



Duval County Public Schools

November 5, 2012, Regular Board Meeting

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

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

Call Meeting to Order

[CALL MEETING TO ORDER](#)

Minutes: The Chairman called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

Invocation

[INVOCATION](#)

Minutes:

Chairman Betty Burney gave the Invocation.

Pledge of Allegiance

[PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE](#)

Presentations

Board Members

[1. SCHOOL RECOGNITION - DISTRICT 4 - JEAN RIBAUT HIGH SCHOOL](#)

Minutes: *Please see attached photos by Principal, Edward Robinson.*

Communications

[1. RECOGNITION OF SENIORS ON A MISSION VOLUNTEERS](#)

Minutes:

-- I would like to recognize one of our most dedicated groups of volunteers for the district, Seniors on a Mission. Would the group of seniors present today, along with Chris Buckley, Wayne Atwood, Joanne Hickox and Diane Herman, please join us up front?

--This group represents the nearly 300 Seniors on a Mission volunteers who dedicate much of their time to the Teacher Supply Depot.

--Each year, the volunteers take around 76 mission trips to various organizations.

--The volunteers travel to the Teacher Supply Depot once or twice each month, and start their work immediately upon entering the building. Not only do they come on site to accomplish work, but they also take work home with them to complete for the depot.

--The seniors collect items for our teachers, always arriving at the Teacher Supply Depot with a bus full of donations.

--These hardworking seniors range in age from 70 to 107. We are incredibly appreciative of their labor and support to our district and our teachers.

--So far in the year, they have served more than 2,700 community service hours and counting to Duval County Public Schools. Externally, the seniors

have served 28 local non-profits this year.

--We are so proud to share in this wonderful partnership with Seniors on a Mission. Thank you to all of you for being here and for your tireless service to our district, teachers and students.

Comments From Audience

COMMENTS FROM AUDIENCE

Minutes:

Dr. Gregory O. Myer spoke on behalf of Stephen Biko High School. The high school started this August and it's a private school. We've been in existence for 12 weeks and educate these beautiful kids. We're doing a magnificent job here in the City with the thanks of some great individuals: Jay and Jack Dimitri of the Dimitri Brothers, Mr. John Delaney, Mike Hogan and Mayor Jake Godbold (if you could send a prayer for his wife who is ill). I'd like to express about Mayor Godbold is that he's been the motivational pride in my heart as he always expresses the greatness in this organization and Old Stanton High School which I was able to acquire through the Board of Old Stanton, Inc. and will, hopefully, transition into a charter school. Right now, Stephen Biko High School is in the process of graduating a senior that came to us from a public school within Duval County. This young lady could not pass the FCAT and could not accelerate in her work. Now, she's scored at 19 on the ACT and that is greatness. I disagree with the staff recommendations for denial of our charter school application for the 2013-2014 school year. I have worked diligently on this application with the collaboration with staff members. Based on the actions of the school system's location of charter schools, the location that we have selected will meet the needs of the community. We're here to educate kids and that's what we're doing and with the help of these great people, that's what we're asking you to consider and give us an opportunity accelerate and move them forward. Thank you so much for your time and your concern.

Ms. Melissa Gross-Arnold said I'm here on behalf of Stephen Biko Charter High School. You will see from your agenda and packet that staff is recommending denial of this charter application. We respectfully disagree and I'm here to tell you those reasons that we disagree. I'm here as a local Jacksonville attorney but I practice education all over this state. I represent charter schools before the Appeals Commission, before the State Board of Education and I'm board certified in education law by the Florida Bar. In order to deny a charter application, you must have confident and substantial evidence and good cause statutory basis for denial. I've appeared before the Appeals Commission and the State Board and Board members, the competence of substantial evidence is not there. The statutory "good cause" basis is not there, but regardless of what the State Board would say on an appeal, why force this applicant to use their limited resources to appeal and to expend unnecessarily legal costs for this district? There are good, valid reasons, good community policy reasons for approving this charter application. Dr. Myer has talked to you about the public and private support for this charter school and last month he told the public about the type of charter school

you want and the location of the charter school you want. This group has gotten together with the city and under that direction, is trying to locate a charter school in places where you said you wanted them - good public policy reasons. Old Stanton High School - a building under utilized could turn into a viable public charter school serving students who are not being served right now - good policy reasons and a good legal basis. We ask on that reason, we respectfully request that you pull this application from the Consent Agenda, discuss it and approve it, tonight. Thank you so much.

Ms. Lisa Arndt representing Innovations Educational Services and like our predecessors, we submitted a charter application to the district. Our intent is to provide a unique learning environment for middle schoolers who have been less than successful, multiply retained and those students who are unlikely to come out of middle school and actually go into high school. We put together a program where students can move toward to high school goal which was the original plan. We've looked at some of the locations as to where the lowest performing students are and we want to locate the schools in those areas. We submitted what we thought was a representative application. On behalf of the Board, we had a couple of concerns about the application evaluation. One being that it says the proposed school is "Innovations Academy" when, in fact, the application we submitted was "Innovations Middle Charter School" and these are two completely different schools. We went through the evaluation instrument and the Board believed that there weren't any issues that we couldn't have adequately addressed if we've been given an opportunity to provide printed feedback or opportunity to sit with staff. In light of those, we would ask that you pull our application from the Consent Agenda and move it to Discussion and give us the opportunity to really bring a quality program to Duval schools. Thank you.

Ms. Linda D. Kittles said I'm actually from the community although I served Duval County students for 37 years and I worked with Orange County students in Orlando for one year. I didn't know any of this was going to happen but I had an inner impression to come here, tonight. I am actually here to say thank you to the Board and specifically to you and to Superintendent Pratt-Dannals for considering my community. I am representative for the Ribault Manor Home Owners Association and I am a representative for the City of Jacksonville's CPAC, Zone 5. I spoke once before you when I had a concern about the excessive noise that was coming from Ribault High School. I want to thank you for your assistance as we are a better neighborhood for whatever you did but we've only had one incident of them playing loud music across the PA system and it is a public address system and not a music system. That was about three weeks ago and we haven't had any problems,, since. Our neighborhood totally a better place. We have a quiet, pristine neighborhood and we want to keep it that way and because of your assistance this year, we haven't had any problems. We do have a new principal, Ms. Maxey. Thank you so much, Mr. Superintendent, for what you did. I've been living in my neighborhood for 40 years and we are concerned about the things that happen. We have three schools in our immediate neighborhood across the street from my house so I do thank you so much.

