



E-AGENDA MANAGER

Duval County Public Schools

June 9, 2014, Regular Board Meeting

Ms. Becki Couch, Chairman
Ms. Cheryl Grymes, Vice Chairman
Mr. Jason Fischer
Dr. Connie Hall
Mr. Fred "Fel" Lee
Ms. Ashley Smith Juarez
Ms. Paula D. Wright
Dr. Nikolai P. Vitti, Superintendent

ATTENDANCE AT THIS REGULAR MEETING OF THE DUVAL COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD with Dr. Nikolai Vitti, Superintendent of Schools, Ms. Becki Couch, Board Chair, Ms. Cheryl Grymes, Vice Chair and Board members: Mr. Jason Fischer, Dr. Constance Hall, Ms. Ashley Smith Juarez and Ms. Paula D. Wright, present. Board Member Fred "Fel" Lee was absent.

Call Meeting to Order

[CALL MEETING TO ORDER](#)

Minutes:

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. and welcomed everyone.

Invocation

[INVOCATION](#)

Minutes: A *"moment of silence"* was held.

Pledge of Allegiance

[PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE](#)

Presentations

Board Members

[1. SCHOOL RECOGNITION - DISTRICT 7 - MANDARIN HIGH SCHOOL](#)

Minutes:

COMPREHENSIVE HIGH SCHOOL – with mini-magnets – such as our AICE international baccalaureate program, (Advanced International Certificate of Education) and our Health and Science Medical Career Academy – Both of which are growing every year

- BIOTECHNOLOGY Career Academy NEXT year.
- AVID PROGRAM – that is growing and has already received a Certificated Status after two years in existence. – It is online to reach a MODEL status in two years time.
- NJROTC PROGRAM – HAS OVER 200 STUDENTS - INDUSTRY CERTIFICATION CLASSES:
- CULINARY ARTS, INTRO TO I.T., AND CMAA IN OUR MEDICAL ACADEMY.

DUAL ENROLLMENT CLASSES: 7

- SLS (COLLEGE PREP CLASS)
- ECONOMICS
- ENC 1101 AND 1102
- LIT 2000
- UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS AND A NAVAL HISTORY CLASS WITH EMBRY RIDDLE

FULL OFFERING OF HONORS AND A.P. CLASSES,
TO INCLUDE: 12 COURSES: A.P. PSYCHOLOGY, A.P. HUMAN GEOGRAPHY,
A.P. FRENCH, SPANISH, AND CHINESE, A.P. STATISTICS, A.P. LIT AND
LANG., A.P. BIOLOGY, A.P. U.S. HISTORY, A.P. WORLD HISTORY

WE ALSO HAVE A STRONG FINE ARTS DEPARTMENT –
WITH DRAMA, CHORUS, BAND, DRAWING, CERAMICS, AND AICE ART.
PLUS AN ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT OF OVER 36 SPORTS OFFERINGS, AND
GATEWAY CONFERENCE WINNERS EVERY SINGLE YEAR.

VISION – SAYS WE WILL INSPIRE, ENGAGE, AND EDUCATE EVERY STUDENT EVERY DAY – PREPARING HIM/HER FOR GRADUATION AND ENTRY INTO POST SECONDARY EDUCATION AND /OR THE WORK FORCE.

THEME – Inspiring Excellence Every Day.

• DATA SAYS –

FOR LAST FIVE YEARS WE HAVE BEEN AN A – THEN A B THREE TIMES AND NOW WE ARE AN A AGAIN.

OUR SCORES THIS YEAR ARE LOOKING PRETTY GOOD – WITH MANY IMPRESSIVE GAINS. WE BELIEVE WE WILL BE AN A FOR 2013-14 TOO.

AT MANDARIN HIGH SCHOOL WE HAVE OUTSTANDING YOUNG PEOPLE –

• WITH OVER \$5 MILLION EARNED IN SCHOLARSHIPS BY OUR 2014 GRADUATING CLASS.

• AND OVER 15,000 HOURS IN VOLUNTEER

• WE STRESS CHARACTER EDUCATION EVERY SINGLE DAY, AND INSIST ON DISCIPLINE AND EXCELLENCE IN ACADEMICS AND ATHLETICS.

WE LEAD BY EXAMPLE – AND MENTOR ACROSS THE BOARD --

• WE ONLY HIRE THE MOST QUALIFIED TEACHERS AND THEN MAKE SURE THEY STAY WITH US.

• HIGH 5

• EXCELLENCE, CHARACTER, GRADUATION, GOOD CHOICES, AND

• BECOMING THE BEST YOU CAN BE.

LASTLY – GREAT COMMUNITY!! GREAT PARENTS – GREAT SUPPORT – A STRONG PTSA AND SAC.

OUR PARENTS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME ON OUR CAMPUS!!!
INTRODUCE –

AICE PROGRAM – MRS. LISA MOORE
N.J. ROTC PROGRAM- LT. EVARISTA GINES

=====

IN CLOSING:::

WE BELIEVE THAT MANDARIN HIGH SCHOOL IS AN OUTSTANDING EXAMPLE OF A TRADITION PUBLIC SCHOOL AND WE TREAT ALL OF OUR STUDENTS AND FACULTY AS OUR MUSTANG FAMILY. YOU ARE WELCOME TO VISIT US ANYTIME.

See Attachment in the minutes.

~~2. BOARD MEMBER RESOLUTION -- DR. ESTELLE MCKISSICK -- WITHDRAWN~~

~~Attachment: RESOLUTION -- DR. ESTELLE MCKISSICK -- 06-09-14.pdf~~

Communications

[1. CHARTWELLS THOMPSON SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS](#)

Minutes:

- Tonight, we have several community and business partners represented that are helping Duval County students reach their goals by helping fund their college education.
- The first presentation is from an organization that shares in our value of developing the whole child by providing healthy meals throughout the school day and at various school-related events.
- Please welcome Brian Giles, Regional Vice President of Chartwells-Thompson School Dining Services.

[2. DAEOP SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS](#)

Minutes:

- Each year, for the past 20 years, the Duval Association of Office Professionals, or DAEOP, uses money from dues and their annual pecan sale to fund their scholarship program that provides 2 – 3 students with \$2,000 to use toward their college education.
- To date, DAEOP has given more than \$62,000 to 38 students who excelled in academics, had a proven record of community service, provided several letters of recommendation, and submitted a well-written essay.
- This year they have added two more deserving students to that list. Joining us to announce the winners of the scholarship is DAEOP President, Pam Padgett.

[3. PERFECT ATTENDANCE AWARDS](#)

Minutes:

- Perfection is often a state we deem to be unattainable, but the students receiving the next award have managed to achieve it.
- Each year, Duval County Public Schools recognizes students who have not had one absence in 13 years of attending school.
- This year, we have six students who have achieved perfect attendance. Joining us to honor them is Gloria Lockley, Director of Alternative Programs. Please welcome our Perfect Attendance Award recipients, Jorian Cobb, Sarena Robertson, Grace Rood, Timothy Bosley, Dzestinee (Destiny) Glenn, and Matthew Rogers.
- Along with receiving the Perfect Attendance Award, we want to celebrate Jorian Cobb, who will be attending the prestigious West Point Academy with a \$400,000 scholarship. Let's congratulate him.

