staff of the school. This shift in education policy was initiated in the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act in December 2004.

In the past, when students were not meeting grade level or behavioral expectations, school systems asked, "What is wrong with the child?" With the new RtI focus, we ask instead, "What is wrong with instruction, with curriculum, with the environment, and finally with the learner?"

The RtI model is a three-tiered approach to providing high quality instruction and intervention matched to student needs. It involves the systematic use of assessment data to most efficiently allocate resources in order to improve learning for all students.

The pyramid Response to Intervention illustrates the levels of support for all students. The base of the pyramid is Tier 1 where all students receive an effective core curriculum at their grade level. This core includes differentiating instruction to meet the varying needs of students within the classroom.

Tier 2 intervention support is the smaller middle section of the pyramid. This is additional, more intensive instruction with a smaller group of students who need help beyond the core classroom curriculum. "In addition" are the key words here because these students continue to receive full core instruction. For the very few students, maybe 5%, who need more than Tier 1 and 2 support, **Tier 3** services (the tip of the pyramid) are available. The purpose of offering tiers of support is to intervene immediately in the regular classroom to help students get back on the behavioral or academic track.

In Duval County, our RtI writing team, now in its third year of state training, is completing the District Response to Intervention Plan, and our 13-member district training team is delivering professional development to the RtI Facilitators, one from each school. We train principals at every monthly principals' meeting. Coaches, school counselors, and school psychologists have also received professional development. The RtI steering committee meets quarterly to oversee the process.

Richard DuFour said, "Don't tell me you believe 'all kids can learn, '...tell me what you're doing about the kids who aren't learning." Response to intervention helps teachers differentiate in their classrooms in meaningful ways, helps students get immediate

additional support while they continue to learn in their core curriculum, and helps the few needing even more to receive that really intensive, individual instruction at the right time. Academic Services looks forward to sharing more of the exciting Rtl news at a Board Workshop in the future.

Turnaround Schools - Tony Bellamy:

Tonight, I will give the Turnaround School update on behalf of Elementary, Middle and High Schools. There will be only 3 areas that I will briefly cover tonight as it relates to the progress of TA Schools.

1. FCAT Preparation Update *which will fall under Extended Learning Opportunities*
2. State Instructional Review Update and
3. Community Meetings and Community Assessment Team Meeting Up-date

The Turnaround School Vacancy Report reflects four vacancies, one elementary (first grade position at Justina Road Elementary), and three high school positions, Andrew Jackson High, one of our Intervene Schools, has one Vocational Nursing position, one Spanish position at First Coast High School, and a science vacancy at Peterson Academy. All other schools are currently stable and fully staffed. Principals are currently receiving assistance from the Human Resource Services in scheduling and interviewing qualified candidates to fill these positions as soon as possible.

Before I talk about the upcoming assessment, I would like to share that, **Florida Writes**, which is the writing portion of the state exam for 4th, 8th and 10th grades, went extremely well. All schools test over 90% of their students within the first two days of testing. Some schools tested over 95% within the first two days. Schools served breakfast and were able to build in motivational and inspirational time prior to testing.

1. Under EXTENDED LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

- Turnaround Elementary Schools are continuing with after-school tutoring and using Turnaround funds to provide additional tutoring during the school day.
- Turnaround Middle Schools have increased their academic focus in the afterschool TEAM-UP Program by providing intense focus lessons on tested Benchmarks.
- All Turnaround High Schools will complete District Developed Science Lessons based on specific tested benchmarks by the end of this week. The lessons are taught by Science Content Area teachers on a Rotation basis. (I can say personally that I have witnessed an increase in the level of student engagement as students participated in these hands-on interactive activities at each school.
- According to the FCAT Explore report reviewed by the state, I am proud to say that Jackson High School's usage of FCAT Explorer has significantly increased in reading, showing 36,870 questions answered with 58% accuracy after the first attempt and, after **instructional** feedback, the rate of accuracy increased to 70%. In math, 23, 654 questions were answered with 39% accuracy after the first attempt, and after **instructional** feedback, the rate increased to 58% accuracy. 12, 425 questions were answered in Science, with 44% of the question correctly answered after the first attempt and after **instructional** feedback, increased to 64% accuracy. Congratulations to the students, teachers and the principal at Jackson High.
- Note to the Parent: (Please parents, encourage your children to take advantage of Saturday School Academic activities. Even though it is the last Saturday School for the majority of our Turnaround High Schools, important test taking tips and

strategies will be covered.)

