



Duval County Public Schools

August 5, 2008, Regular Board Meeting

Ms. Betty Burney, Chairman
Mr. Tommy Hazouri, Vice-Chairman
Ms. Kris Barnes
Ms. Martha Barrett
Ms. Nancy Broner
Ms. Vicki Drake
Ms. Brenda Priestly Jackson
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. Betty Burney,, Board Chairman, Mr. Tommy Hazouri, Vice Chairman and Board Members: Kris Barnes, Martha Barrett, Nancy Broner, Vicki Drake and Brenda Priestly Jackson, 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:

Reverend James Scott
Christ the King Catholic Church

Pledge of Allegiance

[PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE](#)

Minutes:

Alden Road Exceptional Student Center Color Guard presented the colors.

Presentations

[1. 2007-2008 WESTSIDE KIWANIS OUTSTANDING CAREER & TECHNICAL EDUCATION TEACHER](#)

Minutes:

Each year, the Westside Kiwanis Foundation presents an award to the Outstanding Career & Technical Education Teacher of the Year.

This year, the organization presented the award to Frank H. Peterson Aviation teacher, Mr. John Slate.

The Outstanding Career & Technical Education Teacher of the Year had to meet and exceed the following criteria:

- * Show outstanding performance in the classroom in support of district and state initiatives;
- * Maintain a superior record in preparing students for successful entry to careers, the military or post-secondary education;
- * Exhibit an exceptional degree of leadership and involvement in community activities, service learning projects, and/or advisory committees as related to career and technical education; and
- * Expertly work with all students, including special populations and those with multicultural challenges.

John's award included a commemorative plaque and a \$500 cash prize.

Joining us tonight from the Westside Kiwanis are Harry Ganey, Glenn Johnson, Dennis Jammes and their president, David Selin, who will be presenting the award. Also, will Chris Force, Duval County Public Schools' Director of Career and Technical Education and Greg McCandless, principal of Frank H. Peterson Academies of Technology, join us at the front to help honor John?

Thanks to each of you and your generous organization for your unwavering support of Duval County Public Schools.

[2. DUVAL COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS DISTINGUISHED BOARD PRESENTATION AWARD - BUDGET SERVICES OFFICE](#)

Minutes:

Earlier this year, the Government Officers Association of the United States and Canada announced that Duval County Public Schools received the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award.

This award represents a significant achievement by an entity, and reflects the commitment of their governing body and staff to meeting the highest principles of governmental budgeting.

In order to receive this award, an organization has to have met certain budgetary guidelines that assess how well its budget serves as a policy document, a financial plan, an operations guide and a communications device.

Duval County Public Schools' Budget Services Department, led by Mike Perrone, was presented with a Certificate of Recognition for Budget Presentation.

When the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award is presented to an organization, the Certificate of Recognition is given to the department which was primarily responsible for having achieved the award.

Would the following people from the Budget Services Department please come to the front to receive their certificate of recognition:

Mike Perrone
Karen Jones
Susan Dugan
Severina Camacho
Jennifer Whitman
Kayleigh Nelesen
Lynn White

Thanks to each of you for your hard work and dedication.

[3. COUNCIL FOR EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN TEACHER OF THE YEAR](#)

Minutes:

Each year during an awards ceremony, the Jacksonville Chapter of the Council for Exceptional Children acknowledges the efforts of educators who devote significant attention to the education of exceptional students.

This year, the council named Ms. Alfreda Fitzpatrick, teacher at Englewood High School, its 2008 Teacher of the Year.

The council's profile of Ms. Fitzpatrick noted that she is a "linchpin" at her school, meaning she "holds things together" as a unit. They a lot noted that her touch is far-reaching, extending beyond the workplace into the community.

Joining us tonight to help honor Ms. Fitzpatrick is Jim Marshall, CEO of Spectrum K-12 School Solutions. Ms. Fitzpatrick, thanks for all that you do for your school and community. Your efforts to improve the educational outcomes for some of our district's most precious students are very much appreciated.

Comments From Audience

[COMMENTS FROM AUDIENCE](#)

Minutes:

Ms. Colleen Wood, a resident of St. Johns County and a parent, spoke about the budget cuts our state is facing. A few parents and I got together and have formed a group called "50th No More". Our organization is dedicated to changing the fact that Florida is ranked 50th out of 50 states and the District of Columbia in per capita spending. We don't feel it is acceptable and we know you don't feel it's acceptable and I want to share a little bit of information about our group. You can visit our website - 50th No More.org and we have a petition where we're encouraging the legislators in Tallahassee and our governor to return education to the top priority it needs to be. to say that it is a

priority now that schools are held harmless by some of the things that have happened recently, to say it is untrue, is kind. The purpose of our group is to bring back focus. We are non-partisan, a grass-roots group and we are made up of Democrats, Republicans, parents, business owners, empty-nesters and we are all concerned about the focus on education. We invite you as Board members, teachers, principals, and most importantly, the parents to join our group and look at the information to see if you agree with us and if you do, join. Please sign your name to the petition but also, voice your opinion. It is time for parents to demand basic services that our schools need. I'm not asking for bonuses or extra...I'm demanding the basic services be restored and as a parent, I shouldn't have to beg for that. The goals for our group are long term and we want to raise awareness about the fact that Florida is ranked 50th and I'd like to note that we were ranked 50th in the year 2005-06 which was one of the best years for education spending in the state of Florida. We have gone down and this is the first time in 37 years, our state has chosen to spend less on education with more students and demands and continuing legislation that requires you do more without funding for that. Short term, we have three immediate goals: On the ballot in November, there will be three amendments - 5, 7 and 9 that will be detrimental to public education and I love public education in Florida. Please look over those amendments - Amendment 5 - the tax swap amendment will ruin Florida's education. When the sales tax increase that is proposed will go into effect, we will still be in a \$3.5-6 billion dollar deficit for Florida education. That money will be made up somewhere; there will be cuts or there will be increased taxes on services that will affect those of us with children in school, and it will also affect everyone in this state. When education goes down, property taxes will be a problem, as well.