4. EMPLOYEE CUSTOMER SERVICE AWARD

Minutes:

- The next presentation is for an award established recently to acknowledge and thank district employees who consistently provide excellent customer service.
- This month's award goes to an employee who interacts with parents regularly and assists them with one of the most important aspects of education, school choice.
- Lori Lewis is a dedicated coordinator in the school choice office. Her supervisor, Pearl Roziers described her as diligent and a true problem solver and also said that although parents may enter Lori's office confused and upset, they leave feeling their needs have been met.
- Visitors to the district office have commented on Lori's professionalism, helpfulness, and caring attitude.
- Here to share in Lori's recognition with a special gift is Chantelle Quick, Vice President of Audit Services Group at Stein Mart. Please join us in congratulating our May Customer Service Representative of the Month, Lori Lewis.

5. GCA SERVICES SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Minutes:

- GCA Services Group has worked closely with the school district and the I'm A Star Foundation to provide two new scholarships to several Duval County students.
- GCA Services Group's inaugural sports medicine scholarship is provided to students who have expressed interest in pursuing a career in sports medicine. Both recipients, chosen from 65 applicants, maintained at least a 3.3 GPA, had a minimum of 100 community service hours, submitted an essay that was assessed by a group of their peers and educators, and demonstrated exceptional leadership qualities.
- Please welcome Luis Tejeda and Ashley Estanislao, the recipients of the GCA Services Group Sports Medicine scholarship.
- Joining us to share more about GCA Service Group's second scholarship program and to make a presentation to its recipients is Jason Whitaker of GCA Services Group.

Comments From Audience

[COMMENTS FROM AUDIENCE](#)

Minutes:

Ms. Tabitha Cobb said I am an "I'm A Star" student and last year, I stood before you and provided statistics about the homeless population as well as the "I'm A Star" Jacksonville Helps initiative which aided homeless students in Duval County. Despite our success last year, there is still much work to be done and we're hoping that you are ready. Nationally, one-third of the homeless population consists of children. In Duval County, there is a disproportionate number of students that do not have homes. Could one of those students be your nephew, grandchild, neighbor or future employee? Is it your child? No, well, it could be or perhaps one of you would like to offer your child to trade places with one of Duval County's many homeless students. Any volunteers? I'm A Star created Jacksonville Helps to reduce the children's homelessness population and we need your assistance, once again. HELPS stands for Homeless Students Empowered through Leadership Personal Commitment and Service. There are at least 1,900 homeless students in Duval County and we feel that is 1,900 too many. There are homeless students in every school, every School Board district, in every City Council district in Duval County. There are five high schools in Duval County with extreme numbers of homeless students: Robert E. Lee in 5th place with 56; First Coast has 58; Ed White has 60; Terry Parker has 85 and Englewood 100 homeless students. In District I, 246 homeless students; District II, 67; District III 314; District IV, 423; District V, 408; District VI, 246 and District VII, 99 and in our Charter Schools, there are 142 homeless students. This data came from Duval County Public Schools Homeless Education Department. Last year, we raised \$20,000 and presented it to the school district Homeless Education Department. This year our goal is \$50,000 and we will also present scholarships to four homeless students, again. We appreciate all of your help last year and we're hoping for that assistance this year - time, donation or spending the word

about Jacksonville HELPS. It will all go towards a worthy cause. So please, on your ride home ask, "How Can I Help?" Thank you!

Ms. Keana Johnson said I'm a rising 12th grade "I'm A Star" student at Darnell Cookman High School and I come before you, today, to discuss our second Jacksonville HELPS initiative. Last year, many Board members helped to promote and uplift our cause to help students in need. This year, we're asking you to go above and beyond in helping push our efforts forward. We'll have a Talent Show and a Celebrity Basketball Game. Dr. Vitti has been selected to be the head coach for the Celebrity team and the game will be held at Paxon School for Advanced Studies on June 28, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. We are hosting a talent show entitled "*Jacksonville's Got Talent*" and will be held on June 27, 2014 at 6:00 also at Paxon. Please come out and support our cause for our future leaders. We would like you to spread the word within your district. Thank you for your continued support and participation.

Mr. Josh Brown said I'm a rising 9th grader at Paxon School for Advanced Studies. I'm A Star students are comprised of middle and high school students. We may be teenagers but we're also concerned young people and we know we can make a difference. Those 1,900 homeless students need our help NOW. By committing to raising \$50,000, we can provide students with items that many people take for granted: eye glasses, rent, food and many other items. We may be young but we know we can have an impact on the community. Everyone needs a helping hand in life and I am asking you now to support our peers. The Jacksonville HELPS initiative is part of our cause. In closing, we need your donations, publicity and support. Please spread the word about Jacksonville HELPS as well as your time, talent and resources. Thank you for your consideration and we'll be passing out information about our initiative.

Ms. Joan Cooper said I would ask that all of you to please put your cell phones down, turn your computers off and listen to me. That's been a complaint from a lot of people. Things done in the dark will always come to the light. The School Board will go down in history as being weak, uninformed, uneducated and willing to fly with whatever political correctness is current without regard to the actual education of the children of Duval County. That's a dereliction of your duties. I personally feel that the organized group that started the campaign to change the name of Nathan B. Forrest High School and promised, on one or more occasions, to be held to that. I also feel that no changes be made until those donations are received. Our students need that money for education. I also heard, recently, that security personnel are being removed from our elementary schools. In these times of violence, not so sure that's a good choice. I'm appalled that all of you fell under the spell of a few, maybe 10, radical racists. Their campaign of misinformation and outright lies was successful. I really thought that all of you were educated, could do your own research and can make up your own minds. I see that it is not the case. The School Board ignored documented, governmental, historical facts in order to succumb to political correctness of a radical, progressive movement. Their goal is to erase all of Southern history and that is documented on Facebook which is a public thing. It's my opinion that these so-called surveys were eschewed as a result of abundance of misinformation. The surveys of the taxpayers of Duval County were completely ignored. All of the surveys that I saw that were taken, just general things, were totally opposite of what you did. Some of the students voted to change the name after a joke of a panel discussion which I was on, was held in November. It wasn't of discussion; it was just a platform. It was a panel designed to be a catalyst to incite the students of the Negro race at the school by providing them with misinformation. I will

not call them African Americans as I consider that to be an insult to Americans of the Negro race. It was the Africans that sold them into slavery and still do, today. I will send you the rest of my comments, later. Thank you.