As Mr. Pratt-Dannals previously mentioned, the FCAT Test will be given on March 9th for Reading, March 10th for Math and the Science portion for juniors is scheduled for March 11, 2010

- As schools prepare for the upcoming assessment, I would like to share some of the strategies and activities that are currently happening within our TA schools. These include practical common sense activities that will help motivate students and improve their academic performance.
1. Maintaining daily instructional focus lessons that **extend** in length.
 2. Some schools have created “Lunch and Learn” sessions as well as FCAT cafés to offer extra assistance during the lunch period
 3. Teachers are writing motivational notes to students for testing—to be distributed on the first day of testing. Some principals have also developed personalized notes to all students and will hand deliver them after the FCAT, expressing their thanks for students showing up and doing their personal best.
 4. Juniors and seniors are meeting with sophomores and freshmen and offering quick motivational messages to peers about testing – Really focusing on “Why students should take FCAT seriously” from a student perspective.
 5. Some schools are meeting targeted groups of students to congratulate past performance and complete goal setting activities.
 6. Schools have brought in Motivational speakers such as the Honorable Betty Burney and others to outline the importance of doing your personal best! – In the words of First Coast Staff members “Bring your “A” Game”
 7. At one particular school, Friday night prior to FCAT they will have what they call “FCAT kick-off Basketball game...Boys’ team against faculty members and during halftime, the school will discuss with students the importance of taking the test seriously. (Since students love **B-Ball** – what better way to catch a captive audience than with a **FREE B-Ball** game?
 8. The majority of our schools will have some form of FCAT Prep Rally or motivational activity the Monday just prior to Tuesday’s assessment, and I invite **YOU**, our honorable board members, to attend one of the schools of your choice.
 9. Many of the schools have completed a mock testing environment to ensure that students, faculty and staff are aware of their assignments and locations the day of testing.
 10. Some schools have already oiled the hinges on doors to prevent noise distraction during the test.
 11. Others have already prepared to monitor temperature control within classrooms to ensure that students are not too hot or cold – Remember, **NO Sleeping!**
 12. And, all TA High Schools have created Testing plans as well as FCAT incentive plans
- ❖ Another Note to Parents: Please encourage your children to do their personal best on this upcoming assessment.
- 2. Under STATE INSTRUCTIONAL REVIEW**
- Currently the State Instructional Specialists are working closely with district and School Based Coaches to offer additional support in the areas of Reading, Writing, Math and Science, and I am currently walking schools with Leila Mousa, Florida Department of Education Region II Executive Director, as she makes a final round of visitations prior to the assessment. Just want to inform everyone that to minimize

distractions, **NO** representatives from the Department of Education will be in schools on the days of testing, however I, along with other district staff members, will be in schools to monitor and offer support.

- Another Note to Parents: Please encourage your child to do their personal best on the upcoming assessment.

3. Under COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT TEAM MEETING UPDATE

- The 3rd Community Assessment Team meeting was held at 2:00 p.m. on February 4, 2010 at S.P. Livingston Elementary School. Due to testing the Community Assessment Team will not convene during the month of March. The next CAT meeting will be held on April 22, 2010 at 2:00 p.m. at Northshore K-8.
- A Turnaround school update was given to the NAACP at their monthly meeting on February 22, 2010 at the Branch Office.
- A Turnaround school update was also given to the Urban Core Citizens Planning Advisory Committee on last evening during their monthly meeting at the Ed Ball Building.

Finally in closing,

Additional information for Intervene and F Schools

I would like to also commend our teachers in our Turnaround Schools. They have been dedicated to the cause daily, working hard and long hours, and even working on Saturdays and some Sundays. We have required a lot, and have mandated a lot, and teachers have put forth great efforts to ensure that ALL students are successful. It is about our children, and as I have visited schools the past couple of weeks, it is obvious that everyone is working hard, just wanted to take this opportunity to say **THANK YOU!**

Madame Chair,

The Turnaround notebook in the board office will be updated to reflect tonight's report. This concludes my report.

Approval of Agenda

[APPROVAL OF THE MARCH 2, 2010, AGENDA](#)

Motions:

That the Duval County School Board approve the March 2, 2010, Agenda as submitted on February 23, 2010, with the following changes:
Presentations - Item 4 - Presentation to the Board - 2010 Very Special Arts - Item
Withdrawn Presentations - Item 5 - South Carolina State University Presentation - Item

Added Academic Services - Item 1 - DCPS Five Year Comprehensive Professional Development Plan - Revised Attachment Administration and Business Services - Budget and Financial - Item 3 - Approve Out-of-State Travel for District and School Staff - Revised Item & Revised Attachment Operations - School Choice and Pupil Assignment - Item 2 - Charter School Contract for Somerset Academy, Inc., Elementary - Eagle Campus Charter School - Revised Agenda Item; Item Withdrawn Operations - School Choice and Pupil Assignment - Item 3 - Charter School Contract for Somerset Academy, Inc., Middle - Eagle Campus Charter School - Revised Agenda Item; Item Withdrawn - PASS

Vote Results

Motion: Victoria Drake

Second: Martha Barrett

Martha Barrett	- Aye
Nancy Broner	- Not Present
Betty Burney	- Aye
Victoria Drake	- Aye
William Gentry	- Aye
Thomas Hazouri	- Aye
Brenda Priestly Jackson	- Aye

Approval of Minutes

[APPROVAL OF MINUTES](#)

Minutes:

That the Duval County School Board approve the following minutes:

February 8, 2010 - Regular Board Meeting
February 9, 2010 - Board Workshop
February 16, 2010 - Board Workshop

Motions:

That the Duval County School Board approve the Minutes for the Meetings listed in the Agenda Item. February 8, 2010 - Regular Board - PASS
Meeting February 9, 2010 - Board Workshop
February 16, 2010 - Board Workshop

Vote Results

Motion: Thomas Hazouri

Second: Victoria Drake

Martha Barrett	- Aye
Nancy Broner	- Not Present
Betty Burney	- Aye
Victoria Drake	- Aye
William Gentry	- Aye
Thomas Hazouri	- Aye
Brenda Priestly Jackson	- Aye

Approval of Consent Agenda

[APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA](#)

Motions:

That the Duval County School Board approve the Consent Agenda. - PASS

Vote Results

Motion: Victoria Drake

Second: Thomas Hazouri

Martha Barrett	- Aye
Nancy Broner	- Not Present

Betty Burney	- Aye
Victoria Drake	- Aye
William Gentry	- Aye
Thomas Hazouri	- Aye
Brenda Priestly jackson	- Aye

Consent Agenda

Academic Services

[1. DCPS FIVE YEAR COMPREHENSIVE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN](#)

- Attachment: [Benefits and Challenges Form 5 Year Plan.pdf](#)
- Attachment: [Five Year PD Plan Attachment Revised.pdf](#)
- Attachment: [Program List.pdf](#)

Minutes:

Ms. Drake said that I think this is a great thing. This Five-Year Comprehensive Plan is enclosed in this booklet and it includes a Professional Development Plan for our teachers. Once you become a teacher, you need continuing professional development as the federal government requires things as does the state. You have to continually work to keep your certificate current. Mr. Gentry and I are on a committee with the Florida School Boards Association trying to determine what is a quality education and what does it take to pay for that. There are a lot of ideas that people have but to me, it comes down to the same thing every time and that is the person who stands in front of that classroom. If you don't have a quality teacher in front of that classroom, you won't have good learning going on. I'm really proud that the Duval County schools have The Schultz Center and staff that develops the professional development plans for our teachers. This assists our teachers in knowing what they need. I'm very proud of our district for doing this for our teachers to make them the best they can be and I thank you.

Mr. Gentry said I'll join with Board Member Drake in saying that I think this is a great plan. One of the frustrations that we face and we faced this last year with the budget cuts is that one of the first things that gets cut is professional development. It does not directly go into the classroom but it absolutely directly impacts the quality of the classroom instruction. The one truism that runs throughout education is that the key to a quality education is a quality teacher. The key to having a successful school is a quality principal and leader. Here in this county, we have a great center unlike anywhere else in the country that provides leadership and professional development training in conjunction with Duval County Public Schools

which has a great professional development department. So, this district is committed to professional development and understands the importance of professional development, but as we go forward this next year looking at cutting so much money, unquestionably, professional development will get cut.

A gentleman, Lloyd Brown, came in as a result of a piece that I wrote with Ms. Giannoulis' help about the state of Florida needing to make a quantitative analysis of what "quality" is and finally, holding itself accountable to fund the quality education and he asked me, "How much money do you want?" and, "What would you spend it on?" and, "What difference does it make?" In response to at least some of those questions, but in response to, "What would you use it for?" - one of the answers is professional development and the response to, "What difference does it make?", in this document that we have before us, one of the things that's in the Appendix is a report of a study that was done at The Schultz Center in conjunction with the University of North Florida and with the Duval County Public Schools. It was a follow up of a study done in 2005 in conjunction with Council for Education Policy Research and Improvement of which I was Chair at the time. That study done in 2005 was the first of its kind in the nation to try to statistically, with statistical validity to determine whether there was any correlation between professional development and student outcomes and that early study, with a very limited population of children and teachers, concluded that it looked like there was. That study has been carried forward and the main thing I wanted to say here tonight, is that last year, the 2007-2008 study, was done with 2,300 children and results of that study showed that there's a direct correlation between teachers who received professional development literacy and the success of the students. It shows that for teachers, the FCAT Reading Test, for teachers who had less than 5 days of professional development, the gains were only 108.4; with those with 5-15, the gains were 113; and for those with more than 15 days of professional development, the gains were 130.6. Particularly impressive was the gains for our poor children - those on free and reduced lunch. The gains were significantly higher for those children than the other children even though the other children were having gains. So, we see a tremendous improvement in the students who need the help the most. This is statistically valid evidence of the effect of professional development. It is, again, a terrible tragedy that because of the state of Florida's failure to fund our schools adequately, that this is one area where we can not put more resources and are constantly beset with having to cut resources. Just to follow on with what the Superintendent said, because it is bothersome when folks come in and give inappropriate information, the Operating budget is roughly \$900,000 and there are 124,000 students and the amount per child in this district is under \$7,000 and yes, the national average is \$11,000. So, that explains to you a lot of the problems we face. This is just so important and I know this Board is really committed to professional development. Obviously, as we go through the budget process, this is something we're going to do our very best to hold on to, but when we're having to cut out so much, I know that this is going to have to be cut, too,

and it really hurts me and everyone here.

2. PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMPONENTS: CLASSROOM ASSESSMENT TRAINING AND ACTION RESEARCH FOR EDUCATORS AND PROMISE CONTENT MODULES FOR HIGH SCHOOL PHYSICS AND CHEMISTRY

- Attachment: [DivineComponentsClassroomAssessment2010.pdf](#)
- Attachment: [DivineComponentClassroom AssessmentTraining_KPD.pdf](#)
- Attachment: [PROMiSE Physics Component.pdf](#)
- Attachment: [BENEFITS AND CHALLENGES PROMiSE components 2010 02-10.pdf](#)
- Attachment: [PROMiSE Chemistry Component.pdf](#)
- Attachment: [Action_Research_benefits.pdf](#)
- Attachment: [BENEFITS AND CHALLENGES_assessment.pdf](#)

Human Resource Services - Compensation

1. APPROVAL OF COMMUNITY EDUCATION SALARY SCHEDULES

- Attachment: [HRS Attach PN 0910.pdf](#)
- Attachment: [HRS Attach CE 0910.pdf](#)

2. APPROVAL OF 2009/2010 SALARY SCHEDULES

- Attachment: [HRS Attach EA 0910.pdf](#)
- Attachment: [HRS Attach ER 0910.pdf](#)
- Attachment: [HRS Attach EQ 0910.pdf](#)
- Attachment: [HRS Attach EM 0910.pdf](#)
- Attachment: [HRS Attach EU 0910.pdf](#)
- Attachment: [HRS Attach DA 0910.pdf](#)
- Attachment: [HRS Attach AD 0910.pdf](#)
- Attachment: [HRS Attach AA 0910.pdf](#)
- Attachment: [HRS Attach TH 0910.pdf](#)
- Attachment: [HRS Attach AE 0910.pdf](#)
- Attachment: [HRS Attach TS 0910.pdf](#)

Human Resource Services - Professional Standards

2. SUSPENSIONS WITHOUT PAY

- Attachment: [HRS Attach 03-02-10_susp.pdf](#)

Administration and Business Services - Budget and Financial

1. MONTHLY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

- Attachment: [Master December 2009 Final Board Statement Worksheet.pdf](#)

2. ADOPTION OF BUDGET RESOLUTIONS

- Attachment: [Budget Resolutions March spreadsheet 2010.pdf](#)
- Attachment: [Budget Resolution Feb-March 2010 narrative.pdf](#)
- Attachment: [Budget Resolutions spreadsheets Feb-March spreadsheet.pdf](#)
- Attachment: [Budget Resolutions March 2010.pdf](#)

Operations - Information Technology

1. RETROFIT FOR TECHNOLOGY AT HOGAN-SPRING GLEN NO. 64, SUSIE TOLBERT NO. 128, R.V. DANIELS NO. 162 AND GREENFIELD NO. 222: CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT AWARD

- Attachment: [TPITB0010-2010 Award Recommendation.pdf](#)
- Attachment: [Benefits agenda March Retrofit Awards.pdf](#)

Operations - School Choice and Pupil Assignment

1. CHARTER SCHOOL CONTRACT FOR KIPP JACKSONVILLE, INC. CHARTER SCHOOL

~~2. CHARTER SCHOOL CONTRACT FOR SOMERSET ACADEMY, INC., ELEMENTARY - EAGLE CAMPUS CHARTER SCHOOL - WITHDRAWN~~

~~3. CHARTER SCHOOL CONTRACT FOR SOMERSET ACADEMY, INC., MIDDLE - EAGLE CAMPUS CHARTER SCHOOL - WITHDRAWN~~

Operations - Real Estate, Planning and Programming

1. DEDICATION AND PLAT OF THE R.G. SKINNER PARKWAY EXTENSION TO THE CITY OF JACKSONVILLE AT ATLANTIC COAST HIGH SCHOOL NO. 268, DCPS PROJECT C-90650

- Attachment: [Mar 10 B-C C-90650 Atlantic Coast HS#268-RG Skinner Plat Dedication 2-2-10.pdf](#)

Operations - Facilities Project Design, Construction and Maintenance

1. PREQUALIFICATION OF CONTRACTORS FOR EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS: NEW AND RENEWAL

- Attachment: [BENEFITS AND CHALLENGES FORM \(2\).pdf](#)
- Attachment: [Board Approval - New 03-2010.pdf](#)
- Attachment: [Board Approval - Renewals 03-2010.pdf](#)

2. NEW CLASSROOM ADDITION AT ROBERT E. LEE HIGH SCHOOL NO. 33: CONTRACT AWARD DESIGN PROFESSIONAL/DCSB PROJECT NO. C-91400

- Attachment: [Mar 10 B-C C91400 Con Award to DP for RE Lee HS No 33 01 22 10.pdf](#)