Ms. Doree Giles said she appreciates everyone's dedication to education and it is not an easy task that we have...I come to you as a parent tonight, as one who has had two students at Paxon and we are getting ready to leave Paxon. My youngest daughter is graduating this year. As I talk with you this evening, it is not only for my daughter, but also for all students who will be affected by the Opportunity Scholarships and the affect these might have on our magnet schools. In the past as I understand, the magnet schools were exempt from accepting Opportunity Scholarship students and that this was changed at the last meeting. One of my concerns is...was there adequate input from parents, students, families, others who are affected by this major change? My understanding in the past, 9th graders were exempted from this and the Times Union article said the next day that Superintendent Pratt-Dannals had wanted to exempt the 9th graders. Believing that, perhaps, we could better deal with this regarding the older students - 10th, 11th and 12th graders who have already proven themselves academically and will not be swamped by what might be happening at Paxon, Stanton or Douglas Anderson. It is still a fluid situation but perhaps, these academic standards will no longer be upheld. Yet, we may be establishing another track for these students who have not taken honors courses or a minimal mathematics which is Algebra I for admission to Paxon. WE've been dealing with a number of challenges in the past and we have been so looking forward to this year getting started where we're not cramped for space, etc. and now we have this present challenge. I understand that this is a state law and there will be challenges in implementing this but what about the direction this is taking? We have 213 students who are on a waiting list for admission to Paxon and this is also true for the other two magnet schools that are affected here. 213 students do not know where they're going in two weeks when school begins and they have done everything in good faith to fulfill the requirements.

Ms. Patty Johnson said she has two sons with Asperger's Syndrome and one is 9 and the other is 10 years old. I nominated their teachers for Autism Society of Greater Jacksonville and sent the letter to the School Board to two members. (*See Attachment*)

Mr.. John Turner said I keep coming back here because I'm tired of Jacksonville having one of the worst school districts in the state of Florida. As a parent with three kids who attend public schools, I know first hand why our schools are such a mess. The reasons for the failure of our schools are neither complicated or difficult to fix and they can be summed up into two categories - greed and discrimination. I have addressed these problems repeatedly with the School Board and offered real solutions but my pleas have fallen on deaf ears. Major reform of the school district is long overdue and the type of reform that is needed is outlined in the Five Point Plan for Success, they went into full

panic mode. They knew if the School Board were forced to adopt the plan, it would forever change the power structure in Jacksonville. They went to their partners - The Alliance for World Class Education and they drew up a counter proposal for the School Board called the Strategic Plan which gave the parents a reform, but in reality, it was designed to change nothing. At first glance, it looks impressive until you actually read it and it has serious flaws. It is filled with empty promises, wishful thinking and calls for hiring more teachers, but does not put a price tag on how much it will cost or where the money will come from. Above all, it avoids accountability. Because of that, I can not help but conclude that the Strategic Plan is nothing more than a gimmick. So, I close with this, after years seeing the School Board deliberately choosing not to do the right thing and avoiding responsibility for their own failure, I decided to run for the School Board. I'll now leave it up to the voters to decide if they have had enough of the greed and discrimination that is destroy our public schools and we'll soon find out on August 26th. Thank you.

Mr. Stanley Scott said from the bottom up...famous author Walter Mosley, life out of context, defined the present day life of the African American community. The life of an African American from religious, political, educational and business rank is the major cause of 60-70% of African Americans living life out of context today. The African American community is living with an illness called "fear from within." The lack of unified goals among the "bougee" African American leadership has crippled the entire African American community. The NAACP, SCLC, the Democratic Party, the Republic Party and the African American churches are pimping the African American community. The "bougee" African American leadership is stuck on stupidity, to believe...begging for loans and grants facing a bleak future facing us as a people. the only solution for African Americans today is number one: rebuilding the African American family, self education, self reliance, political power controlled by precincts voting blocks. I hope and pray to the spirit that the "bougee" African American leadership finds some empathy for the people that look like them. In closing, I'd like to send out a good word to my brother Mr. Exson and Pastor Harvey - hope they get well soon. African American leadership today has caused a lot of problems in the African American community. They keep begging for money and loans, don't take the resources that they have...they want unified for one common goal - life for the kids; life for America; life for the dirt we live on. The African American community can not blame the School Board for everything. I'm not accepting that any longer. I'm going directly to my people and ask that we stand up and do our part in our community. I am disappointed with my community. We have the resources. We spend close to \$8 billion dollars in this city a year ago. In my areas, 32208 and 32209, we spend \$134 million dollars. Why can't we control some of those dollars and do something for ourselves? No one can save the African American community but the African Americans, themselves. I understand history but today since civil rights, we have done nothing for ourselves and we continue to beg for pennies. Thank you!

The Chairman wished to correct one statement that was stated earlier..."*Duval County was the worst in the state*"...I don't know what that is based upon; however,, with regards to the state's grade, Duval County received a "B" this year.

Comments From Parent Organizations

[COMMENTS FROM PARENT ORGANIZATIONS](#)

Minutes:

District Advisory Council - Rachel Raneri (read by Annette Worthen):

Good evening. The District Advisory Council met on July 28th. We had a great turnout, especially for

a mid-summer meeting. I want to publicly thank the DAC members who were able to join us.

Dr. Sally Hague gave us an update on the Opportunity Scholarship Program. She was able to clarify some misconceptions and rumors about the program.

Pat Carley brought us an update on the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Council on Accreditation and School Improvement (SACS CASI), and how the visit from the team will take place.

Pat also mentioned that there will be upcoming School Improvement Plan training for all principals on new requirements for their SIPs. At that time, there will be School Advisory Council training on the changes that have taken place over the summer. It was suggested that principals invite the SAC Chair from their school to attend the training so they will be informed and better able to assist the principal.

We were glad to have Jackie Byrd, Myrna Amos and Board member Martha Barrett to join us and offer their insight.

Unfortunately, I have some bad news to share. The moies that SACs have been given in the past have been cut in half. This year SACs will receive \$5.00 per FTE and School Recognition awards will be \$85.00 per FTE.

On a lighter note, the District Advisory Council has decided to go "green". We will not print the new handbook for the 2008-09 school year. The handbook will be sent electronically to all principals and then the principals will forward it to their SAC Chairs and members. It will be posted to [.u](#) and anyone who would like a hard copy may print it. Though the DAC has no budget, we will do our part to help the district save money.

I would like to remind everyone that until the new SAC is formed after the first day of school, the 2007-08 SAC chair remains as chair in case a signature is needed for the SIP. At the first SAC meeting of the new school year, the new Chair will be elected. Officers are NOT elected in the spring.