Mr. Edward Exson said while I'm not proud of my background in educational attainment, it is poor. However, I do believe that I'm endowed with a wonderful analytical skill, deeply spiritual, outstanding integrity, abundance of love for all

humanity, and an unambiguous courage for speaking the truth. I say that with humility! We've heard much about the 47%. Now, turn that number around to 74% that is angering so many where Florida has set the bar for black student achievement from 38% reading to 74% or above grade level in the next six years; well below Asians and white students. Whether that goal is discriminating or not, it is unclear. It may be a surprise to you that the policy was formulated by former Florida's Commissioner of Education, Gerard Robinson (who is black), and unanimously approved by the Board. With Mr. Robinson's departure, he could have served Governor Scott's purpose and then become his ouster. The hundred-year Storm Sandy is vidualy the worst destruction of a storm in the United States that we have ever seen. Conversely, the pathologies in most black communities are as destructive. The poison we pick is not d-con or arsenic. It is ignorance which brings out all abnormal traits imaginable in spite of such calamity. We hide it, deny it and camouflage it, thus refusing to accept it. Most black preachers compound our problem by fueling the cycle of poverty and ignorance that will last to perpetuity. Folly is their total inspiration. It may take an oracle to remove the self-inflicted apocalypse. With a failing community, it is next to impossible for most students in failing communities to succeed, given the obstacles they face, especially with the prison industrial system that is competing for and winning the failed community subjects. Given the ones that had no chance to escape, they are subjects of my compassion. However, most disgusting, the so called educated, acting as they are elite but fools whose actions are so crass, they should not be spared jail time; for you committed the crime and caused so many other innocent people to be stereotyped. Thank you.

Ms. Felicia Gaines said I bring you greetings from the Friends of Northwest Jacksonville Schools, Inc.. Recently, the Florida State Board of Education released a plan that stratified goals by race. The goals revealed that the state doesn't plan for 100% of students to be proficient for any race. After reviewing the plan, it seemed that most of their strategies were reactive tasks; however, we feel that we must be both reactive and proactive in overcoming the challenges presented with all children being in the high grade level. The Friends of Northwest Jacksonville Schools, Inc. would like to render a challenge to the Duval County Public Schools be reactive but also proactively pursue the solutions to the racial achievement gap. DCPS is in a new unique position to begin fresh and to turn around from being at the end of the state's list and lead the state in assuring that all children, no matter race, social economic status or creed or learning. We encourage you to enlist our entire community in this feat and become a number one in the state as it will take everyone doing their part. We would like to encourage the district not to break the tiny pockets of success we have in overcoming the racial achievement gap such as the case with John E. Ford. How does it help in any way turning the school into dedicated magnet? The children in this community have a perfectly good neighborhood school and they have shared it with no complaints for years. What is the purpose for sending them miles away to another school when this K-8 model works in their neighborhood? If it isn't broke, why fix it? Finally, thank you so much to our Board Chair, the Honorable Betty Burney and to the Vice Chair, the Honorable Fred Lee for your participation in the Destined for Excellence Through the Leadership Workshop held last month at City Hall for the student leaders of Ribault, Raines and Jackson High Schools. We asked the students if they felt the workshop was worth all the trouble we went through to coordinate it? One of the young men said, "Yes, because I was destined to talk with Fred Lee!" I'd like to mention that three City Council members that Ms. Wright mentioned earlier were a part of our Elected Officials

Forum along with the Honorable Fred Lee, the Honorable Mia Jones and the Honorable Senator Audrey Gibson. So, thank you all so much and have a good evening.

Ms. Connie Benham said I'm from the community and hopeful to get an answer. I'm here to inform the community about the treatment of the ROTC and how the instructors are all full-time classroom and how they have been treated or mistreated by being cut off from the Florida Teachers Lead Money. They used to receive it until 2008 when it was cut off and from the paperwork that I received, it was due to an office employee's interpretation of the Florida Statute. All ROTC instructors are certified yet they have been excluded from receiving the Florida Lead Teachers Money. These instructors came to you all and for five years, they have been begging to be a part of this and for five years they have been ignored. You have an awesome attorney and she was never asked once to interpret this law. So, what is a certified teacher? If ROTC instructors were not certified, they would not be employable and yet they are being treated like second-class citizens. Now, this body claims to support the military and the ROTC and yet, in my opinion, this system goes out of its way to torment the retired military personnel who have turned into full-time classroom certified instructors. Please know, for those who have fought and died for it, freedom has a taste that the protected will never know and if this body, this administration and this system allows office personnel to interpret the law, ever, not just in this situation with the Florida Teachers Lead Money, you are doing a disservice to the Constitution, statutes, your own policies and all military personnel. If this issue hasn't been resolved yet and hasn't been rectified, I'm hoping that the new leadership will go ahead and address this and will stand for what is right. Please use Ms. Chastain.

Mr. Joe Whitaker said this is an awkward venue for me as I'm used to talking to City Council. By day, I work in the mayor's office - Economic Development. My role is to create jobs that should be on the tax base but, tonight, I come to address you as a member of the Stephen Biko Charter High School Board. Our goal is to create a charter high school in down town in the old Stanton Building and we have been successful in getting the Board to provide us with an opportunity to have control of that property and allow us to raise the funds to redevelop it and bring its use back to a charter high school. I've been working with Dr. Myer in that effort and I serve on his Board and it's been an honor for me to have this opportunity to participate in what I think is an exciting for downtown Jacksonville. Dr. Myer has spent most of his career working with the hard core and he's a passionate young man. He has enlisted me into his army so I'm respectfully asking you to pull the Stephen Biko Charter High School item from the Consent Agenda and allow us the opportunity to negotiate the different points. We already have a charter school in operation and we're building that enrollment, but before you can raise funds, you must have the Charter School application approved to show we have the ability to do it. We're asking to negotiate the fine points and continue to work in raising the money that we need to bring that old building into productive use and to provide an educational venue. Dr. Myer is willing to take that challenge and I applaud him and I respectfully request that you work with us and allow us the opportunity to move forward with our project and not have to wait another year. Thank you for your attention.