3. NEW CLASSROOM ADDITIONS AT DINSMORE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NO. 45, NEW BERLIN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NO. 150, GREGORY DRIVE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NO. 243 AND EDWARD H. WHITE HIGH SCHOOL NO. 248: PHASE III (CONSTRUCTION) DOCUMENTS/DCSB PROJECT NO. C-91400

Attachment: [Mar 10 B-C C91400 Phase III Doc App for New Class Bld Add at Nos 45 150 243 248 Phase III 01 15 10.pdf](#)

4. SUBSTANTIAL COMPLETION AND CERTIFICATE OF FINAL INSPECTION OF CAPITAL PROJECTS OVER \$1,000,000: HVAC REPLACEMENT AT A. PHILIP RANDOLPH ACADEMIES OF TECHNOLOGY NO. 285, DCSB PROJECT NO. M-85310

Attachment: [Mar 10 Agenda Item M-85310 No 285 CSC 1 22 10.pdf](#)

Attachment: [Mar 10 Agenda Item M-85310 No 285 CFI 1 22 10.pdf](#)

5. SUBSTANTIAL COMPLETION AND CERTIFICATE OF FINAL INSPECTION OF CAPITAL PROJECTS OVER \$1,000,000: HVAC AT MANDARIN HIGH SCHOOL NO. 260 AND FIRST COAST HIGH SCHOOL NO. 265 - STAGE II, DCSB PROJECT NO. M-87100

Attachment: [Mar 10 Agenda Item M-87100 CFI 1 21 10.pdf](#)

Attachment: [Mar 10 Agenda Item M-87100 CSC 1 21 10.pdf](#)

6. FACILITIES SERVICES DIVISION REPORT OF SUBSTANTIAL COMPLETIONS, FINAL INSPECTIONS AND RETURN OF CONTINGENCY SAVINGS AMOUNTS ON MAJOR MAINTENANCE AND MINOR CAPITAL PROJECTS UNDER \$1,000,000

Attachment: [Mar 10 Agenda Item Subs Comp Final Comp for Feb 2010 02 10 10.pdf](#)

7. INTERCOM REPLACEMENT AT VARIOUS FACILITIES: WEST RIVERSIDE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NO. 12, BRENTWOOD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NO. 15, AND ANNIE R. MORGAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NO. 21/DCSB PROJECT NO. M-83970: CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT AWARD

Attachment: [Mar BC Agenda Item M-83970 Intercom Replace at No 12 PLACEMENT 1 25 10.pdf](#)

Attachment: [M83970 ITB Docs for Mar 2010 Board Mtg 02 17 10.pdf](#)

Attachment: [M83970 ITB MBE Recommendation Letter 02 18 10.pdf](#)

Operations - Purchasing and Logistics

1. PROPERTY INSURANCE RENEWAL

Attachment: [Property Insurance 10-11.pdf](#)

2. SURPLUS PROPERTY RETIREMENT REPORT

Attachment: [RORET FY10 Mar.pdf](#)

Attachment: [ROMARFY10 SUM DATA.pdf](#)
Attachment: [AGENDA step BENEFITS AND CHALLENGES FORM.pdf](#)
Attachment: [07March10.pdf](#)
Attachment: [05March10.pdf](#)
Attachment: [04March10.pdf](#)
Attachment: [March 2010 Retirement Highlights.pdf](#)

[3. WORKERS' COMPENSATION SETTLEMENT \(KIMBERLY KRAFT\)](#)

Attachment: [Kimberly Kraft Settlement chart.pdf](#)

[4. RENEWAL - IT HARDWARE](#)

[5. CLASSROOM AND ART SUPPLIES](#)

Attachment: [BENEFITS AND CHALLENGES \(Classroom Art Supplies\).pdf](#)
Attachment: [CLASSROOM AND ART SUPPLIES ITB 017 10-Final.pdf](#)
Attachment: [Rejection ITB-017-10-LM.pdf](#)

[6. SCIENCE SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT CATALOG DISCOUNT](#)

Attachment: [BENEFITS AND CHALLENGES FORM Science Catalog Discount Bid 03-02-2010.pdf](#)
Attachment: [science-supplies and equip catalog discount bid 2010award-tab.pdf](#)

[7. PHYSICAL EDUCATION SUPPLIES](#)

Attachment: [BENEFITS AND CHALLENGES P E SUPPLIES ITB-022-10-CP.pdf](#)
Attachment: [PHYSICAL EDUCATION SUPPLIES BID ITB-022-10-CP TAB SHEET.pdf](#)
Attachment: [Bid Recommendations P E Supplies 2010.pdf](#)

[8. LAWNCARE SERVICES](#)

Attachment: [BENEFITS AND CHALLENGES FORM - Lawncare.pdf](#)
Attachment: [LAWNCARE SERVICES RFQ-ITB-021-10-TW TAB-SHEETS 2010.pdf](#)

[9. CUSTODIAL SERVICES MANAGEMENT, RFP NO. 08-01/LG, RENEWAL](#)

[10. FOOD SERVICE DEPARTMENT MANAGEMENT AND OPERATION, RENEWAL](#)

Discussion

Human Resource Services - Staffing

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

Attachment: [HRS Attach 03-02-10 TRANS.pdf](#)

Minutes: Speakers:

Ms. Betty Burney, Board Member

Mr. Tommy Hazouri, Board Member

Ms. Vicki Reynolds, Chief of Human Resource Services

Motions:

That the Duval County School approve the Human Resource Services employee transactions - PASS on the attachment.