I would like to remind the public that if you are invited to attend an ACE (Academic and Community Excellence) meeting, this is a way to voice your opinion in the process of looking at boundary changes. The meeting dates can be found by clicking on the map on the right hand-side of the DCPS home page. This is a huge endeavor on the part of Doug Ayars' team and I would like to commend them for all of the hours they have put into this project.

I would like to remind everyone, parents, educators and citizens to vote on August 26th!

Thank you and I hope to be able to attend the next Board meeting in person.

PTA - Annette Worthen:

Good evening, I'm Annette Worthen, President of the Duval County Council of PTAs/PTSAs.

This past month, members of the Board of Managers have continued to assist PTAs and principals that have requested our help. We are always available to help train local PTA board members as well as assist in budget planning and auditing. The local unit presidents are now in the process of receiving training and membership materials from both the Florida PTA and National PTA offices. On the local level, the Duval County Council of PTAs will hold both a training workshop and Health and Community Services Fair on Monday, September 22nd at the Schultz Center. More information will be available in the August newsletter that will be sent to every PTA president and principal.

I reported last month that Duval County had 36 people scheduled to attend the Leadership Conference. In fact, there were 45 people from Duval County PTAs who received training and guidance at the conference. I was happy to see representatives from our local units taking classes in leadership, finance and advocacy.

Like local units, the Duval County Council of PTAs has programs that we support. The Teacher Supply Depot and the Vision Screening Program are the two biggest programs that we support through volunteer hours and monetary funds.

The Teacher Supply Depot Grand Opening and Outdoor Expo is this Friday, August 8th. The Expo will begin at 7:30 am and the Depot will open at 9:00 am. I would like to thank all the PTA volunteers, students and community members who have been working so hard to ensure that this is a successful opening. I would like to thank Chris Buckley who has been working day and night, seven days a week to ensure the opening is a success.

I would like to thank our School Board members - Vicki Drake and Kris Barnes, who have stopped in at the Depot and lent a helping hand. Your support is greatly appreciated. I hope to see all of the Board members at the opening. The word is out and the teachers are calling the Depot daily asking about the materials. Remember, everything at the Depot is free and has been donated by local businesses.

Last month, I asked for help about possible grants that we could apply for on behalf of Vision Screening and the Eyeglass Fund. I was contacted by Dorie in the External Funding Office at the district building. She has been a great source of information and has suggested several places for us to look. I'm not sure who told her we needed help but "thank you" for directing her our way.

PTA is grateful for 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. Thank you.

Comments From Employee Organizations

[COMMENTS FROM EMPLOYEE ORGANIZATIONS](#)

Minutes:

Ms. Terrie Brady, Duval Teachers Union, president, said we're presenting in bargaining but I want to make a comment - we have a "love life" relationship. I get very concerned when outsiders start throwing rocks at my School Board. We've experienced a major change during the last eight years, promoting what's right. There's been a greater visibility within the community telling the good stories about this district. Every student and employee has shown great movements and strides and I'm so happy to be a part of this district. I commend both Ms. Kris Barnes and Ms. Martha Barrett for serving on the Board for the past eight years. I think this has been one of the best Boards we've ever had - fantastic training and leadership - a systemic change within the governance of the Board. I just wanted to give those comments today. Thank you!

Student Achievement, Reform Activities, And Reports

1. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Minutes:

One of the most important portions of our School Board agenda and that is where we get to speak about student achievement, reform activities and give our reports. Each month until November, the Chairman's report will shine a spotlight on one school in each Board member's district to demonstrate our focus on student achievement which is actually our core business. tonight, I am pleased to highlight two schools. One from School Board District 1 where Ms. Martha Barrett is the Board member; and the other in School Board District 2 where Ms. Nancy Broner serves as Board member. So, tonight, we'll first talk about Fort Caroline Middle School.

Fort Caroline Middle School, under the leadership of principal Kathy Kassees, has each year as the demographics of the school's population changed, Fort Caroline Middle Schools rises to the challenge by continuing to make gains in the critical areas of reading and math. Fort Caroline Middle School is particularly proud that the bottom quartile students are especially successful in making academic gains. One of their success strategies is the use of predictor scores, i.e., NWEA and Read 180, to track gains and inform instruction.

I wish to highlight their special 2007 school year highlights...they're in the process of becoming an International Baccalaureate Middle School Program and to date, they have trained a third of the staff the implementation which will take place in the 2008-09 school year. Another academic highlight is the opportunity for students to use computers to analyze and solve problems in math, science and social science through computer simulations, modeling, and other forms of computational problem solving.

What makes this school so special? Fort Caroline means "First Class". Fort Caroline Middle School provides a caring environment where every adult is responsible for the academic success of all students. Fort Caroline has a great team of teachers and staff that truly believes that all students can be successful. As a recipient of a United Way Grant called "Achievers for Life", Fort Caroline is able to provide mentors and family support for at-risk 6th graders. This grant adds critical support systems from the community as well as the caring environment and educational foundational provided at the school. In addition to a caring environment, Fort Caroline is dedicated to keeping curriculum current so that students can move into the 21st Century workplace with the skills necessary for them to be successful.

Even though challenges continue to arise for all public schools, in order to meet the challenges faced in the neighborhood of Arlington, Fort Caroline maintains a comprehensive middle school program that caters to all levels of student achievement. Safety nets, as well as classrooms of the future, are in place beginning DAY 1 as all adults continue to reach and teach students to become life long learners. Fort Caroline Middle School's mission statement sums it up:

"Fort Caroline Middle School is dedicated in its quest to offer students a challenging academic and technology-oriented curriculum that will enhance global consciousness, developing the skills for the 21st century workforce."

Fellow Board members and Superintendent Pratt-Dannals, and guests, please join me in applauding the faculty and staff of Fort Caroline Middle School. Thank you, Ms. Kassees for all that you do.

District 2 - Tonight, we saw three wonderful students come and lead us in the pledge of allegiance. Those are students who are enrolled in the Alden Road Exceptional Student Center.

Alden Road Exceptional Student Center serves students in grades 6-12. The student population is composed of students who are in full-time exceptional student education (ESE) programs. Students

are assigned to the school by the district ESE department. They are assigned to Alden Road School when it is determined that the most appropriate setting to meet their educational needs is an ESE Center School environment, as compared to a comprehensive school setting, and/or when ESE vocational training is determined to be a priority in their individual education plan.