Mr. Glen Mallette said the reason I wanted to address the School Board was the disrespect shown to the Forrest alumni in their postings and no responses back in the emails. This issue should have been brought to the attention of the Duval County taxpayers through voting not done solely done by the Duval County School Board since this will affect the pocketbooks of every Duval County taxpayer. The name change process was done in a deceptive manner and handled fraudulently through deceptive practices. This is a waste of taxpayer's money as this money could help students in many other ways. Also, I hope this discredits the Superintendent and the School Board members concerning this outrageous expense in renaming Nathan Bedford Forrest High School. Let the people who signed the petition, along with the School Board members and Superintendent, be held accountable with coming up with the dollars needed for the name change; not the Duval County taxpayers. So far, I've heard only \$3,000 has been collected and that is pretty pitiful. The Duval County taxpayers should not be burdened for footing the bill since this issue should have been put to a vote by the taxpayers and not the School Board.

Mr. Ron Mullins said I attended Nathan B. Forrest from 1959-1965. I'm here tonight to seek accountability for the Superintendent changing the name of Nathan Bedford Forrest High School. There has been zero accountability in the entire renaming process. I'm looking for valid and just reasons for changing the name of this school. The principal at Forrest reached out to the Forrest alumni in September, 2013 with an inspirational letter. He got our attention and about the same time as the letter, the Superintendent's Wolverines smelled blood and went after the name of Forrest and within two months, they sent a petition and gave it to the Superintendent and he began his process to rename Forrest. The entire process took less than three weeks to complete. During the renaming process, there was a closed door session at Forrest where the students and faculty had a chance to vote. They were required to listen to several speakers before voting. During the voting, they were told that the funding to change the name was going to be done by private donors who wanted the name change. Due to this additional information, many voters went back and changed their vote. That is influencing the vote. Since the information about the donors is not true, there was no need for the closed door meeting to take place. The students and faculty should have debated among themselves without outside influence. Any information about Forrest has been swept under the rug. The only reference about the name change is to send donations to help pay for it. They may have raised \$3,000 but the cost is going to be well over \$300,000. There needs to be accountability and detailed expense reports for all changes required for the name change. Currently, the administration, as far as the public is concerned, is working with a blank sheet and a blank check. When money is needed for our schools for extra activities and there is none, think about the renaming of Forrest to appease the Wolverines. If this really is what the principal at Forrest wanted, to burn the bridges with the 55 years of legacy, sentiment and memories, and 30,000+ alumni, there has been no accountability and without accountability, there is no credibility or integrity. The people of Duval County need to demand accountability and a progress report on every issue including the renaming of Forrest.

Ms. Elaine Truett said I want to comment on the Civil Citations. I want to express my

concern with the Jacksonville Sheriff's Department and how they are using the Civil Citations in the middle and high schools. I want to make sure that the police officers are really trained in how to use the Civil Citation. It was amended and it has passed the Civil Citation in Duval County but you all need to know that instead of arresting children, Civil Citations are the best thing to do. In Broward County, they have over 86% of Civil Citations are being used. In Duval, Clay and not Nassau, only 34%. There's something wrong with that. My son was arrested at 12 years old. He never got into trouble after that and he got into JROTC Air Force, he did wonderful and received awards and graduated. He scored high enough to enter the Navy and when they did a background check, he could not enlist due to that arrest at 12 years old. I'm trying hard to fix this so he can enter the military as that is his dream. I'm pleading with you, as a mother, as a single parent and as a widow, as I'm raising my son to do the right thing and be a leader and then this happened. When you decide to put more police officers in the middle and high schools, that you make sure that they are trained and look into the Civil Citations that have been passed by Governor Rick Scott. I'd like to leave this with you as I'm fighting for my son and to do the right thing and serve his country.

Ms. Lyn Corley said at sunset on April 30, 1562, Frenchman Jean Ribault dropped anchor along the North Florida coast near the mouth of the St. Johns River. He was seeking a site for a colony where men and women could worship freely. He also represented the French crown's growing interest to expand his country's boundaries.

As Ribault poetically penned in his astounding account of the visit, "the next day in the morning, being the first of May," he took small boats from his large sailing vessels and entered the river, naming it the River May for the date. The French were greeted by friendly natives who directed them to the easiest landing site. On May 2, Ribault and his men entered the river again and a column was planted in clear view near the river's mouth, claiming the land for France.

Ribault's exploration of North Florida 450 years ago, including contact with North Florida natives, the Mocama speaking Timucua, resulted in a colony at the St. Johns River two years later.

The colony, largely of French Huguenots was officially established June 30, 1564 There were many great "firsts" associated with Ribault's visit and the subsequent La Caroline colony at this site.:

- This is the site where the first protestant prayer was uttered on what became U.S. soil.
 - This is the site of the first colony of European men and women seeking religious freedom in the New World.
 - Today's Jacksonville is the site of the first recorded birth of a European child in North America.
 - The St. Johns River is believed the site of the first international port of trade in North America with the exchange of goods between the French Colony of La Caroline and the Englishman John Hawkins.
 - It is the site of the first battle between international powers on land that became U.S. soil – as the French and Spanish vied for power and dominance over North Florida and beyond.
 - It is also recognized as the site of the first wine production in North America.
- By accurate definition, today's Jacksonville is indeed the site of the first colonial Thanksgiving in America.

On Monday, June 30, at 6 p.m. in City Hall, the Jacksonville Historical Society, the City Council, the Mayor's Office, major researchers from University of North Florida, representatives of the "Timucua Preserve," Alliance Franciase among others will join together with citizens of Jacksonville to celebrate the 450th anniversary of the founding of La Caroline and the first Thanksgiving in America. I invite you to join on this special occasion.

Mr. Edward Exson said I heard a three-hour talk show on the radio while traveling discussing burying the "N" word. During such time, many callers to me expressed nonsensical, absurd, and irrelevant solutions. Leaving me wondering will the word be resurrected if it were finally died and buried and what new evil, hateful meaning word would take its place? I understand why the word is resented by blacks; it is abhorrent. However, there are both whites and blacks whose conduct and actions are so repugnant that depict the very definition of the word. As the gap crisis is widening, blacks are suffering more profoundly in economic, education, health, justice, wealth and unemployment compounding all the inequality disparities. Most so-called black leaders, politicians and preachers are grossly deceiving us by just talk alone, spending so much time and energy on the "N" word as if they were achieving a major victory discussing it. Yet, not having a clue on developing a strategy uniting our people to work for the better good. While most are totally inept and visionless in dealing with uplifting and empowering people from the ground up in all spheres of civilization. Bringing blacks to work together is not racist; it is being productive and creating a more civilized world. Our circumstances can change with the assurances from knowledge that teaches building, creating, developing, producing that comes from saving and investing. With those assurances, we can truly say, "*Yes, we can change our condition.*" Moreover, those sustainable assurances with a Cultural Revolution transforming us from within that will trump racism and remove any obstacle of hindrance. Absent being involved those assurances, we will continue to drift into darkness and isolation while all people will rise above us regardless of their current status. Dr. Dra, whom is black with a white co-founder of Beats, sold their company to Apple for three billion dollars which should be a lesson to us all. Many blacks opt for a nonprofit business, interested in a high paying director niche which is self-serving, hoping for the possibility of running a scheme as they call it, "getting over". Sadly, many are getting caught and those that are not caught, should be! Thank you.