Dr. Rhonda M. Addo said I was here with you before and I'm here, tonight, on behalf of the Mary McLeod Bethune property. I think about tonight being transition night and

I see some very fine people who have served our community, getting ready to leave us. I'm asking you to honor our former bid and request for the Mary McLeod Bethune property. Here is why...I understand that the last concern was that you wanted the community to be involved. I brought you almost 200 names, tonight, in a petition. These people are in agreement with us bringing our program on board in their community. We are not going to change the name. The name was placed there in 1956 when the school was built. The legacy of Mrs. Mary McLeod Bethune goes all over this country. I have contacted former alumni - elementary people who started out there. They are doctors, teachers, lawyers and some live abroad now, and we have about 80 of them. We're ready to start. We want to gut that building and get it ready for use and the community is ready for us. I thank you and please say "yes", tonight.

Comments From Parent Organizations

[COMMENTS FROM PARENT ORGANIZATIONS](#)

Minutes:

District Advisory Council - Juanita Franklin-Banton, Chair

The District Advisory Council held its last meeting on October 22, 2012 at 6:00 pm in conference room 613. Reports were given by Ms. Jackie Byrd (Superintendent's Office), Ms. Gail Roberts (Academic Services); Board Members Office (Paula D. Wright) and Community and Family Engagement (Vicki Drake).

The District Advisory Council's election of officers were officiated by former Board member, Vicki Drake. The results are as follows:

Juanita Franklin-Banton - Chair
Sabrina Zinamon - Vice Chair
Vicki Lowe - Secretary

The next District Advisory Council meeting will be on November 19, 2012, 6:00 p.m. due to school closing for the Thanksgiving holiday on November 26, 2012.

PTA - Gretchen Lynch, President:

This Thursday we will be offering all components of our Advocacy Training at the Schultz Center. We have a few seats left and you can register at iadvocateforkids.org.

Our 3rd Annual Superintendent's Leadership Packets have gone out via email and will be hand delivered to our high school principals this week. The packets have information on how to nominate 3 students for the Program. This national award winning advocacy program educates high school students on how to use their voice. Student's participate in 4 Saturday sessions focusing on Leadership Styles, Business Etiquette, Civics, Building and Advocacy Strategy, working with the Media and Meeting

with a Decision Maker. The program wraps up with a trip to Tallahassee to learn firsthand about our state legislature and meet the Duval Delegates.

Our next General Meeting on Tuesday, November the 20 is open to all and we will begin to educate our membership on Duval County Public Schools Legislative Agenda followed by Florida PTA's Legislative focus in January.

At this time the Duval County Council would like to present Mr. Pratt-Dannals with this book about the history of PTA. Just as PTA has a 115 year history, working on behalf of children; we want to celebrate your work on behalf of children. You have been an advocate for our children and supported parent partnership. Mr. Gentry, Mr. Hazouri, Ms. Barrett and Ms. Burney... Each of you has been an advocate for our children and supported parent partnership and we appreciate your service.

NOTE: No Title I, Parent Advisory Council report.

Comments From Employee Organizations

[COMMENTS FROM EMPLOYEE ORGANIZATIONS](#)

Minutes: *No one spoke at this meeting.*

Student Achievement, Reform Activities, And Reports

[1. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT](#)

Minutes:

All Board members participated in a special presentation to Ms. Betty S. Burney for being Chairman for the 2011-2012 year.

Ms. Burney said I'd like to announce to the public and share with my fellow Board members one of the things that we started this year was the notion of highlighting our acceleration programs. When Mr. Hazouri, Ms. Barrett and I were on the Board, there was that notion that you could only get a high quality education if you attended Stanton, Paxon, Mandarin or Fletcher. The Board and the Superintendent sought to do something about that and what was developed was the High School Acceleration Programs where in every region in this county, you could find Early College, International Baccalaureate, AICE and Advanced Placement/Honors. You don't have to travel just the four schools because now they are in every school. Dr. Carolyn Girardeau was charged with working on that project and she's done an outstanding

job. One thing this Board has done this year is to highlight an acceleration program to come before us at our regular Board meeting and present their information. This information is taken to the Chamber of Commerce at their monthly meeting. Dr. Girardeau shared with me "Keep Moving Forward" and I'm hoping everyone in the public will get a copy of this which contains all of our high school acceleration programs. It talks about how to enroll and the money savings, our Career Academies and our AVID program. I'm very proud of this and hope Dr. Girardeau will share this with the Chamber for everyone to see the great things that are taking place and it is because of those acceleration programs that has given us the lift that we need as a district with regards to our high schools. I'd like to thank Dr. Girardeau for being the Executive Director in this effort. She made my job as Chair, easy.

2. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Minutes:

The Superintendent was given a special recognition by Board members who contributed \$1,800 for a Scholarship Fund in Ed Pratt-Dannals name.

Mr. Pratt-Dannals said earlier there was a question about the teacher lead money and the person who actually weighed in that decision in the past was Ms. Vicki Reynolds who happens to be an attorney. We will have Ms. Chastain and Ms. Young look at it, again, to see if we're still interpreting it correctly but it was not an office clerk who made that interpretation.

On tonight's Consent Agenda, we do "mirroring" - the one-time bonus that we've giving to other non-instructional personnel for district administrators and exempt clerical - a \$700 bonus this year and next year. It is on Consent so it may not come before the public so it won't be discussed unless someone puts it back on Discussion.

When I shared this information last month, we disaggregated some of the data. There are three points I'd like to make in particular to the kind of progress our African American students have made which is our largest subgroup we've been tracking in terms of our achievement gap. I share with you that overall in our seniors who are college ready in reading, have gone from 52% to 66% - that's 14 percentage points or 28% gain for all students. For African American students, it went from 38% to 60% - almost 22 point gains or 57% increase for the last five years - African American students who are college ready in reading. We went up 64% for overall students who had passed an AP, IB or AICE exam; for African American students, up 118% - a dramatic, positive gain in closing the gap. For Dual Enrollment courses, overall we went up 87% for all student; for African American students, we went up 171% in the number of African American students who passed these courses and they pulled even with Caucasian students in Dual Enrollment. This is additional data I wanted to share with you. We still have a long way to go but we've made significant progress in some very key areas in terms of preparing our students for a positive future.