The school serves students who have a wide range of disabilities which include: Profoundly Mentally Handicapped (PMH), Trainable Mentally Handicapped (TMH), Educable Mentally Handicapped (EMH), Autistic (AU), Emotionally Handicapped (EH), Other Health Impaired (OHI), Specific Learning Disabled (SLD), Hearing Impaired (HI), Traumatic Brain Injured (TBI), and Orthopedically Impaired (OI).

Their mission: *"The school, family, and community supports are committed to collaboratively providing instruction that meets the individual needs and abilities of all students in the areas of: daily living, academic, social, and vocational skills."*

Their wonderful principal summed it all up in these words from her heart:

"At Alden Road, we are committed to making a positive difference for each student and their family. We believe WE ARE THE DIFFERENCE! And resolve to work as a team to accept and understand the individual differences of each student. We celebrate uniqueness and we honor the challenge and privilege of providing a quality education for all because the students are our first and last priority.

We truly believe every student can and will learn and will do whatever it takes to meet our students needs. We are willing to make a new mold for each child. The Alden staff works as a team to meet the needs of the total student, academic, social, emotional, behavioral, physical, as well as prepare for transitions in the future.

Being an Exceptional Student Center, we treat our students as exceptional...outstanding, excellent, brilliant, special and extraordinary. We are a team who not only serves our students, but the entire family by providing training and supports for caregivers and community sponsors. We start from day one to prepare our students for their ultimate transition to the community at their personal level of independence. Maximizing the potential of every student is what we are all about!"

Ms. Linda Leonard said, "I am passionate about what I do so it is hard to be brief! After seeing the students of Alden Road and knowing all that you do, thank God for your passion and thank you and your staff for your hard work and dedication!"

Please join me in saluting the principal, staff and students of Alden Road Exceptional Student Center.

2. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Minutes:

It may be between now and November, the public may get tired of each of the meetings of your reminding the public as far as where we are financially, but I feel it is incumbent upon me to do so. This is a true crisis as far as educational funding that we're in at this point. We are down about \$35 million dollars going into next year. There have been some statements in the legislature that funding was only cut by 1% for school districts and thought that was pretty good giving the kinds of cuts that were taken elsewhere. That did not account for either of the two mid-year cuts we had last year and we build budgets on an annual basis. Therefore, in terms of major programs, terms of our contracts with our employees, terms of health benefits, are basically set by the time we start school in July. So, when we have two mid-year hits, those truly are hits into the next year's budget and we must absorb

those.

In addition, the Governor has directed each of the departments including the Department of Education to cut an additional 4% out of our revenue as we received it this year and about half of that then is a hit to the district because about half of our revenue comes from sales taxes and half from property taxes. So, that's about another 2% decrease. If you look at state-wide, the decrease counting those is 6.6% statewide. That is an extremely large blow to Duval County and all school districts. Additionally, we've had to absorb costs like individuals...our fuel has gone up, electric bills, fees assessed by the city and JEA in order to recoup the funds they lost under Amendment 1 have been passed on to the district because it is not a tax but a fee, therefore, we must pay the same as other users. The net of that is about a \$70 million dollar hit to our budget. Why is this significant? It is significant because a lot of the programs we'd like to put into place can not be funded without revenue. We know about some high quality, high performing programs we could put in place to help more students graduate - which is one of our key goals in our Strategic Plan. We know in order to increase achievement, we need more revenue. In order to attract and retain the highest quality teachers and principals, the most important people in our district, as far as moving student achievement, we need more revenue.

We are currently being out-spent by Georgia by \$5,000 average per teacher for beginning teacher salary. There are several other factors on the horizon. We don't know this 4% decrease is all we're going to feel this year. We fully anticipate another mid-year hit and we don't know how big it will be. The projections for next year, 2009-10, to be as bad or worse than this year until the economy turns around because the state of Florida is so dependent on sales taxes and you take that along with the amendments that have already passed, Amendment 1 and others, we're down a significant amount of revenue and it will get worse next year. This makes it very difficult for us to plan.

The Class Size Reduction Amendment - this year the legislature postponed going to the classroom level. There have been three steps. The district had to meet class size numbers at the district level and then it went to the school level...this coming 2008-09 year, it was supposed to go down to the classroom level - that is each and every single classroom, every period, would have to meet these numbers. They postponed that a year but they won't have that option next year. We must come up with revenue to hire more teachers to further reduce class size down to each and every single classroom. That will eat up whatever little revenue is going to be out there, further inhibiting our ability in terms of programs, salaries and benefits to be able to move forward on these very worthy strategic goals that our Board has adopted as part of our Strategic Plan. It is very a very accountable plan. Go to www.duvalschools.org - a lot of accountability there contrary to earlier statements.

Amendment 5 - it's one of the three major amendments that are being considered on the November ballot and this one is the most significant in that it is a swap of the current property taxes for sales taxes. This would mean we would trade about \$280 million dollars in property taxes for about \$110-120 million dollars in sales taxes with the proviso that the legislature figure out the difference. Now, that's just at the Duval County level...imagine what that's like for the entire state because we only represent about 5% on the revenue and budget for the state for our school district. We do not have any confidence given the financial picture that our legislature can do it, may or may not be willing to do it, but I'm not sure they can do it given all the scenarios I've put before you - the Class Size Reduction, low revenue based on sales taxes and other costs such as Medicare which is also putting a big pressure on the budget. There are many organizations against this. Our concern is that you read the amendment on it's face and don't look at the impact; a number of people will be tempted to vote for it.. Please inform yourselves before you vote and be aware of the negative revenue impact it would have on the district. It does require for the legislature to hold the districts harmless for one year and I don't see how they would do that. We are the lynch pin of economic development, social stability, and enlightenment in our district. Without the public schools and the community colleges, we will not move forward as a community. With us moving forward, they are focused on the right things. We must have sufficient revenue in order to move forward.

It's been a real pleasure to greet a number of our schools coming back early under our Deputy

Superintendent's (Pat Willis) direction. Our Turn Around Schools teachers came back this week and to welcome the Rutledge Pearson Elementary School's faculty last night. I heard Mr. Thomas L, a principal in Philadelphia, an accomplished author, extremely both funny and challenging motivational speaker, and it was a great pleasure to join that faculty and celebrate their success in moving from the state grade of "F" to "B" and fully competent, they can move to an "A".