Mr. Bradford Hall said I wanted to come here to say that I support every public school that is sitting in the heart of our neighborhoods. Nearly, 20 years ago, attended Mary McLeod Bethune Elementary School, a strong hold for the black community here in Jacksonville. There were over 700 students who packed the hall ways and they wanted a quality education. Just about all of my family, my mother, uncles and aunts attended Bethune and they are now in their 40's and 50's. I will never forget second grade where Dr. Bethune's grandson visited our school and expressed how honored he was to have a school bearing his grandmother's name, standing in the heart of a thriving community where the children were plentiful, lawns were maintained and small business owners lived in the community and were successful. I am sure Board members Grymes and Hall can recount these memories as Ms. Grymes was on the School Board and Dr. Hall was principal of another successful community, Martin Luther King. Those were the days and now, here is 2014. In 2014, some argue that it is best to send children to schools operating out of office parks and remodeled crisis centers when there are schools that taxpayers have paid for to serve that purpose. In 2014, where charter school companies

have moved into the center of our community schools feeder patterns and have even walked on a traditional public school campus to recruit students. The administration's leadership and willingness to recognize the importance of offering our students more than a "fly by night" education is beyond reproach and is needed more than ever, before. If we are to compete and keep our community's children in school buildings in their neighborhoods, we require world class principals. We need principals who not only succeed at children passing tests but we require principals who are pillars of their communities. Principals who build positive relationships with all stakeholders and principals who are organized instruction in their delivery of effective leadership. These principals also deserve effective support from district level administrators who have mastered these areas, as well. As long as this system makes decisions in the best interest of the kids, I can tell you we're not always going to agree on all of the issues surrounding education, but as long as we have a system that is making decisions that are in the best interest of children, then I believe that you do have the support of this community. I do believe that is paramount to the success of the school system and every single child. This past week, I had an opportunity to experience the commission and exercises at Ribault High School and I believe that a job has been well done for the past three years under the leadership of the principal. As we transition to a new principal, I hope that we will remember that it is important to build positive relationships, that we go into schools wherever these new principals are going and that they won't make too many changes. They should be committed to building those positive relationships with the community. Thank you for listening and have a great evening.

Ms. Teresa Cluff said I'm here this evening to speak about accountability. As educators, we should all understand what accountability is but for those of you who may not, allow me. Accountability is defined as the state of being accountable, liable and answerable. During the entire controversy over the name change of Nathan Bedford Forrest, the group wanting the name change stated on several occasions there were donations to cover the costs. The proponents of the name change should be held accountable for what now appears to be fraud to sway the vote their way. The school should remain Nathan Bedford Forrest until such time as donations equal total costs of the change. This means \$500,000-\$600,000 to change everything. It is or should be now obvious the name change was not a majority nor democratic situation when one's word can not be trusted. The Superintendent is accountable to the School Board which is accountable to the taxpayers. I challenge the School Board to do what is right in this situation and hold the proponent accountable to their word for donations to cover the costs. I challenge the School Board to hold the Superintendent accountable for the expenditures for the name change and the budget cuts he's wanting to make to the detriment of our students and I promise you, School Board, we will as taxpayers hold each and every one of you accountable for your actions in this situation. Do not play semantics with the taxpayers. The district funds are educational funds; the money is there for funding education, in one way or another. This name change is not an education issue. I challenge you, the Board, to do the competent and responsible action which is to show some integrity and hold the proponent accountable to their word, thereby, not using funds from the district or education funding, not increasing Nathan Bedford Forrest High School's budget to allow the total cost of the name change and if not met, the name change doesn't take effect and they need to be given a tight period in which to collect such funds. Also, not allowing the funds to pass through as whatever to fund the project. It is the right thing to do. This is NOT the taxpayers debt. Lastly but not definitely least, I request the Board to ask for Superintendent Vitti's resignation because as a voter and taxpayer in Duval County, I am very unsatisfied. Thank you.

Comments From Parent Organizations

COMMENTS FROM PARENT ORGANIZATIONS

Minutes:

PTA - Gretchen Lynch, President:

Good Evening. Duval County Council of PTAs ends the year with over 27,000 members. This past year PTAs have provided programming in their school communities in areas of parent education, health and safety, common core, advocacy and teacher appreciation. A few exciting programs were: Frank Peterson PTSA's Stop Bullying Now Parent Program, Atlantic Coast PTSA's Click it Program on seatbelt safety with teen drivers, Paxon PTSA's "Leaving the Nest Program", Terry Parker "Snydertime" and Sandalwood PTSA for their work in advocacy and the list does go on. We want to congratulate Thomas Jefferson PTA, San Pablo PTA, Loretto Elementary PTA, Julia Landon PTSA and Atlantic Coast PTSA for being named PTAs of the year.

This year in partnership with DCPS the Vision Screening program which is in its 42 year had 1,309 volunteers across 156 schools, spent 5,870 hours screening 67,040 students. Of those, 6,786 were recommended for further testing. 216 were found to be legally blind and unable to read the top line on the chart. All but two, had their vision corrected to 20/20 or 20/25 with glasses. Any student who recommended for an eye exam and glasses and has a demonstrated financial need can access funds from DCCPTA's Eyeglass fund which is funded by our local unit PTAs generous donations.

As PTAs transition over the summer the first step to being a recognized PTA for next school year is to go online to FloridaPTA.org and complete the new officer form.

All presidents and treasurers must attend required training. Summer Training Opportunities are:

- Saturday, JUNE 28 at Beaches Branch Library
- Wednesday, July 30 at the South Mandarin Library
- Tuesday, August 12 at Highlands Regional Library.

PTA would not have been able to be a voice for children this year without the welcome and support given to us by our school principals, teachers, school board, district staff and superintendent.

So on behalf of our 27,000 PTA members we serve, thank you. We appreciate the opportunity to work alongside Duval County Public Schools on behalf of children in hope that all children will reach their full potential by engaging and empowering families and community to advocate for their needs.

Lastly I would like to take a moment to introduce the new DCCPTA President, Margaret Godke, who will be serving alongside our entire board to meet the needs of our local unit

volunteers next year.

No other Parent Organization reports.

Comments From Employee Organizations

COMMENTS FROM EMPLOYEE ORGANIZATIONS

Minutes:

Ms. Ruby George, Executive Vice President of Duval Teachers United (DTU), said this has been quite an interesting year and we still have 21 days which equals to 30,240 minutes to go. At 1601 Atlantic Boulevard, we are counting minutes. We have some concerns. Sixty-five security guards will be cut and these have been termed positions that don't touch students. The question is and the answer is that they do impact student learning. No, they do not go into the classroom and teach the lesson but they do impact students. They impact students by making sure the building is clean, children are safe, employees are safe. I do not believe what parents will say that they are not concerned about their child's safety. Not one employee would say they are not concerned about their own safety and I believe you, as well, Dr. Vitti, are concerned about students, parents, your students are in public schools and the safety for all children. Yes, we are all concerned. They were essential this year and they will be essential next year.