I've had the opportunity - Denese Mealor who is one right arm and my other right arm is my wife, JoAnn. Denese told me today that as of July 1, I've visited 132 schools and

I'm planning on visiting another 10-15 this week. I didn't quite make my goal of every school, but it has been an incredible pleasure to be able to spend approximately an hour in each of these schools to thank our teachers, interact with our students, engage our principals on what is working and what needs to improve and an incredible experience. I'm so glad I did it. For all of you, just spend a day in a school or an hour - it will change your perception of Duval County Public Schools. Thank you.

Reports

Approval of Agenda

[APPROVAL OF THE NOVEMBER 5, 2012, AGENDA](#)

Motions:

That the Duval County School Board approve the November 5, 2012, Agenda as submitted on October 29, 2012, with the following changes:

1. Approval of Minutes - Revised
Agenda Item
 2. Board Members - Item 1 - FCAT
Resolution - Withdrawn
 3. Administration and Business Services
- Item 4 - Qualified Zone Academy
Bonds Resolution and Delegation of
Authority - Attachments Added
 4. Operations - School Choice and Pupil
Assignment - Item 2 - Charter
Application for My Choice Academy
Charters, Inc. to Open My Choice
Accelerated Academy at Duval
Charter School - Item Withdrawn
 5. Operations - School Choice and Pupil
Assignment - Item 3 - Charter
Application for My Choice Academy
Charters, Inc. to Open My Choice
Collegiate Academy at Duval - Item
Withdrawn
 6. Operations - School Choice and Pupil
Assignment - Item 4 - Charter
Application for Scholar Preparatory
Academy to Open Scholar
Preparatory Academy - Item
Withdrawn
- PASS

- 7. Operations - School Choice and Pupil Assignment - Item 6 - Charter Applciation for Profectus Learning Systems, Inc. to Open Valor Academy of Leadership - Elementary - Item Withdrawn
- 8. Operations - School Choice and Pupil Assignment - Item 6 - Charter Applciation for Profectus Learning Systems, Inc. to Open Valor Academy of Leadership - Middle - Item Withdrawn
- 9. Operations - School Choice and Pupil Assignment - Item 6 - Charter Applciation for Profectus Learning Systems, Inc. to Open Valor Academy of Leadership - High School- Item Withdrawn

Vote Results

Motion: Thomas Hazouri

Second: Martha Barrett

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

Approval of Minutes

[APPROVAL OF MINUTES](#)

Minutes:

That the Duval County School Board approve the following minutes:

August 14, 2012 - Board Workshop
August 21, 2012 - Board Workshop
October 2, 2012 - Regular Board Meeting
October 22, 2012 - Special Board Meeting

Motions:

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

- August 14, 2012 - Board Workshop
- August 21, 2012 - Board Workshop
- October 2, 2012 - Regular Board Meeting - PASS
- October 22, 2012 - Special Board Meeting
- ~~October 30, 2012 - Board Grievance Committee Meeting~~

Vote Results

Motion: Thomas Hazouri

Second: Fred Lee

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

Motions:

That the Duval County School Board approve to amend the Minutes for the Meeting to remove the October 30, 2012, - PASS Board Grievance Committee Meeting from the approval list.

Vote Results

Motion: Thomas Hazouri

Second: Rebecca Couch

Martha Barrett - Aye

Betty Burney - Aye

Rebecca Couch - Aye

William Gentry - Aye

Thomas Hazouri - Aye

Fred Lee - Aye

Paula Wright - Aye

Approval of Consent Agenda

[APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA](#)

Motions:

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

Vote Results

Motion: Thomas Hazouri

Second: Rebecca Couch

Martha Barrett - Aye

Betty Burney - Aye

Rebecca Couch - Aye

William Gentry - Aye

Thomas Hazouri - Aye

Fred Lee - Aye

Paula Wright - Aye

Consent Agenda

Board Members

1. FCAT RESOLUTION -- WITHDRAWN

[2. RESOLUTION ON SEQUESTRATION AND THE IMPACT ON DISTRICT FUNDS TO DUVAL COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS](#)

Attachment: [Sequestration_Resolutionrevised10512 \(4\).pdf](#)

[3. RESOLUTION REGARDING HIGH STAKES TESTING](#)

Attachment: [RESOLUTION REGARDING HIGH STAKES TESTING - 11-05-12.pdf](#)

Academic Services

[1. AGREEMENT WITH THE CITY OF JACKSONVILLE-DRIVER SAFETY TRUST FUND GRANT AWARD](#)

Attachment: [BENEFITS AND CHALLENGES FORM DR ED TRUST MONEY 09-21-12.pdf](#)

[3. APPROVAL OF DISTRICT CALENDARS FOR SCHOOL YEARS 2013-14, 2014-15, AND 2015-16](#)

Attachment: [Benefits and Challenges Calendar Drafts 2013-14 2014-15 2015-16.pdf](#)

Attachment: [2015-2016 DCPS Calen Drafts.pdf](#)

Attachment: [2013-2014 DCPS Calen Drafts.pdf](#)

Attachment: [2014-2015 DCPS Calen Drafts.pdf](#)

[4. BOARD APPROVAL OF 2012-2013 DISTRICT AND STATE SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLANS AND 2012-2013 DISTRICT SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCILS](#)

Attachment: [November 2012 SIP and SAC Agenda BENEFITS AND CHALLENGES.pdf](#)

Minutes:

Ms. Couch said I have three notebooks for the School Improvement Plans which come before us for approval. I'd like the Superintendent to explain to the viewing public what these are and the purpose so people will understand why we do School Improvement Plans and what value they have to parents.

Mr. Pratt-Dannals said this is required under the Florida Statute and depending on what level the school is currently performing, there may be some additional requirements from the Department of Education as far as

some elements that have to go into the School Improvement Plan. It's basically, it's the school looking at where it is now based on data in a whole range of areas from test scores to attendance, conduct, etc. and to put forth a plan as to where they want to go this year - how they will get there and how to measure it. It must come before the School Advisory Council. One of the Council's functions is to review the plan with the principal and to review the budget. There is input from the community. That group represents parents, teachers, business people and community advocates are all on the School Advisory Council. It's also aligned with our district Strategic Plan. So, while the school sets some targets on their own, some are given to them with the idea being if every school meets its targets, the district will meet its targets. It's one of the major responsibilities of our school chiefs and executive directors as they go into the schools to look with the principal, to monitor how that plan is working and modify it if necessary.