We had the pleasure of hearing Mr. Thomas L at Ribault High School this morning, an auditorium full of teachers who are fully engaged and ready to move their school forward in terms of their level of commitment. So, welcome back teachers of Turn Around School and we look forward to seeing the rest of our teachers coming back next week.

Another reminder that district accreditation is under preparation. We'll be visited the first week in October and we look forward to a successful accreditation and receive good feedback.

Opportunity Scholarships Program - as far as selection of schools each year, that is a very difficult process and because of the way the state frames it, we're most limited in terms of our high schools in which ones we can go to. We came up with a very balanced plan for both students and schools and spreads out those students throughout a number of schools.

Remind parents who are moving over the summer. We have a Flawless Opening with everything being in place from Day 1 so when your child walks in the door, the books are there, the schedule is there, the teacher has her lesson plans and ready to teach. That only works if the student is in the correct school. So, if you have moved over the summer, please take your proof of access to the school you think you're going to and get registered so your child will have a schedule for Day 1 as we want it to be a Flawless Opening for every child. We're going to have a great year and we look forward to moving forward.

Reports

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

Minutes:

Mr. Ayars spoke about three topics:

An update on the Academic and Community Excellence (ACE) facilities plan; a short update on the cost-saving success that we have enjoyed; and finally, address the Opportunity Scholarship Program.

ACE - we're trying to develop a multi-year plan for balancing out the district's school utilization based on input from the community. tonight is the 16th meeting and when it is all said and done as we lay this out, we're probably going to have close to 35 different public forums. Some are more general and then the working groups which are currently the initiative that we have ongoing to develop recommendations for consideration. I think the big bang out of this would be the Chief's Operational Fund and savings. I think we'll find something out about project opportunities to save additional funds in the future but, fundamentally, provide better service in our schools. I mentioned the number of meetings that we've had with another one this evening and we have many other things to go through. Beginning next week, we'll go to round three and so far what we've done is with the community working groups, is we've looked at elementary school ideas and having sat in those settings, it is very exciting. With the help of district staff and our consultant, Tracy Richter, with the data in front and the educational planning cycle, these groups are doing an impressive job. I've very

excited about the open-mindedness and the candor that we've had at these encounters. Next week when we go to round three, we'll look at middle and high schools to really develop options - boundary changes and school consolidations. We've had good success with the community at North Shore. The working groups see this and proposing this...very exciting. I feel the process is running very well with some great committed citizens who are giving their time and looking at ideas to make our schools function better from a facilities point of view.

August 26, I will address the Duval County Council of PTAs and PTSAs - approximately 70-80 presidents and delegates. That's important because September is really the key month when we go out into the Community Dialog Meetings where the working groups (like tonight's at Englewood High) will brief the community about their ideas. What happens is you see, buy in, ownership and ideas, which they will share with other community people that have the same interest and stake that they do as parents in the community. I will give you a briefing in August and on September 16th, I hope to give you the latest briefing with a recommendation brief on October 14th at the workshop. We've set up to attend all the CPAC meetings in September and we will give them an update. Additionally, we will have a public hearing on October 7th. The idea is to bring you to recommendations that you could vote on at the November 3rd Board meeting that would be implemented for the summer of 2009. I can't say enough about the people that volunteer in addition to our own staff - the folks who work for and with me - to keep this on track.

Electronic Payable Success from Project Invest - we looked at the success opportunities with Community Partnership and we recently received a check for about \$258,000. That comes from using credit cards to pay vendors. WE only ran this for nine months so this is a nine month return. We expect the percentage to increase and, hopefully, the return rebates will go even higher. This is a great success for Stephen Bright and his crew.

Opportunity Scholarships - a one-page summary sheet and a three-page item which is a response to a request by Ms. Priestly Jackson for a breakdown of student sin the application process. Regarding the one-page summary, it's been a team driven, focused effort, a lot of hours, thinking with not a lot of time, but foremost, keeping the students in mind first and trying to accommodate and to make sure every student has an opportunity for success. The numbers add up to the 531 for the total number of applicants from grades 9-12. When we mailed the letter, the deadline was July 31, 2008 and we honored the items that were postmarked. We tried to match the first and second choices. Jackie Cornelius (Douglas Anderson - 103 applicants) is having a Parents Meeting on Thursday and then begin on Monday, planing the process for auditions.

Speakers:

Mr. Tommy Hazouri, Vice Chairman
Mr. Doug Ayars, Chief Officer of Operations
Mr. Ed Pratt-Dannals, Superintendent of Schools
Ms. Brenda Priestly Jackson, Board Member
Ms. Kris Barnes, Board Member
Ms. Betty Burney, Board Chairman

Mr. Paul Soares - Flawless Opening:

We're on track for a successful school opening on August 18th with a few challenges remaining which are being worked on. It's a huge team effort between the schools and the district staffs and the contractor's workforce - all working hand-in-hand to bring 166 schools up and operating successfully on Day 1. We track about 160 school locations across 18 separate categories which gives us 2,808 blocks of data. The schools actually score those blocks - each one is a distinct block - and they are scored with either a 1, 2, or 3 (1 being the worst or red; 3 being the best or green). The average of all the blocks was 2.59 (almost 2.6) which means we're essentially green across the district. There are 125 red blocks across the 2,808 with most areas in custodial, textbooks and summer projects. The best areas so far are the school staffing and school resource officers.

Some schools run camps up until August 1st which delays custodial and those scores should come up rather quickly. Last year at this time, we just awarded a new custodial contract on August 1 so we weren't even 1/4 of the way there at this point.

Textbooks have some back logs whereby orders are placed in July. If you go back to January, 2008, we ordered 826,000 textbooks items as of this week. We have 2,100 textbooks or workbooks on backorder which is 1/4 of 1% (.25%) so we're doing pretty good unless those books happen to be at your school.

Summer projects should be on time and we're working on those aggressively. We have some big projects ongoing with air conditioning systems, auditorium seat replacements, painting, etc. but we're aware of them and we're working them.