Vote Results

Motion: Martha Barrett

Second: Thomas Hazouri

Martha Barrett	- Aye
Nancy Broner	- Not Present
Betty Burney	- Aye
Victoria Drake	- Aye
William Gentry	- Aye
Thomas Hazouri	- Aye
Brenda Priestly jackson	- Aye

Human Resource Services - Professional Standards

[1. FINAL ORDER RE DUVAL COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD vs. EDNA BOWMAN](#)

Minutes:

Recommended Motion:

That in the matter of Duval County School Board vs Edna Bowman, the board enters a Final Order: (1) Adopting in its entirety the Administrative Law Judge's recommended Order; and (2) Terminating Edna Bowman's employment for cause.

The Petitioner (Edna Bowman) was not present.

The Chairman asked how would you advise us to proceed for a clear and clean record for this woman?

Ms. Karen Chastain, Office of General Counsel, responded:

"To the Chair and thru the Chair to the Board members, it is my understanding that Ms. Bowman is not represented by counsel and it's our recommendation that in such event, that the hearing, so to speak, be held nonetheless. The fact that the employee is not present might shorten tonight's event. It might be helpful to turn it over to David D'Agata to present briefly the district's position, walk through what has happened, and if there is no one to rebut, the employee or her representative is not here, then the Board can begin deliberations and then I'm available to assist in the event that the Board desires to modify the recommended Order in front of you that was submitted by the Administrative Law Judge."

Speaker:

Mr. David D'Agata, Office of General Counsel

The Chairman said we have a recommended motion that has been slightly changed:

"That in the matter of the Duval County School Board vs Edna Bowman, the Board enters a Final Order: (a) Adopting in its entirety the Administrative Law Judge's recommended Order; and (2) Finding that Ms. Bowman's post hearing letters and emails to the Board members do not set forth exceptions to the recommended Order recognized under Chapter 120, Florida Statutes; and (3) Terminating Ms. Edna Bowman's employment for cause."

Motions:

That in the matter of Duval County School Board vs. Edna Bowman, the Board enters a Final order: (1) adopting in its entirety the Administrative Law Judge's Recommended Order; and, (2) finding that Ms. Bowman's post hearing letters and e-mails to the Board Members do not set forth exceptions to the Recommended Order recognized under Chapter 120, Florida Statutes; and, (3) terminating Edna Bowman's employment for cause. - PASS

Vote Results

Motion: William Gentry

Second: Victoria Drake

Martha Barrett	- Aye
Nancy Broner	- Not Present
Betty Burney	- Aye
Victoria Drake	- Aye
William Gentry	- Aye
Thomas Hazouri	- Aye
Brenda Priestly Jackson	- Aye

Administration and Business Services - Budget and Financial

[3. APPROVE OUT-OF-STATE TRAVEL FOR DISTRICT AND SCHOOL STAFF](#)

Attachment: [March 2 bd mtg travel request.pdf](#)

Attachment: [HR Out of State Travel March 2010.pdf](#)

Attachment: [OPS out of state travel Board meeting March.pdf](#)

Minutes: Speakers:

Mr. Tommy Hazouri, Board Member

Mr. Ed Pratt-Dannals, Superintendent of Schools

Mr. W. C. Gentry, Board Member

Motions:

That the Duval County School Board approve out-of-state travel per the attached list pursuant to Florida Statutes. - PASS

Vote Results

Motion: Victoria Drake

Second: Martha Barrett

Martha Barrett	- Aye
Nancy Broner	- Not Present
Betty Burney	- Aye
Victoria Drake	- Aye

William Gentry	- Aye
Thomas Hazouri	- Aye
Brenda Priestly jackson	- Aye

Board Member Travel

BOARD MEMBERS TRAVEL

Minutes:

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

April 9-12, 2010 - NSBA's Annual Spring Conferenmce - Chicago, IL - Hazouri;
Burney

Motions:

That the Duval County School Board approve the following Board Members Travel: April 9-12, 2010 - NSBA 70th Annual Conference - Chicago, IL - Burney - PASS

Vote Results

Motion: Martha Barrett

Second: Thomas Hazouri

Martha Barrett	- Aye
Nancy Broner	- Not Present
Betty Burney	- Aye
Victoria Drake	- Aye
William Gentry	- Aye
Thomas Hazouri	- Aye
Brenda Priestly jackson	- Aye

Superintendent's Travel

SUPERINTENDENT'S TRAVEL

Minutes:

Not travel for this month for the Superintendent.