At one time, we had a program where every employee, even at the district's office level, was asked to volunteer 1-2 hours per month to go into schools and read or do something to impact learning for children and they did it from this building, regional offices, etc. They were given TDE (Temporary Duty Elsewhere) or volunteered their own time and visited schools. Reading is still fundamental. Even the bus drivers were reading (not when they were driving). It was working and it needs to be explored, again, if we have anyone left to do that. There are some schools that have cars vandalized on a regular basis. Thank you for looking into this matter.

When you think of men and women who touch the lives of children, having been a primary teacher and I was an adjunct professor at Florida Junior College, at the time, you have to teach children at a clean and safe building and the best employees there.

What is going to happen to the aviation program at Highlands Middle School? We received several calls over the past two weeks saying that program will not be there next school year. I don't know if that is true but we need to get information out to the people in that community. If they don't receive the proper information, they'll create misinformation.

We've had many principals that have missed the deadline for April 30 for teacher evaluations and we filed a grievance and they are working their way through the process. We need to let teachers know if they are going to be surplus as soon as possible as to if they are going to be replaced and moved so we can put some of this unrest to bed and going about the business of why they were hired.

Teachers are still saying that we test too much and many of the tests were not relevant for the grade level. We would appreciate your addressing this issue and let's see what happens next year. We are not anticipating a repeat of this year and as we begin to place or replace surplussed teachers, we need to let them know. We know that you can not put them out of field and many teachers are telling us you are asking them to teach out of field.

If you reduce security, you will likely have dark parking areas during the winter months. Will there be adequate lighting in those areas that are not safe? We know that out of those 65 security jobs, they probably won't be replaced, brought back or rehired but we're hoping you'll find the funding to keep them, but if not, what plan do you have in place to make sure these schools are safe? Please listen to us as we have some great ideas and we want to work with you and help you to get it right in 2014-2015. Thank you.

Chairman's Report

[CHAIRMAN'S REPORT](#)

Minutes: A surprise presentation for Linda DeAbreu with her family present, regarding her upcoming retirement. The district has been blessed to have Linda serving them for nearly 37 years. Gifts, flowers and a Resolution were presented recapping her career. Each Board member gave their thoughts and appreciation as her family joined in the recognition. Chairwoman Couch read Proverbs 18:19. Linda introduced her family and expressed mixed emotions about retirement. Dr. Vitti said there would be room for her should she return on the Superintendent's side. Photographs were taken.

Superintendent's Report

[SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT](#)

Minutes:

Dr. Vitti talked about the Positive Results and Areas of Improvement:

Positive:

- * Overall improvement in elementary and middle school science
- * Overall improvement in elementary mathematics
- * Improvement in secondary reading although inconsistent by grade level
- * Infrastructure built as we transition to common core (Common planning, authentic text, application of knowledge, gradual release, coaching model)

Areas of Improvement:

- * Elementary reading and literacy across the district
- * Middle school, in general
- * Writing across the district

Next Steps:

- * Strengthen between the Region Chiefs and Curriculum and Instruction
- * Maximize QEA opportunity to create the right faculty makeup for a sustainable reform
- * Select elementary principals as Region Chiefs
- * Define expectations of principals and Region Chiefs with a focus on instructional leadership and positive culture development
- * Development of a school based leadership bench
- * Demand grade level expectations and content with data differentiation
- * Implement district-wide Tier III process at elementary level
- * Shift district personnel to working directly with students at mid-year who are below grade level
- * Refocus attention of district leadership team (Superintendent and Board) to student achievement
- * Provide interventions during the day and at the school site
- * Develop data dashboard to actively monitor progress

Reports

Approval of Agenda

[APPROVAL OF THE JUNE 9, 2014, AGENDA](#)

Motions:

That the Duval County School Board approve the June 9, 2014, Agenda as submitted on June 2, 2014, with the following changes:

1. Presentations - Board Members -
Item 2 - Board Member Resolution -
Dr. Estelle McKissick - Withdrawn
2. Academic Services - Item 1 - District
Technology Plan - Revised - PASS
Attachment
3. Human Resource Services - Staffing -
Item 15 - Human Resource Services
Transactions - Revised Attachments
4. Board Member Travel - Revised
Agenda Item
5. Superintendent's Travel - Revised
Agenda Item

Vote Results

Motion: Cheryl Grymes

Second: Paula Wright

Rebecca Couch	- Aye
Jason Fischer	- Aye
Cheryl Grymes	- Aye
Connie Hall	- Aye
Ashley Juarez	- Aye
Paula Wright	- Aye

Approval of Minutes

[APPROVAL OF MINUTES](#)

Minutes:

That the Duval County School Board approve the following minutes:

April 30, 2014 - Special Board Meeting
May 6, 2014 - Regular Board Meeting
May 9, 2014 - Policy Handbook Review Committee
May 13, 2014 - Board Member Meeting
May 13, 2014 - Board Workshop
May 14, 2014 - Board Development Meeting
May 19, 2014 - Board Member Meeting
May 20, 2014 - Committee Meeting & Board Workshop
May 22, 2014 - Special Board Meeting - Student Expulsion Hearings
May 23, 2014 - Board Member Meeting
May 28, 2014 - Board Workshop

Motions:

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

- April 30, 2014 - Special Board Meeting
- May 6, 2014 - Regular Board Meeting
- May 9, 2014 - Policy Handbook Review Committee
- May 13, 2014 - Board Workshop
- May 13, 2014 - Board Member Meeting
- May 14, 2014 - Board Development Meeting - PASS
- May 19, 2014 - Board Member Meeting
- May 20, 2014 - Committee Meeting & Board Workshop
- May 22, 2014 - Special Board Meeting - Student Expulsion Hearings
- May 23, 2014 - Board Member Meeting
- May 28, 2014 - Board Workshop

Vote Results

Motion: Cheryl Grymes

Second: Connie Hall

Rebecca Couch	- Aye
Jason Fischer	- Aye
Cheryl Grymes	- Aye
Connie Hall	- Aye
Ashley Juarez	- 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: Cheryl Grymes

Second: Connie Hall

Rebecca Couch	- Aye
Jason Fischer	- Aye
Cheryl Grymes	- Aye
Connie Hall	- Aye
Ashley Juarez	- Aye
Paula Wright	- Aye

Consent Agenda

Academic Services

1. [DISTRICT TECHNOLOGY PLAN](#)

Attachment: [After Board Meeting Technology Plan 14-15 6214 Clean-2.pdf](#)

2. [PERFORMANCE MATTERS ONLINE ASSESSMENT AND DATA ANALYSIS SYSTEM FOR THE 2014-2015 SCHOOL YEAR](#)

Attachment: [Duval HSA Contract v3.pdf](#)

Attachment: [Addendum Contract 2014-15.pdf](#)

3. [2014-15 MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC TICKET PRICES](#)

Attachment: [2014-15 Athletic Ticket Prices\(2\).pdf](#)

5. [CONTINUATION OF INTERAGENCY AGREEMENTS WITH FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF JUVENILE JUSTICE](#)

Attachment: [Duval Cooperative Agreement - DJJ 2014-2018 v3.pdf](#)