Transportation routes have been released and the schools have them as of this week. We have 954 routes this year which is 8 more than last year. The Transportation Call Center is open for business as of today - 381-7433 - which is manned with 23 temporary personnel who all have access to all of the routing information and they are taking calls from 7:00 am until 6:30 pm, Monday through Friday. They will be glad to answer all questions regarding bus stops and routes and we encourage you to use that number for bus information.

Overall, I feel we're looking at a truly flawless opening coming August 18th.

Facility projects - the new AAA high school is on track - building foundations have been poured and the walls have been fabricated and in place on schedule for an August, 2010 opening. North Shore K-8 work has been complete and it is a great facility and ready to open for the North Shore, Norwood and Lola Culver student populations this school year which is great. Bartram Springs, the new K-5 groundbreaking for 9:00 am on August 13th. Invitations have been sent and have spoken with the Homeowners Association in the area and the Communications Office and we should have a very good turnout. You should see a draft program coming out shortly. We're on track for this.

We have ash remediation that you are aware of at Darnell Cookman and John E. Ford which are ongoing and are expected to be completed by the end of this week. The work is going well and about half of the sod is in place. Phase II work at Darnell Cookman still remains to be done in the fall and that is tied to future construction work. We have a soil contamination issue at Susie Tolbert and that work is ongoing at this time. This is a small area adjacent to the school and that work will be completed this Friday, August 8th, and we don't expect an impact on opening.

Excess facilities we have on board - John Gorrie, Lola Culver and Norwood are the recent closures. We are on track to take those through the surplus facilities process recently approved appraisals, surveys, title clearings are underway and also environmental assessments going on this month and the first part of September. We expect to put bids up in September and, hopefully, be able to open them late October and possibly come back to the Board with some kind of recommendation for the November time frame.

Teacher Supply Depot's grand opening is set for this Friday, August 8th. This has been a real team effort as well and will be open from 9:00 am - 1:00 pm. there will be an outdoor exhibition with about 15-20 exhibitors starting at 7:30 am for teachers who arrive early. It should be a lot of fun and it moved to the former Lackawanna School, 3108 Lenox Avenue, just north of McDuff Avenue and I-10. Parking is available at the school plus we've worked with the JSO with overflow parking at a park which should accommodate 400-500 cars with additional officers working that day to assist with the traffic. Teachers must have a DCPS identification badge to enter and you can bring up to three tote bags to help carry free school supplies. Call 381-7480 for more information.

Speakers:

Ms. Kris Barnes, Board Member

Ms. Martha Barrett, Board Member

Ms. Betty Burney, Board Chairman

Approval of Agenda

[APPROVAL OF THE AUGUST 5, 2008, AGENDA](#)

Approval of Minutes

[APPROVAL OF MINUTES](#)

Minutes:

That the Duval County School Board approve the following minutes:

July 1, 2008 - Regular Board Meeting
July 15, 2008 - Board Workshop
July 15, 2008 - Special Board Meeting
July 21, 2008 - Grievance Committee
July 22, 2008 - Board Workshop
July 22, 2008 - Special Board Meeting
July 28, 2008 - Professional Services Committee

Approval of Consent Agenda

[APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA](#)

Consent Agenda

Human Resource Services - Labor Relations

[2. REAPPOINTMENT OF DISTRICT ADMINISTRATORS](#)

Attachment: [reappointment_district_admn_08-05-08.pdf](#)

[3. REDUCTION IN FORCE OF PARAPROFESSIONALS FOR THE 2008-2009 SCHOOL YEAR](#)

Attachment: [reappointment_psych_spec_08-05-08.pdf](#)

Human Resource Services - Professional Standards

[4. SUSPENSIONS WITHOUT PAY](#)

Attachment: [HRS_attach_08-05-08_susp.pdf](#)

Administration and Business Services - Information Technology

[1. RETROFITS FOR TECHNOLOGY AT VARIOUS ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS](#)

Attachment: [BC-Retrofit-Construction-Aug8.doc.pdf](#)

[2. RETROFIT FOR TECHNOLOGY AT LORETTO, GREENLAND PINES, MANDARIN OAKS](#)

Attachment: [B-C-Retrofit-No 30-No 249-No 258.pdf](#)

Operations - Real Estate, Planning and Programming

[1. DRAINAGE AND TEMPORARY CONSTRUCTION EASEMENTS TO THE CITY OF JACKSONVILLE AT PINE FOREST ES NO. 159](#)

Operations - Facilities Project Design, Construction and Maintenance

[1. EGRESS IMPROVEMENTS AT ROBERT E. LEE HS: PHASE III \(CONSTRUCTION\) DOCUMENT APPROVAL, DCSB PROJECT NO. C-91260](#)

Attachment: [B-C-C91260-LeeHS.DOC.pdf](#)

[2. NEW AUTISTIC CLASSROOMS AT KERNAN MS: SELECTION OF CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT FIRM, DCSB PROJECT NO. C-91200](#)

Attachment: [B-C-AutisticClassrooms.DOC.pdf](#)

[3. PREQUALIFICATION OF CONTRACTORS FOR EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS: NEW AND RENEWAL](#)

Attachment: [B-C-PREQUAL.pdf](#)

Attachment: [xx-ATT-PREQUAL-NEW.XLS.pdf](#)

Attachment: [xx-ATT-PREQUAL-RENEWAL.XLS.pdf](#)

[4. FACILITIES SERVICES CONSTRUCTION CHANGE ORDER REPORT \(JULY 2008\)](#)

Attachment: [B-C-FAC-CHG-ORD-RPT.pdf](#)

Attachment: [XX-ATT-C-O-RPT-July-08 \(Recovered\).pdf](#)

[5. MODIFICATION TO FL DIV OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT SUBGRANT AGREEMENT: EMERGENCY GENERATORS FOR TWO SPECIAL NEEDS PUBLIC SHELTERS AT OCEANWAY MS AND TWIN LAKES ACADEMY ES](#)

Attachment: [B-C-SPNS-GENERATORS.pdf](#)

Operations - Purchasing and Logistics

[1. COMMERCIAL FENCING](#)

Attachment: [B-C-COMMERCIAL-FENCING.DOC.pdf](#)

[2. RATIFICATION OF PURCHASE OF PRINTING CODE OF CONDUCT BOOKLETS](#)

Attachment: [xx-BID-TAB-PRINTING-CODE-OF-CONDUCT-BOOKLET.XLS.pdf](#)