Ms. Couch stated that parents are empowered in their children's schools.

Human Resource Services - Staffing

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

Attachment: [HRS Attach 11-05-12 TRANS.pdf](#)

Human Resource Services - Compensation

[1. APPROVAL OF SALARY SCHEDULES](#)

Attachment: [AA 2011-2012 11-05-12.pdf](#)
Attachment: [RC 2011-2012 11-05-12.pdf](#)
Attachment: [EQ 2011-2012 11-05-2012.pdf](#)
Attachment: [AC 2012-2013 11-05-12.pdf](#)
Attachment: [TA 2012-2013 11-05-12.pdf](#)
Attachment: [AC 2011-2012 11-05-12.pdf](#)
Attachment: [UA 2011-2012 11-05-12.pdf](#)
Attachment: [TP 2012-2013 11-05-12.pdf](#)
Attachment: [EM 2011-2012 11-05-12.pdf](#)
Attachment: [DA 2011-2012 11-05-12.pdf](#)
Attachment: [EQ 2012-2013 11-05-13.pdf](#)
Attachment: [AE 2012-2013 11-05-12.pdf](#)
Attachment: [CA 2012-2013 11-05-12.pdf](#)
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Attachment: [EU 2011-2012 11-05-12.pdf](#)

Administration and Business Services - Budget and Financial

[1. MONTHLY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS](#)

Attachment: [July and August 2012 Board Statement Worksheet.pdf](#)
Attachment: [July August 2012 Monthly Financial Statement Narrative.pdf](#)
Attachment: [Final Aug 2012 Cash and Invest.pdf](#)

[2. FIRST YEAR RENEWAL OF THE \\$4,910,000 REVENUE ANTICIPATION NOTE \(RAN\), SERIES 2011](#)

[3. ADOPTION OF BUDGET RESOLUTIONS](#)

Attachment: [November Spreadsheet.pdf](#)
Attachment: [November Narrative.pdf](#)

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

Attachment: [Cert Reso Ex C - Suppl Trust Agrmt .pdf.pdf](#)
Attachment: [Cert Reso Ex E - Disclosure Letter.pdf](#)
Attachment: [211-00015.B3 Certificate Resolution \(revised\).pdf](#)
Attachment: [Duval Schools OZAB RFB V4 Ex D.pdf](#)
Attachment: [Cert Reso Ex B - Lease Schedule.pdf](#)
Attachment: [211-00015 I1 Resolution Making Required Assurances to DOE \(Revised\).pdf](#)

Operations - Information Technology

[1. ANNUAL TELEPHONE MAINTENANCE - MODULARIZED EXTENDED SERVICE PLAN](#)

Attachment: [Duval County Schools Dedicated tech 2012-2013.pdf](#)
Attachment: [B C M Telephone Maintenance Renewal 2012.pdf](#)

[2. SAP ANNUAL SOFTWARE MAINTENANCE RENEWAL](#)

Attachment: [SAP Quote 2012.pdf](#)

Attachment: [SAP 2013 BCM.pdf](#)

Operations - School Choice and Pupil Assignment

~~2. CHARTER APPLICATION FOR MY CHOICE ACADEMY CHARTERS INC. TO OPEN MY CHOICE ACCELERATED ACADEMY AT DUVAL CHARTER SCHOOL - WITHDRAWN~~

Attachment: ~~MYCHOICEaccelerated-DENIAL-10-7-12 (2).pdf~~

Attachment: ~~my-choice-accelerated-exec-summary-final.pdf~~

~~3. CHARTER APPLICATION FOR MY CHOICE ACADEMY CHARTERS INC. TO OPEN MY CHOICE COLLEGIATE ACADEMY AT DUVAL - WITHDRAWN~~

Attachment: ~~my-choice-collegiate-exec-summary-final.pdf~~

Attachment: ~~mychoicecollegiate-denial-final-sbah.pdf~~

Operations - Facilities Project Design, Construction and Maintenance

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

Attachment: [Board Approval - Renewals 11-2012.pdf](#)

Attachment: [Board Approval - New 11-2012.pdf](#)

[2. CONTRACT FOR DISTRICTWIDE PLANNING CONSULTANT PROFESSIONAL SERVICES: SELECTION AND CONTRACT AWARD/DCSB PROJECT NO. OFDC RFO-002-13](#)

Attachment: [DW Planner Professional Services Selection Matrix 10 10 12.pdf](#)

Attachment: [Nov 5 2012 BC Agenda Items DW Planning Consultant Services Con Sel Award 09 26 12.pdf](#)

Attachment: [DW Planner Ayars Recommendation Ltr 10 11 12.pdf](#)

[3. CHANGE ORDER FOR THE MONTH OF OCTOBER 2012](#)

Attachment: [Nov 5 2012 Agenda Item Change Order Report Chart for Oct 2012 09 26 12 2.pdf](#)

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

Attachment: [Nov 5 2012 B-C Agenda Item CSC-CFI-Cont Sav on Projects under \\$1M Report 09 26 12.pdf](#)

Attachment: [Nov 6 2012 Agenda Item CSC-CFI-Cont Sav on on Proj Chart for Oct 2012 10 17 12.pdf](#)

Operations - Purchasing and Logistics

1. SURPLUS PROPERTY RETIREMENT REPORT

- Attachment: [07November12.pdf](#)
- Attachment: [BENEFITS AND CHALLENGES FORM NOV 12.pdf](#)
- Attachment: [06NOVEMBER12.pdf](#)
- Attachment: [ROSUMNOVFY13.pdf](#)
- Attachment: [04NOVEMBER12.pdf](#)
- Attachment: [NOV RETIREMENT.pdf](#)
- Attachment: [05NOVEMBER12.pdf](#)
- Attachment: [Retirement Order Highlight outlinE November 2012.pdf](#)

2. CUSTODIAL SERVICES MANAGEMENT RFP NO. 01-08/LG, CONTRACT AMENDMENT

- Attachment: [GCAcontract second amendv2.pdf](#)