6. [PILOT K-6 PROGRAM AT PICKETT AND RUTLEDGE PEARSON ELEMENTARY](#)

7. [AGREEMENT WITH VSCHOOLZ, CALVERT, FLORIDA VIRTUAL SCHOOL \(FLVS\), EDGENUITY, AND LEE COUNTY VIRTUAL SCHOOL](#)

Attachment: [VIP Provider Agreement Final.pdf](#)

Attachment: [Interdistrict Agreement K-12 Template vfinal.pdf](#)

Attachment: [2014-2015 FLVS Franchise Agreement Final Terms and Conditions.pdf](#)

Attachment: [BLP Provider Agreement Final.pdf](#)

Attachment: [Duval CES 2014-15vfinal.pdf](#)

Attachment: [Franchise Agreement Signature Pages_Word.doc.pdf](#)
Attachment: [Duval VSCHOOLZ 2014-15 vfinal.pdf](#)

8. [CONTINUATION OF INTERAGENCY AGREEMENT WITH AMI KIDS, INC](#)

Attachment: [AMI Kids 2014-2015 v1.pdf](#)

9. [AMENDMENT TO THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN DUVAL COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND SPECTRUM SERVICES DATED 2009.](#)

Attachment: [First Amendment Spectrum k-12 2014vfinal.pdf](#)

10. [CONTINUATION OF THE FLORIDA DIAGNOSTIC AND LEARNING RESOURCES GRANT \(FDLRS\) FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION](#)

Attachment: [FDLRS Budget Summaries-Duval Board Item.pdf](#)
Attachment: [BENEFITS AND CHALLENGES FORM FDLRS 14-15.pdf](#)
Attachment: [FDLRS Exec Summary Duval 14-15.pdf](#)

School Choice and Pupil Assignment

11. [CHARTER SCHOOL CONTRACT FOR THE YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION OF FLORIDA'S FIRST COAST, INC. TO OPEN TIGER ACADEMY](#)

Attachment: [Tiger 2014 renewalv8.pdf](#)

12. [CHARTER SCHOOL CONTRACT FOR THE S.O.C.K. OUTSTANDING STUDENTS \(S.O.S.\) ACADEMY, INC. TO OPEN S.O.C.K. OUTSTANDING STUDENTS \(S.O.S.\) ACADEMY](#)

Attachment: [SOS renewal 2014 v4.pdf](#)

13. [PROGRAM CHANGE FOR EUGENE J. BUTLER MIDDLE SCHOOL #92](#)

14. [NEW PROGRAM TO JOSEPH STILWELL MIDDLE SCHOOL #219](#)

Human Resource Services - Compensation

16. [APPROVAL OF SALARY SCHEDULE PN](#)

Attachment: [HR Attach 06-09-14 PN Salary Schedule.pdf](#)

17. [APPROVAL OF SALARY SCHEDULES TA, AE, AND AP](#)

Attachment: [HRS Attach SalarySchedule AP 2013-2014 BOARD 06-09-2014.pdf](#)
Attachment: [TA 13-14.pdf](#)
Attachment: [HRS Attach SalarySchedule AE 2013-2014 BOARD 06-09-2014.pdf](#)

Administration and Business Services - Budget and Financial

18. [MONTHLY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS](#)

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

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

Attachment: [DCPS 3rd Quarter Cash and Investment Report \(2\).pdf](#)

19. [RESOLUTION TO READOPT 2013-2014 BUDGET](#)

Attachment: [Certification to readopt the 1314 budget.pdf](#)

20. [ADOPTION OF BUDGET RESOLUTIONS APRIL 23, 2014](#)

Attachment: [June 2014 Budget Resolutions Revised 5-11-14.pdf](#)

21. [INTERNAL ACCOUNTS FUNDS-SCHOOL AUDITS](#)

Attachment: [Completed Audits 7 1 12 to 6 30 13.pdf](#)

Operations - Real Estate, Planning and Programming

22. [MASTER LICENSE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE DUVAL COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD AND LUTHERAN SERVICES FLORIDA, INC HEAD START FOR USE OF CLASSROOMS AT VARIOUS SCHOOL SITES](#)

Attachment: [LSF-DCSB Headstart Normandy School #204 License Agreement Final 5-24-14.pdf](#)

Attachment: [LSF-DCSB Headstart Master License Agreement \(Jax\)v11 5-24-14 \(2\).pdf](#)

Operations - Facilities Project Design, Construction and Maintenance

23. [SECURITY SYSTEMS REPLACEMENT/UPGRADES AT HENDRICKS AVENUE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NO. 71/DCSB PROJECT NO. M-83980/OFDC-ITB-006-14; CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT AWARD](#)

Attachment: [M-83980 Contract for Sec Sys Replace at No 71.pdf](#)

24. [SECURITY SYSTEMS REPLACEMENT/UPGRADES AT ORTEGA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NO. 16/DCSB PROJECT NO. M-83980/OFDC-ITB-005-14; CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT AWARD](#)

Attachment: [M-83980 Contract for Sec Sys Replace at No 16.pdf](#)

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

Attachment: [Board Approval - New 06-2014.pdf](#)

Attachment: [Board Approval - Renewals 06-2014.pdf](#)

Operations - Purchasing and Logistics

26. [SURPLUS PROPERTY RETIREMENT REPORT](#)

- Attachment: [04JUNE14.pdf](#)
- Attachment: [05JUNE14.pdf](#)
- Attachment: [Copy of ROSUM JUNFY14.pdf](#)
- Attachment: [Retirement Order Highlight outline JUNE 2014.pdf](#)
- Attachment: [07JUNE14.pdf](#)
- Attachment: [Copy of JUNE RETIREMENT.pdf](#)
- Attachment: [06JUNE14.pdf](#)

General

27. [VOLUNTEER MANAGEMENT SYSTEM](#)

- Attachment: [SAMARITAN-DCPS COVER CONTRACT-FINAL\(5-30-14\).pdf](#)
- Attachment: [DCPS - Exhibit C - Final \(5-30-14\).pdf](#)
- Attachment: [DCPS Exhibit B-Revised\(5-30-14\).pdf](#)

28. [CONTINUATION OF THE INTERAGENCY AGREEMENT WITH DUVAL COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT](#)

- Attachment: [Health Department Agreement 1415v2.pdf](#)

29. [APPROVAL OF THE SCHOOLWIRES CONTRACT AMENDMENT](#)

- Attachment: [SchoolWires First Amendmentv3.pdf](#)

Discussion

Academic Services

4. [CONTINUATION OF INTERAGENCY AGREEMENT WITH PACE CENTER FOR GIRLS](#)

- Attachment: [PACE Contract 14-15v1.pdf](#)

Minutes:

Board Member Ashley Juarez disclosed the following:

I asked that this item be placed on the discussion list so that I could disclose that this matter would inure to the special private gain or loss of my family's nonprofit foundation of which I am a trustee (which is a 501(c)3 organization), which provides funding to the Pace Center for Girls.