Attachment: [B-C-RATIFICATION-PURCH-PRINTING-CODE-OF-CONDUCT.DOC.pdf](#)

[3. CLOCK AND BELL SUPPLIES](#)

Attachment: [xx-Clock-and-Bell-Supplies-BidTab-Sheet.pdf](#)

Attachment: [B-C-CLOCK AND BELL SUPPLIES.DOC.pdf](#)

[4. FOR INFORMATION ONLY: SCHOOL SAFETY AND SECURITY BEST PRACTICES](#)

Attachment: [xx-ATT-OPPAGA-Self-Assessment.pdf](#)

Attachment: [2008 OPPAGA Report\(2\)KB.DOC.pdf](#)

[5. APPROVAL LANGUAGE FOR FOOD SERVICE CHANGE](#)

Academic Services - School Curriculum and Programs

[STARBASE AGREEMENT RENEWAL](#)

Attachment: [Benefits Challenges STARBASE.pdf](#)

[TREE HILL AGREEMENT RENEWAL](#)

Attachment: [Benefits Challenges Tree Hill.pdf](#)

[JACKSONVILLE ZOO AGREEMENT RENEWAL](#)

Attachment: [Benefits Challenges Zoo.pdf](#)

[1. COMPONENTS RECOMMENDATION FOR APPROVAL, AND ADDITION TO THE DISTRICT MASTER INSERVICE PLAN](#)

Attachment: [BENEFITS AND CHALLENGES FORM Course Recommendations for Approval.pdf](#)

Academic Services - Special Services

[1. RENEWAL AGREEMENT - MEDICAID ADMINISTRATIVE CLAIM](#)

Attachment: [BENEFITS AND CHALLENGES MEDICAID ADMIN.pdf](#)

[3. CONTINUATION AGREEMENT WITH COMMUNITIES IN SCHOOLS FOR 2008-2009](#)

Attachment: [BenefitsandChallengesFormAgreementwithCIS20082009.pdf](#)

Attachment: [SEPPProgram20062007EOYPerformanceReport.pdf](#)

Minutes:

Ms. Barrett commended the wonderful job that Communities in Schools is doing in our district. Thank you for all you do and Duval County is most fortunate with our partnership.

Ms. Burney echoed those sentiments.

Academic Services - Instructional Research and Accountability

[AGREEMENT WITH THE COLLEGE BOARD TO ADMINISTER THE PSAT TO ALL STUDENTS IN GRADE NINE](#)

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

Discussion

Board Members

[1. PUBLIC HEARING AND VOTE: NEW BOARD MEMBER ORIENTATION - FILE: BB](#)

Attachment: [BOARD MEMBER ORIENTATION POLICY - FINAL - 08-05-08.pdf](#)

Minutes:

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

New Board Member Orientation - File: BB

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.

Ms. Priestly Jackson offered an amendment to the attachment under Other Necessary Information - #5, to add the underlined language at the end:

"Expectations for participation in Florida School Boards Association and attendance at the fall conference and other related Boards and Associations."

Ms. Broner seconded the amendment.

Speakers:

Ms. Nancy Broner, Board Member

Ms. Kris Barnes, Board Member

Human Resource Services - Staffing

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

Attachment: [Attach1_08-05-08_Trans.pdf](#)

Minutes:

Speakers:

Ms. Brenda Priestly Jackson, Board Member
Ms. Vicki Reynolds, Chief Officer, Human Resource Services
Mr. Ed Pratt-Dannals, Superintendent of Schools
Mr. Tommy Hazouri, Vice Chairman
Ms. Betty Burney, Board Chairman

Operations - School Choice and Pupil Assignment

[1. CHARTER SCHOOL CONTRACT APPROVAL FOR WAYMAN ACADEMY OF THE ARTS](#)

Attachment: [xx-ReconstitutionPlan-for-Wayman\(final revision\).doc.pdf](#)
Attachment: [B-C-WaymanAcademy.DOC.pdf](#)
Attachment: [xx-Tech Asst Paper001.pdf](#)

Minutes:

Speakers:

Ms. Brenda Priestly Jackson, Board Member
Mr. Ed Pratt-Dannals, Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Sally Hague, Supervisor, School Choice/Magent Schools

Academic Services - School Curriculum and Programs

[MUSEUM OF SCIENCE AND HISTORY AGREEMENT RENEWAL](#)

Attachment: [Benefits Challenges MOSH.pdf](#)

Minutes:

Ms. Martha Barrett asked that this item be placed on the discussion list so that she could make the following disclosures:

"I am a member of MOSH's Board of Directors, but I do not receive any salary from MOSH for my director position. According to the Florida ethics law, I am required to make these disclosures on the record, and I must also abstain from the vote to be taken for this matter. I will file the appropriate form to be placed on record with the minutes of this meeting."

Speaker:

Mr. Ed Pratt-Dannals, Superintendent of Schools

[ADVANCED PLACEMENT INCENTIVES GRANT](#)

Attachment: [API BENEFITS AND CHALLENGES FORM_01-14-08.pdf](#)

Academic Services - Special Services

[2. CONTINUATION AGREEMENT WITH ALTERNATIVES UNLIMITED FOR THE DROP BACK IN ACADEMY DROPOUT PREVENTION PROGRAM IN 2008-09](#)

Attachment: [BenefitsandChallengesFormAgreementwithAlternativesUnlimited20082009.pdf](#)
Attachment: [AlternativesUnlimited20072008DBIEOYAcademicPerformanceIndicators7-24-08.pdf](#)

Minutes:

Speakers:

Ms. Brenda Priestly Jackson, Board Member
Mr. Ed Pratt-Dannals, Superintendent of Schools
Mr. Tommy Hazouri, Vice Chairman
Ms. Nancy Broner, Board Member
Ms. Betty Burney, Board Chairman

Emergency Agenda Items

[EMERGENCY: RENEWAL OF SPRINGBOARD AGREEMENT WITH THE COLLEGE BOARD](#)

Minutes: Item *WITHDRAWN*

Board Member Travel

[BOARD MEMBERS TRAVEL](#)

Minutes:

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

September 3-5, 2008 - FSBA Board of Directors Retreat - St. Augustine, FL - Drake (no cost to the district)

October 12-15, 2008 - NFUSSD 2008 Fall Conference - Jacksonville, FL - Barnes, Barrett, Broner, Burney, Drake and Hazouri (no cost to the district)

Superintendent's Travel

[SUPERINTENDENT'S TRAVEL](#)

Minutes:

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

August 19, 2008 - State Board of Education Meeting - Tallahassee, FL

September 17-19, 2008 - FADSS Fall Leadership Conference, Tampa, FL

October 12-15, 2008 - NFUSSD 2008 Fall Conference - Jacksonville, FL
(no cost to the district)

For The Record

[FOR THE RECORD](#)

Minutes:

Ms. Priestly Jackson complimented our middle schools with the gains they have made. Additionally, I'd like to thank each of the leadership teams and the teachers in the schools and, hopefully, we can keep that momentum going as well as for our high schools for the future. That was a lot of positive energy.