3. LIABILITY CLAIM SETTLEMENT (JAKARI STAMPER)

4. PHARMACY BENEFIT PLAN

- Attachment: [Cost Comparison.pdf](#)

Discussion

Academic Services

2. TITLE II PART A- MIND STREAM/A PLUS EDUCATORS, LLC. CONTRACT, A THIRD PARTY PROVIDER FOR THE DIOCESE OF SAINT AUGUSTINE

- Attachment: [Diocese of St. Augustine Third Party provider 12-13.pdf](#)
- Attachment: [BENEFITS AND CHALLENGES A Plus Educators-Pooling 11-5-12.pdf](#)

Minutes: Speaker:
Mr. W. C. Gentry, Board Member

Motions:

1. That the Duval County School Board approve the contract for services from Mind Stream/A Plus Educators, LLC, for The Diocese of Saint Augustine in an amount not to exceed \$162,442.39.

- PASS

2. That the Duval County School Board authorize the Board Chairperson and the Superintendent to affix their signatures to the agreement upon approval as to form.

Vote Results

Motion: Martha Barrett

Second: Rebecca Couch

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

Human Resource Services - Professional Standards

[1. FINAL ORDER RE DUVAL COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD vs KRISTOPHER HUNTER](#)

Minutes:

The Chairman said the Board will now convene a Special hearing pursuant to the Duval County Teacher Tenure Act to consider the termination of Kristopher J. Hunter. This Board previously received and reviewed the entire record of this matter, including all notices, pleadings, motions, Department of Administrative Hearings (DOAH) transcripts and the Administrative Law Judge's (ALJ) recommended Order. In this case, neither party filed any exceptions to the recommended Order for the Board to consider at this hearing. Following this hearing, the Board will issue a Final Order, adopting, rejecting or modifying all or part of the ALJ's recommended Order.

Mr. Brian McDuffie, Executive Director, Policy and Compliance, said at this time with there being no exceptions filed by Mr. Hunter, we waive our argument and request that the Board approve the recommendations from the ALJ.

Motions:

I move that in the matter of Duval County School Board vs. Kristopher J. Hunter, the Board enter a Final Order: (1) Adopting in its entirety the ALJ's October 3, 2012, Recommended Order; and, (2) terminating Mr. Hunter's - PASS

employment for cause.

Vote Results

Motion: Fred Lee

Second: William Gentry

Martha Barrett - Aye

Betty Burney - Aye

Rebecca Couch - Aye

William Gentry - Aye

Thomas Hazouri - Aye

Fred Lee - Aye

Paula Wright - Aye

Operations - School Choice and Pupil Assignment

[1. CHARTER APPLICATION FOR INNOVATIONS EDUCATIONAL SERVICES, INC. TO OPEN INNOVATIONS MIDDLE CHARTER SCHOOL](#)

Attachment: [Innovations -Detail correleations to statutes-denialrevisedsbah.pdf](#)

Attachment: [INNOVATIONS exec summary final.pdf](#)

Minutes:

Mr. Gentry asked to remove this item from the Consent Agenda and bring it back at the August 15 workshop with voting at the December Board meeting.

Speakers:

Mr. Ed Pratt-Dannals, Superintendent of Schools

Mr. Tommy Hazouri, Board Member

Ms. Karen Chastain, Chief Officer of Legal Services

Ms. Betty Burney, Board Chair

Motions:

Move to Defer - PASS

Vote Results

Motion: William Gentry

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

~~4. CHARTER APPLICATION FOR SCHOLAR PREPARATORY ACADEMY INC. TO OPEN SCHOLAR PREPARATORY ACADEMY - WITHDRAWN~~

Attachment: ~~Scholar Executive Summary Draft Final.pdf~~

[5. CHARTER APPLICATION FOR STEPHEN BIKO PRIVATE/CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL, INC. TO OPEN STEPHEN BIKO HIGH SCHOOL](#)

Attachment: [stephen biko exec summ final.pdf](#)

Attachment: [Biko-Detail correlations to statutes-denial revised sbah.pdf](#)

Minutes:

Mr. Gentry moved to remove this item from the Consent Agenda and bring it back at the August 15 workshop with voting at the December Board meeting.

Speakers:

- Mr. Ed Pratt-Dannals, Superintendent of Schools
- Mr. Tommy Hazouri, Board Member
- Ms. Karen Chastain, Chief Officer of Legal Services
- Ms. Betty Burney, Board Chair

Motions:	
Move to Defer.	- PASS
Vote Results	
Motion: William Gentry	
Second: Paula Wright	
William Gentry	- Aye
Thomas Hazouri	- Aye

Fred Lee	- Aye
Paula Wright	- Aye
Martha Barrett	- Aye
Betty Burney	- Aye
Rebecca Couch	- Aye

~~6. CHARTER APPLICATION FOR PROFECTUS LEARNING SYSTEMS, INC. TO OPEN VALOR ACADEMY OF LEADERSHIP - ELEMENTARY - WITHDRAWN~~

Attachment: ~~Valor Elementary exec summary 9-26.pdf~~

~~7. CHARTER APPLICATION FOR PROFECTUS LEARNING SYSTEMS, INC. TO OPEN VALOR ACADEMY OF LEADERSHIP - MIDDLE - WITHDRAWN~~

Attachment: ~~Valor Middle exec summ final.pdf~~

~~8. CHARTER APPLICATION FOR PROFECTUS LEARNING SYSTEMS, INC. TO OPEN VALOR ACADEMY OF LEADERSHIP - HIGH SCHOOL WITHDRAWN~~

Attachment: ~~Valor HS Exec Sum final.pdf~~

Operations - Real Estate, Planning and Programming

[1. SALE OF SURPLUS REAL PROPERTY - MARY MCLEOD BETHUNE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NO. 157: PURCHASE AND SALE AGREEMENT/OFDC-ITB-004-13/LG](#)

Attachment: [Sept 4 2012 B-C Agenda Item REPP Sale of Bethune No 157 \(3\).pdf](#)

Attachment: [ITB-004-13 Bid Tab for Bethune No 157 8-8-12-Final.pdf](#)

Minutes:

Speakers:

Mr. W. C. Gentry, Board Member
Mr. Fred "Fel" Lee, Vice Chairman
Ms. Paula D. Wright, Board Member
Mr. Tommy Hazouri, Board Member
Ms. Betty S. Burney, Board Chair
Mr. Ed Pratt-Dannals, Superintendent of Schools
Mr. Doug Ayars, Chief Officer of Operations
Ms. Karen Chastain, Chief Officer of Legal Services

Motions:

A. That the Duval County School

Board approve a Purchase and Sale Agreement with Mt. Sinai Missionary Holiness Church, Inc., in the amount of \$1,000, for the sale of Mary McLeod Bethune Elementary School No. 157.