For The Record

FOR THE RECORD

Minutes:

Mr. Hazouri said I'm going to save any comments I have on the Charter Revision Commission recommendation for Thursday and I do appreciate Commission Member Gary Olivoras addressing the Board tonight and giving us his thoughts.

Last week, I went to Dignity Warehouse on Myrtle Avenue and I was pleasantly surprised...all new donated clothes from various clothing companies from all over the United States. A gentleman here in town founded the idea and they solicit for new clothes. You would think you were in a major department store and these clothes help students from both Duval and Clay counties. They have lists from individual students who need whatever articles that are necessary and accessories, as well. They have a number of volunteers and employees. "Undie Sunday" is coming up which is a big item needed. This is a wonderful opportunity for children who don't have the necessities in life. Please visit the warehouse which is serving so many of our children. Thank you.

Ms. Drake visited Mayport Elementary School about a week ago and they were doing their mid-year assessment with their School Advisory Council. I explained to them that there was a purpose the Board adopted the mid-year assessment process and there was also a reason that we didn't put a lot of direction into it. I was most impressed in how they set it up. They invited their stakeholders and prepared a chart listing what was necessary for their School Improvement Plan. It was most interesting to me to see how things were going and the community involvement. This school has a program where every Friday they pack 225 backpacks with food and the children take them home so they have food over the weekend as these families need as much help as possible. I think there are three other schools participating in this program. It was very informative to me and the process went very quickly. Great things are going on at Mayport Elementary School.

Ms. Burney said she had the great pleasure this past week of attending James Weldon Johnson's Edgar Allan Poe Wax Museum. It was one exceptional event. The students, under the direction of their 6th grade teacher, was doing a synopsis of Edgar Allan

Poe. Each student dressed as a figure from the *Raven* or *The TellTale Heart*, etc. and they had red buttons on them where you pushed them just as if they were in a wax museum. The students used the writing process, prewriting, drafting, editing, revising, publishing...they could tell you all about the literary devices such as tone and mood. It was just fantastic and this is one time I wish the media had been out to see something so phenomenal. I congratulate them on that and I asked Jill Johnson to place a powerpoint of what was going on in our lobby of the administration building in order for individuals to see what these young people are doing.

I also want to commend our Board Chair on the Paul Robeson Scholar and Athletic Summit. I was extremely impressed and she along with Mr. Paul Soares did an outstanding job. I had an opportunity to speak with a group of young men from Terry Parker High School and I was so very pleased with what took place.

Pinedale Elementary School had an exceptional Black History program and to see young children standing up and reciting and learning about black history was wonderful. I enjoyed being with them.

I want to congratulate William Raines High School as they won the African-American Brain Brawl championship that was held this past Saturday.

Ms. Barrett said last Thursday, I attended the first Title I Parent/Counsel Forum at The Schultz Center and the information learned from the program will be helpful as we work to increase parent involvement which can only have positive effects on students success. There was a huge partnership there between the school system, the University of North Florida, the Early Learning Coalition, Communities in Schools, PTAs, principals, teachers and superintendents, and staff. Everyone seemed to be very involved and there are Parent Learning Centers throughout the city and I believe the main one is at S. P. Livingston Elementary School. It was a wonderful event and I applaud Myrna Amos and her staff for doing an outstanding job with this program.

I also spoke with the downtown Chamber Council the day after the Charter Revision Commission report came out. So, needless to say, that's all they wanted to hear about. It was a fine group and I want to thank Kathy LeRoy's folks, Jacqueline and Erin and Doug Ayars for coming along with me. No questions about academics were asked, unfortunately, it was really about the Charter Revision Commission and thank you for calling the special Workshop on Thursday, March 4, 2010.

Mr. Gentry said he'd like to address the Charter Revision Commission issue. I am very disappointed in where we find ourselves because we're at a place particularly right now where we need this community coming together, we need the city, we need the school district, we need the non-profits, we need every joining together as we try our very best going into this legislative session to obtain the resources we need to provide a quality education. To do that, we have to have the confidence and support of the community and that is very difficult to do when you have the sort of dismissive attacks that have been made during the last weeks and months and are constantly being reported in the newspaper. I am particularly disturbed because I take very seriously. I have an unfortunate circumstance, and many would agree, being a lawyer and I think I know the law...and I expect other lawyers to impress upon their clients the law...and, I expect the General Counsel's Office to impress upon its client, the Charter Revision

Commission, what the Constitution provides, so as not to mislead this community, not to disrupt this community and not cause unnecessary difficulties for the school district. Instead, ultimately, it came back with a bleak opinion...ultimately advising the Commission that it couldn't (*unclear*) do what it did and permitted that Commission to go forward and go where it is going and now the School Board find itself being constantly challenged.