I made this declaration during the discussion of this agenda item, I abstained from the vote for this matter, and I have completed this form for the June 9, 2014 minutes.

Motions:	
Motion to reconsider.	- PASS
Vote Results	
Motion: Ashley Juarez	
Second: Rebecca Couch	
Rebecca Couch	- Aye
Jason Fischer	- Aye
Cheryl Grymes	- Aye
Connie Hall	- Aye
Ashley Juarez	- Abstain
Paula Wright	- Aye

Human Resource Services - Staffing

15. [HUMAN RESOURCE SERVICES TRANSACTIONS](#)

Attachment: [HRS Attach 06-09-14 TRANS.pdf](#)

Attachment: [HRS Attach PRINCIPAL APPOINTMENTS 06-09-14 Alpha.pdf](#)

Minutes:

Speakers:

Ms. Paula D. Wright, Board Member
 Dr. Nikolai Vitti, Superintendent of Schools
 Dr. Constance S. Hall, Board Member
 Ms. Karen Chastain, Chief Legal Officer

Ms. Juarez said I move to divide the motion by separating the candidate for the principalship of Beauclerc Elementary School from the other transactions on the list.

Ms. Paula Wright seconded the motion.

Ms. Karen Chastain, Chief Legal Officer, said this requires a majority vote. (Vote: 5-1 with Mr. Fischer voting against the motion).

Speakers:

Mr. Jason Fischer, Board Member
 Ms. Becki Couch, Board Chair
 Ms. Karen Chastain, Chief Legal Officer
 Ms. Paula D. Wright, Board Member
 Dr. Nikolai Vitti, Superintendent of Schools

Ms. Cheryl Grymes, Board Vice Chair

Vote on Approval of the Human Resource Services Transaction List - Vote: 6-0

Speakers:

Ms. Karen Chastain, Chief Legal Officer
Ms. Ashley Smith Juarez, Board Member
Ms. Paula D. Wright, Board Member
Dr. Nikolai Vitti, Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Constance S. Hall, Board Member

During the approval of the Principal Appointment list, Board member Juarez stated the following:

"As stated in Board Policy 2.25, Section 7, a School Board rule may be waived only to provide and implement the overall goals and objectives of the School Board, and to protect the health, safety and welfare of the affected individuals. It goes on to say that this requires an affirmative vote of at least five (5) School Board members. I move to waive Board Policy 6.08, Section 2 C, under Qualifications, as well as Board Policy 6.27.

Vote: 6-0

Motions:

That the Duval County School Board approve the Human Resource Services employee transactions on the attached lists.

Vote Results

Motion: Cheryl Grymes

Second: Connie Hall

Rebecca Couch -

Jason Fischer -

Cheryl Grymes -

Connie Hall - Aye

Ashley Juarez -

Paula Wright -

Motions:

I move to divide the question by separating the candidate for the principalship of Beauclerc Elementary School from the other transactions on the list. - PASS

Vote Results

Motion: Ashley Juarez

Second: Paula Wright

Rebecca Couch - Aye

Jason Fischer - Nay

Cheryl Grymes - Aye

Connie Hall - Aye

Ashley Juarez - Aye

Paula Wright - Aye

Motions:

Approval of the Human Resource Services Transaction list. - PASS

Vote Results

Motion: Cheryl Grymes

Second: Connie Hall

Rebecca Couch - Aye

Jason Fischer - Aye

Cheryl Grymes - Aye

Connie Hall - Aye

Ashley Juarez - Aye

Paula Wright - Aye

Motions:

Approval of Principal Appointment list.

Board Member Juarez stated the following:

As stated in Board Policy 2.25, Section 7, a School Board rule may be waived only to provide and implement the overall goals and objectives of the School Board, and to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the effected individuals. It goes on to say that this requires an affirmative vote of at least five (5) School Board members. I move to waive Board Policy 6.08, Section 2 C, under qualifications, as well as Board Policy 6.27. - PASS

Vote Results

Motion: Cheryl Grymes

Second: Connie Hall

Rebecca Couch	- Aye
Jason Fischer	- Aye
Cheryl Grymes	- Aye
Connie Hall	- Aye
Ashley Juarez	- Aye
Paula Wright	- Aye

Board Member Travel

[BOARD MEMBERS TRAVEL](#)

Minutes:

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

September 30 - October 2, 2014 - Jacksonville Chamber 2014 Leadership Trip - Nashville, TN - Couch, Grymes and Juarez

Motions:

That the Duval County School Board approve the following Board Members

Travel:

- September 30 - October 2, 2014 - - PASS
Jacksonville Chamber 2014
Leadership Trip - Nashville, TN -
Couch, Grymes, Juarez

Vote Results

Motion: Cheryl Grymes

Second: Connie Hall

Rebecca Couch	- Aye
Jason Fischer	- Aye
Cheryl Grymes	- Aye
Connie Hall	- Aye
Ashley Juarez	- Aye
Paula Wright	- Aye

Superintendent's Travel

[SUPERINTENDENT'S TRAVEL](#)

Minutes:

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

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

November 16-18, 2014 - RTM Education Congress Conference - Dallas, TX

Motions:

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

- September 30 - October 2, 2014 -
Jacksonville Chamber 2014 - PASS

- Leadership Trip - Nashville, TN
- November 16-18, 2014 - RTM Education Congress Conference - Dallas, Texas

Vote Results

Motion: Cheryl Grymes

Second: Ashley Juarez

Rebecca Couch	- Aye
Jason Fischer	- Aye
Cheryl Grymes	- Aye
Connie Hall	- Aye
Ashley Juarez	- Aye
Paula Wright	- Aye

For The Record

[FOR THE RECORD](#)

Minutes:

Mr. Jason Fischer said 2013-2014 has been an exciting year. Last week was one of the big highlights of the hard work that was done with thousands of graduates walking the stage to accept their ticket to a better life. Some will be the first in their family to attend college and/or military academies. The future of our city is bright and I have no doubt that these young graduates will do some amazing things in the world.

As we continue to work on the budget this summer, I hope we keep those world changing students in mind as I know I will. We have some tough financial decisions in front of us and if we aren't more aggressive in addressing them, we will have more tough decisions the next budget cycle. The tax dollars will continue to decline. There are many things we can do but one thing we should do is sell this building. It's bigger than our workforce demands and we don't need to be on the river.

I want to wish all of our students and parents a very exciting summer. I know many will be relaxing and having fun whether it's Disney World, a pool, the beach or playing video games, I encourage you to not completely neglect your academics. Read the summer book list, a foreign language, Sudoku puzzles but keep your brain active. We look forward to seeing you next year and God Bless.

Ms. Paula Wright said I'd like to talk about my Spirit Award. During the Summer Reading Celebration and Anniversary, we had district Spirit Contest and District IV won and we were supposed to be presented the Spirit Stick, tonight. During that celebration, I'd like to take an opportunity to thank the 800+ runners that participated. They made the day festive and enjoyable and to thank all of the sponsors, JPEF, Citi Year who helped to provide so many students a great day. It was wonderful to see the number of students attending and the number of schools participating in the bands. I was having fun and I was "stepping" with Darnell Cookman; you missed that.