- PASS

B. That the Duval County School Board authorize its Chairman and the Superintendent of Schools to execute this agreement and the associated documents when form approved by the Chief of Legal Services.

Vote Results

Motion: Thomas Hazouri

Second: Martha Barrett

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

Operations - Purchasing and Logistics

[5. PUBLIC HEARING AND VOTE ON BOARD POLICY 7.90](#)

Attachment: [Policy 7.90 - Risk Management Insurance.pdf](#)

Minutes:

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

Board Policy 7.90

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

Mr. Hazouri asked for an explanation.

Mr. Paul Soares, Chief Officer, Operations Support, said this particular policy amendment poses revisions to essentially establish Risk Management

programs. It details the types of coverage to be provided. The existing policy was about one-third of a page. This new policy is much longer and more detailed so it provides more examples of what the new policy does. It also sets forth settlement authorities that weren't clear before and incorporates practices that are ongoing with Risk Management. It's basically providing more detail on what past practices have been and clarifies roles. It explains more what Risk Management does and what Human Resources would handle in respect to a certain funding level.

Motions:

That the Duval County School Board conduct a Public Hearing and approve the attached revisions to Board Policy 7.90 Risk Management Insurance. - PASS

Vote Results

Motion: Thomas Hazouri

Second: Martha Barrett

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

Board Member Travel

[BOARD MEMBERS TRAVEL](#)

Minutes:

That the Duval County School Board approve the following travel for Board member(s):

November 2-3, 2012 - Florida School Counselor Association Award - St. Petersburg, FL - Barrett (NOTE: Lodging and mileage was paid by FSCA)

Motions:

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

- November 2-3, 2012 - Florida School Counselor Association Awards - St. Petersburg, FL - Barrett (Note: Lodging and mileage being paid by FSCA) - PASS

Vote Results

Motion: Thomas Hazouri

Second: Paula Wright

Martha Barrett - Aye

Betty Burney - Aye

Rebecca Couch - Aye

William Gentry - Aye

Thomas Hazouri - Aye

Fred Lee - Aye

Paula Wright - Aye

Superintendent's Travel

[SUPERINTENDENT'S TRAVEL](#)

Minutes: *No Superintendent's travel for this meeting.*

For The Record

[FOR THE RECORD](#)

Minutes:

Mr. Gentry said what an honor it is to have served on the School Board and in particular, to serve with the people that I've had the opportunity to have served with and particularly with you, Mr. Superintendent. We've done great work and I'm really proud of these four years. I want to thank a few other people. People ask me why in the world did you serve on the School Board? I had a fairly lucrative law practice and things were going well and I thought about that a lot. My Dad is 94 years old and in poor health at this time and I thought about why I do things and I want to thank him who left me with an incredible sense of duty and responsibility. He and my mother were members of the Greatest Generation. He served in England and in the air war in Europe and taught me a great sense of duty and to take on the hard jobs - and to do it right. My mother had a great sense of service and responsibility to others and I owe it to them or maybe I blame them for stepping up and doing things like this. I do want to thank them and my wife and family for supporting me and all the folks who have thanked me for what I was doing. It means a lot to me and I hope you all will continue doing that for the three sitting members and those who come on. It is a lot of work and I want to thank you all for what you'll continue to do. When I came on the Board, I was involved in Early Learning and thought I knew what I wanted to see us do; I found out you were already doing a lot that I thought needed to be done most - you were doing great things like increasing the graduation requirements and moving towards more accelerated programs in our high schools. For me working with the Jacksonville Journey, I was concerned about the huge number of suspensions and I was happy to see the development of the Out of School Suspension Program and reduce the number of kids who are out of school due to discipline issues. I'm excited to see that we've done that over the last four years. I was also interested in the Career Academies as so many kids aren't driven to traditional college. Our students are graduating ready for the workforce and/or college. VPK (Volunteer Pre-Kindergarten) is getting these small children ready for school and I think staff for putting this program together. If we continue these programs, we will be the best school district in the state and in the nation. In closing, looking ahead in terms of concern, we need to work on the fiscal cliff - no further conversation and good luck. We must align our non-profits and work together. Figure out a way to use these limited resources and pool our programs together for the big bang for the buck. It's not just the non-profits but the political leadership. Please join us in our tactics as our goals can be collaborative; trust the professionals as we will become a great school district and great city. I want to thank the staff and I think we're leaving the system in a better place.

Ms. Barrett said my first Board meeting was in November, 2000 and we've come a long way. We've experienced a tremendous amount of successes - bus contracts, career academies - nothing was every easy. We've had great leadership from our Superintendent and I've worked with many Board members. I've attended over 130 Board meetings and I want to thank my fellow Board members, staff and volunteers - you are all great. Our Communication department has done a great job and continue. Parental involvement is very important and there was none of that in 2000. I agree with Mr. Gentry - the Board then was not like it is, today. It's been a delight to serve on this Board. I did represent the Board last Friday in St. Petersburg while I attended a Guidance conference. Our Board was nominated for our school counseling services and the ratios and they were very impressed with our school district. I thank Joni Shook and Nan Worsowicz (district Guidance)! It's been a great ride and I've enjoyed my 11 years! Thank you.