Ribault High School is now off the "F" list, but, again, no degree of pride but very happy to be off that list. I thank the teachers and administrators there for their hard work and the students for their renewed energy and efforts.

I want to thank Mr. Doug Ayars, Dr. Sally Hague, Ms. Johnson, Ms. Willis and all of our other magnet folk for going to Henry F. Kite Elementary School last week to address questions relative to concerns for the magnet school community and the parents and the neighborhood community, as well. I thank them and they were bombarded with questions. I appreciate their taking the time and, hopefully, they will be able to address the community's needs and understand what some of their concerns are and offer whatever technical assistance needs to come from the district to make certain that program is successful there.

I attended the wake for Dr. Roy Mitchell, a phenomenal educator, who committed his time and energy to Duval County. What many of you may have not known, he indicated he would run for my seat when my term limit was up and I was encouraged by that. He was called home as a saint and so his passion and commitment to the district while he served as well after that time. My Duval County high school football team and some other groups over the summer have had an opportunity to participate in his mentorship initiative where he has brought speakers out to talk with the young men all summer and we saw him up to two weeks prior to that time speaking with the young people. It was well attended and a very joyous occasion and wasn't sad. Again, I'd like to say, what a life well served.

Then, I attended Dr. Sylvia Johnson's graduation ceremony which was phenomenal. She has a wonderful, supportive family. The district is very blessed to have her and to obtain her doctorate degree...she had her mother and father present as well as her husband's parents. What a blessing it was to see all of them and the energy and to understand the value of education that was obviously instilled in the household and family.

Ms. Barrett said last night she attended the wonderful Thomas L talk at Rutledge Pearson Elementary and what a wonderful school that is; it is full of vibrant people with the best team work I've seen anywhere; just amazing.

Also, Madam Chair, you'll be at Terry Parker High School on Monday, along with me. Principal Scott Flowers is doing a great job and he's taking his faculty on a bus tour of the area where his students live so that the teachers can better understand where the students are coming from in that school. Additionally, a study on Ruby Payne, who is a famous speaker and author about children in "high

needs" areas. I salute him for doing this.

On August 15th, Bank of America is giving United Way a grant and we're working with the Achievers for Life 6th Grade Program to enhance parental involvement. We'll be at Fort Caroline Middle School along with the sister school, Arlington Middle.

Ms. Broner said she has received many positive comments about the ACE program and meetings. So, Mr. Ayars, congratulations to you and your staff for all of the good work. People feel really engaged and able to understand some of the dynamics of the district which is our objective and to receive their valuable input. So, thank you for that.

I was invited to visit the AVID classes at Sandalwood High School the third week in July. I talked with every student in those two classes to get themselves on the right track to start 9th grade. Some who missed out on the opportunity in 9th, were 10th graders and came back. They gave me this T-shirt that says, "AVID Sandalwood High School", but the great message on the back, "2008-2009 College by Choice not by Chance" and that is the message we have for all students that this is the philosophy we take so every student will have this opportunity for higher learning. So, I want to thank them for inviting me and sharing their T-shirt.

Mr. Hazouri said he is excited about the opening of school this year and I feel we've had a great year. The grades were much improved and our new Superintendent is marching with all of us, listening to the community, working with the School Board, and I'm hearing teachers now are going back to their schools a week earlier than required in order to be ready for that Flawless Opening with Doug Ayars and Paul Soares. We're all excited about that.

I'd like to congratulate Lee High School, along with Englewood High - they probably had the largest high school gains. Lee is due for major overhaul, hopefully, both academically and physically and with John Gorrie being surplus, you'll see the neighborhood improved with a new facility. I've received several invitations for breakfasts for "Back to School" honoring the teachers for their work.

I'd like to remind everyone about the groundbreaking for Bartram Springs on August 13 at 9:00 am. Much progress with AAA high school is ongoing.

There is an election on August 26th with Early Voting beginning August 11th - just vote for whom you want to lead the city and country and School Board District 7, as well. I'm really looking forward to this school year as I see some very positive things happening and ACE is part of it - those meetings are going very well - 35 meetings, congratulations to Doug Ayars and his staff!

Ms. Drake wanted to remind all the teachers to come out to Lackawanna on Friday, August 8 for the opening of the Teacher supply Depot - a great way to get some free supplies for the beginning of this school year.

Ms. Barnes reminded everyone for the primary election on August 26th - Ms. Barrett's seat and my seat are up due to term limits; Mr. Hazouri is up for re-election, county judges, water conservation folks, clerk of the courts - many people on the ballot - don't let 10% of the folks who live in our community decide - go out and VOTE!

Ms. Burney said she attended the reception for the Teach for America for the new teachers who will be a part of the Teach for America program. They were fired up and ready to go. I was absolutely impressed with the enthusiasm and dedication. One of the gentlemen who worked in Atlanta, actually fainted twice and got up and kept teaching because he was dedicated to his task. They will be some wonderful additions to our schools.

I also echo the sentiments of others about presentation given by Mr. Thomas L last evening.

I want to thank Operations for the new playground equipment at Rutledge Pearson Elementary School

- thank you so very much.

Also, my group of young men, the "soldiers" - worked this summer gathering information in the New Town area for Eugene Butler and S.P. Livingston. they were so excited and it is such a joy to see young men who want to be leaders. I want to thank the Chartrand Foundation and Jacksonville Children's Commission for giving them an opportunity to work this summer. I was extremely pleased with what they did and they were extremely pleased.

Adjournment

ADJOURNMENT

Minutes:

The meeting adjourned at 8:48 p.m.

Isd

Superintendent

Chairman