I just want to say to the folks watching this show, it is very, very clear that the Constitution of the State of Florida provisos that it is the state's responsibility to provide for a uniform, efficient, high quality system of education...it is the State's responsibility to do that and the State is responsible to fund it. The State, under Article IX, provides this unformed system of education through the Department of Education which is under the jurisdiction and supervision of the State Board of Education. So, you have a State Constitution that says the State has an obligation providing uniformed system of education throughout the state; it's supposed to fund it; it establishes a Board of Education that is suppose to supervise it; and then each county, under the Constitution, constitutes a school district. You can not cut the county up into multiple districts. You can not segregate the poor people on one side and the rich people on another. We guarantee under our Constitution that every child receives an equal education and equal funding. That's why our State Constitution is established the way it is. In addition, each county constitutes a school district, our Constitution guarantees that each school district shall be operated, controlled and supervised by a School Board composed of members chosen by vote of the electors of the county. So, our State Constitution makes it very clear that the people vote on their School Board and there can be no question about it. The City of Jacksonville can not control the School Board. This School Board assesses taxes. Taxation without representation is one of the reasons why we have the Declaration of Independence. You can not have an appointed School Board when this Board is taxing the people and the people must have access to this Board. They have to have the accountability and accessibility that an elected Board requires brings to bear. That's why the Constitution of the State of Florida guarantees that.

Now, if the City of Jacksonville...if the Revision Commission thinks that's a bad idea, what needs to happen is we need to go to the legislature and ask the legislature to change the Florida State Constitution and call upon 60% of the people in the state of Florida to change the Constitution to permit an appointed School Board. Well, that's never going to happen because just like here, the great majority of people in this community would not support such a notion. The people in the State of Florida never support such a Constitutional amendment because they demand the right to elect their School Board. So, in the face of the clear, Constitutional prohibition against this nonsense, we find ourselves awaiting for this report to go to the City Council and asking the City Council to "*kick the can on down the road*" and let the people vote. And, so this School Board finds itself having to defend against the sort of accusations that are made that this is a failing district which it is not. This is a "B" district on its way to being an "A". It's just very, very frustrating that in this point of time that as we need to be working together to improve our school system, that we have to put up with this. I just wanted to say out loud to people who may not understand the law. I think most people understand that they have a right to vote for a School Board member, but they probably don't understand why. It is not a gift form the City of

Jacksonville. It is the mandate of the people in the state of Florida in their Constitution that the people shall vote for their School Board members and it can't be changed by some mayor or some City Council or some Charter Revision Commission, but yet, we find ourselves in this and so, I guess, we'll have to take it on. I, for one, have tried to ignore it and, obviously, it can't be ignored any further.

Ms. Priestly Jackson thanked Board Member Gentry and said I'm his co-chair in that argument so I don't need to anything to it as a lawyer. I totally concur with what he shared and each Board member will share their position at 1:15 pm on Thursday for our meeting regarding this issue.

Ms. Priestly Jackson spoke with the Urban Debate League on Thursday and we had students who participated from Paxon Middle, Northwestern Middle, Ribault Middle, Butler Middle, Matthew Gilbert Middle and North Shore K-8 and it was phenomenal event. Mr. Dennis was there and just sharing with the young people, what a wonderful opportunity it was to take advantage of a chance to participate in the Urban Debate League. Many of those types of leagues were incorporated in schools where many of us went and now it has become an extracurricular activity and it was just a wonderful opportunity to see them from our Title I, some of our most challenged environments, to have that chance.

I also spoke with Leadership Jacksonville regarding Project Breakthrough. The Project Breakthrough work that has been going on and I did that a week or two ago and fortunately, alot of places I went lately, have not had talk in some of those sections about the Charter Revision Commission but actually deal with some other issues on how we became to be where we are right now with Jacksonville's history and everything else. That was a good chance to share with them the Project Breakthrough work which deals with systemic and institutional races and how, we as a community, address it to make certain that all citizens can fully participate in our democracy.

At the same time that that was going on, there was a Joint Board Meeting between the Duval County School Board and Florida State College at Jacksonville and many Board members participated in and said it was one of the most enlightening and informative meetings in awhile. It was hosted by the School Board at the Schultz Center and it was another chance with that.

On the 22nd, I spent the morning with Ms. Elaine Mann over at Stanton College Preparatory School with Ms. Majova-Seane. We had a chance to visit the IB classes. When this Board took on the bold initiative of about 4-5 years ago to make certain that we put in acceleration programs at Ribault and Raines and with the goal of ramping them about to the original concept of other schools. One thing that was all on our minds, we wanted to make certain that there was fidelity and implementation in all four points of what we did. That if you went into an IB class in one environment, it was the same as another. The same thing as if you took an Algebra class in one school, it should be the same at another school. I thank them for opening up their school and take the time to share with me. It was very engaging and a wonderful chance to see them.

I participated in the Black History Program at Jean Ribault Senior High School last week where they recognized Al Austin who is an icon in the school and the community. I

shared with the students many moons ago, the largest program when I was in school was the Black History Program. This one was done by a few teachers, but I'm thankful for them including me in that and the IB coordinator was Matt Hemphill and we thank him for giving us his time and showing us around that day.

Adjournment

ADJOURNMENT

Minutes:

The meeting adjourned at 9:08 p.m.

Isd

Superintendent

Chairman