Mr. Hazouri said it's been eight wonderful years for me, personally and education has always been a part of my life. My wife recently retired with 43 years of teaching and Tommy Jr. is in his seventh year teaching elementary school. Education is a never-ending story and this is just one exciting chapter in the educational history of Duval County and I've seen this country grow. Some people think that some of us ran for these positions because of politics as it's a political thing to do. When you leave the mayor's office, the School Board is not where you end up - it's where you begin but that's not the case. Now, education has been part of my life and how can I make a difference? Being on this Board, hopefully, enabled others to see how important it is for all of us to run for office and support public education in Duval County. I support charter schools, private schools, parochial schools and we started home schools when I was in the Legislature chairing that committee. Don't let anyone...from the federal, state and local government undermine the foundation in which this country was founded and that is our public education system. It's heading in the direction, statewide, that none of us want for our children. They deserve the best public education that we can provide and I think the Duval County School District is providing that type of education. We recognize our shortcomings and we've corrected them. We know we're far from perfect but we know we're heading in the right direction and for that, I'm thankful to the staff, principals, teachers, students, parents and our Superintendent. There are so many entities in Jacksonville wanting to do right and doing it the right way in trying to support various programs, many go in the same direction or different direction but aiming for the same goal. Our leadership of this district must begin with the Superintendent and the School Board and we must all work together. That is the way you achieve. I'm very proud of our accomplishments and our Strategic Plan. We have much to be thankful for and I am thankful for being able to serve on this Board and make a difference to our children.

Mr. Lee said I'm looking at the four Board members who have been a part of the team along with the Superintendent and if you add up just the members experience, you have 30+ years. The great thing is now I can have lunch with each of you as well as other Board members. We will continue to rely on the four of you and I hope you'll give us that chance. During the next 24 hours, four newly elected Board members and they will be inducted on November 14. I have learned much from the four of you and the Superintendent and that information will serve us well as we move forward in trying to keep the torch lit and the baton has been passed. I do understand the burden that has been placed on us and we're ready. We will miss each of you and thank you for your service to our community and I'm looking forward to breakfast or lunch with you.

Ms. Wright said this quote comes to my mind, *"May the work I do speak for me"* and to my fellow Board members who are leaving as well as our Superintendent, I'm proud to be able to say that this is the banner that we'll be able to hold up and you can say *"this work speaks for me"*. We're going to take this banner and we're going to make certain that it is connected and led by our Strategic Plan and we're going to make you proud. We've learned so much from you and I will miss each of you in different ways, but collectively. Mr. Gentry has consented to give me the keys to the Bentley and I am so grateful. Not only have we had an opportunity to learn from each other but we've had an opportunity to grow. I feel each one of us can walk away saying, *"I got something from our relationships"* and I'm grateful for that. One thing I do know that Mr. Gentry,

Ms. Barrett, Mr. Hazouri, Ms. Burney and Mr. Pratt-Dannals, that you are truly advocates for our children; you are the supporters like the bunny that keeps ticking and I'm not concerned about hearing from you in the future or seeing you again, it's in your blood so I know we will continuously be in contact. Mr. Lee, you are so right, the three of us are prepped for the norming process as we welcome four new Board members but we're also prepared because of the leadership that we've seen over the last two years to guide them in the storming process because with that norm there will be some storms and it will rest upon our shoulders to lead and guide and to stay calm. We must continue to hold the banner up for children, our communities and our families. I'm sad tonight because shortly this seven won't be here but I'm also very excited because we will have four new Board members and a different type of Superintendent and leader. I will miss Mr. Pratt-Dannals leadership and his knowledge. He's been the "go to" man regardless of what the topic was as I could always call him and get a clear understanding. I will miss all five of you in different ways but you'll be around. I'm looking forward to the future.

Ms. Couch said it's been such an honor to serve on this Board with you four Board members and on this leadership team with Ed Pratt-Dannals. The institutional knowledge that exists today versus as to what will happen in a few days will swing far in the other direction. I feel very grateful that I've been able to serve with these Board members. Ms. Barrett has the knowledge of being on this Board through the ups and downs and being able to apply that to where we are, today. I'm very grateful that the three of us have had this opportunity in moving forward. I think the four members that are leaving and the Superintendent don't receive enough credit for the foundation they have laid. Clearly, we've had some great success this past year and that is what will help us get to an even higher level in the future and I am very excited to see what this district has to offer through the City of Jacksonville. In 2007, the graduation rate was 59.8% and today, it is 71.2%. That is a significant improvement. Are we at 100%? No, but the improvement over the last few years; you just can't deny it and I'm grateful as a community member, parent and the leadership you four have given me by taking us under your wing. I tell people we were baptized by fire. You've made it so much easier for us than it could have been and I appreciate your leadership. Ms. Burney, I appreciate your leadership over the last year bringing together the Chamber with the Board and coming up with the idea of them adopting some of our schools with businesses. It's also great having our schools highlighted at our Board meetings for the public to see what is happening in our schools. Also, the Superintendent's Search couldn't have happened the way that it did without your leadership. Thank you.

Ms. Burney said Mr. Hazouri and I came in together in 2004. When I ran for office, I didn't run for a title of being "School Board member". In fact, I didn't even want to run for office but I did because I felt that when you have an opportunity to serve, you must step in and do what is required. When I ran for office, my father was deceased and I had to find the right person, the one person other than my father, who I thought could swear me in to office because I take this very, very seriously. The person who swore me into office was the late Reverend C. B. Dailey who was a stalwart in the African American community fighting for children every day. I looked at Reverend Dailey and he was ill but he was telling me to "do the right thing" and I knew that he meant to do the right things for children. I looked out into the audience and saw one of my students who is in "I'm A Star" program, Ms. Kayla Cobb, from Stanton. We work with a number of young people and have been doing this program over the past two years.

What is so important is about the "Kaylas" of this world...every child is born into this world to do something unique and distinctive and if they don't do it, perhaps, it might not ever get done. Every child is smart, intelligent and good and they will make the difference. This has been my ministry and the one thing that kept me on my knees more than anything else was just the thought of Raines, Ribault, Jackson and North Shore being closed. I remember when Mr. Bellamy was placed over Raines, Ribault and Jackson, I called him and said I would pray for him every day and will walk the track at Raines, and pray for the young people. The schools have done tremendously well and it's been a working process. Whatever I can do for the children of Duval County Public Schools, I'm just a phone call away and I'll do it. Mr. Bellamy, I'm still going to walk that track and will pray for you as well as everyone in this district because our children can do so many great things and we need to take the time and nurture them.

Adjournment

[ADJOURNMENT](#)

Minutes:

The meeting adjourned at 8:42 p.m.

Isd

Superintendent

Chairman