Gear Up which stands for "Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs". We have a GearUp program at Andrew Jackson High School and Jean Ribault High School. It is a grant federally funded project that focuses on low income students to ensure that they succeed not just in high school, but in post secondary education. Tomorrow night in this very same room at 6:00 p.m., we will have 48 students who will receive Gear Up scholarships from Jackson and Ribault to sign their awards. There will be \$473,000 given in scholarships to these 48 students, so this is an exciting time. The first school who started this was William Raines High School which just finished its first four-year cycle. Mr. Mungin, the Supervisor, he's writing another grant for the upcoming year to focus on the middle feeder pattern schools.

Save Our Sons - Dr. Vitti and I had an opportunity to share with the Save Our Sons initiative, yesterday at St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church. They have a week long event and yesterday, they focused on honoring, celebrating and supporting teachers. It was a very nice event and many other wonderful events ongoing throughout this week. I certainly appreciate Reverend Guns and all of the partners for understanding and sharing with our teachers because our educational community is very important.

In terms of summer fun, like Mr. Fischer, please get prepared for next year and come back for some exciting news and moves. I just want to up this on the record that the Superintendent is trying to recruit me to play on his team at the I'm A Star Celebrity Basketball Game. That's OK but I'm going to hold back.

In terms of our budget, I'm really concerned about where we're heading with our budget. I'm concerned with the possibility of not totaling looking ahead; every item that we can to ensure that we're doing the very best for all of our employees especially when we're thinking about the possibility of RIF (Reduction In Force) people; it does not sit well with me. I am giving notice that I may request that we revisit any budget item that has already been approved so that if we have to RIF, we make certain that every initiative, project and item is on the table and that we don't have any sacred cows. It is our responsibility that if we have already approved items and now we're addressing RIF and we haven't looked at reducing those items to fit the budget or finding dollars that would be fair to every employee in this district, that we bring everything back to the table and make certain we cover everything. Tonight, I'm serving notice that I may request all or some of those items to come back to us and look at the financial opportunities that we can find within those pots.

Number of graduations: I'd like to end with a quote from one of our valedictorians - Ntami Echeng from Darnell Cookman and I look forward to the day when all of our students can share this type of thought, either in a speech or in their home, communities or in their schools:

"Writing this speech was one of the most difficult things I've had to do in awhile. I paced

back and forth trying to figure out what to say. My sister, Stephanie, was getting upset at me because I was supposed to help her with an essay. So, I sat down and I was prompted by hope from Eleanor Roosevelt that said, ' You must do the things you think you cannot do.' and that's how all of this started. You must do the things you think you cannot do . I hope you dream dreams that were never dreamt before. I hope you live a life unique in its own definition. I hope you're happy. I hope you find beauty in every experience, every adventure and every person you meet along the way, but most of all, I hope you remember to touch the lives of others. I hope that you do not leave here to become a number or a face passing by. I hope you're remembered. I hope you leave a legacy in every step you take and I hope you command standing ovations when you walk into a room."

Ms. Cheryl Grymes said I'd like to acknowledge the graduations. I am continually impressed with the young people we have and they are much brighter and much more philosophical more than I was at their age. I applaud the principals and teachers that organize the commencement exercises as I know it's much work and stress. I was very proud attending Terry Parker's graduation.

I'd like to give a "shout out" (Ms. Marsha Oliver is not here this evening) for the Pep Rally which was a lot of fun. Much work went into it and I appreciate the sponsors and partners who participated. I'm very pleased that we have a mascot, DJ and I appreciate what he does and all the staff in the Communications office.

Discover Duval - the last event was held at Terry Parker High School and I thank JPEF (Jacksonville Public Education Fund) for their hard work they've put in throughout the year in organizing Discover Duval. Principal Scott Schneider continues to do a great job and is passionate about his school. They highlighted Dual Enrollment program with Embry Riddle as they were flying drones around the room. Parker is one of those true neighborhood schools.

I'd like to highlight Chartwells who is going to give some competition to the student Food Truck Capstone Project. We have five high schools, Career Academies: Ed White IT Academy partnered with MicroSoft; First Coast Logistics Academy partnered with JaxPort; Ribault Financial Services Academy partnered with VyStar Credit Union; Mandarin Health and Science Academy partnered with Mayo Clinic and Raines Culinary Academy partnered with FSCJ (Florida State College at Jacksonville) Culinary School. They, collectively, over the past school year have been meeting to brainstorm and come up with their Food Truck plan to make this come to fruition. It was most impressive hearing them actually pitch their business plan. It's hard to believe these are high school students and they're trying to raise \$75,000. This has been a huge learning experience working collaboratively with the Chamber and Big Brothers and Big Sisters. I'd like to give a "shout out" to Andrew Post as I believe this project was his "grandchild". I appreciate all of your work as it is a true example of project learning.

I'd like to thank Pam Pierce, principal at Spring Park Elementary School, regarding the 5th Grade Graduating Ceremony. I attended this ceremony as my "little sister" with Big Brothers Big Sisters attends that school and we've been together since she was in kindergarten. Their program was delightful and all of the students were very dressed up. I know a lot of work went into this ceremony and it was great.

I want to thank all of our teachers and hope you get some rest and relaxation over the summer. I applaud your calling in being a teacher as I could not do it and I'm grateful for those who do it. I was to give a "shout out" to the principals and staff, as well!

Ms. Ashley Juarez said I'd like to congratulate all of the graduates, 5th graders rising to 6th grade, 8th graders who will enter the 9th grade and all of our seniors who will be entering a variety of paths for the future but each with a Duval County Public Schools diploma in hand. Those ceremonies are all a thrill and a delight to be part of and the fact that they are each, in some part, designed by the students, and the students have their own thumbprint on what they like and move forward is fun and a reflection of the hard work that they have done and the preparation they have made for their future. I'd like to thank school faculty, staff and district personnel as there has been much change this year and I appreciate all of them as they continue working diligently every day for all students.

This was a year of "firsts" at several of the high schools in District III. I'd like to recognize the students at Alden Road who are involved in the Business Enterprises. It is a tremendous program and the products that these students produce for the market are remarkable. Englewood graduated their first Early College students and so those students will be leaving high school with not only their Duval County Public Schools high school diploma but also an Associate of Arts (AA) degree from Florida State College at Jacksonville. Wolfson had it's first graduation for their International Baccalaureate (IB) candidates and these students will be leaving high school with an Advanced Diploma that can be applied with two years of college credit. Sandalwood, the first AVID group to graduate with National Model status along with their Early College graduates; it's just the third school in the nation to earn that status which is incredibly impressive and speaks to the diligence and persistence of the team at that school. I'd like to speak on behalf of Board Member Fel Lee who is not present as I attended the Fletcher graduation and the first cohort of AICE students graduated. It's been an exciting time for many of our students and the degrees they have earned that will serve them well.

Learning should continue over the summer whether in a formal setting or at a park, library or going to the Cummer Museum. There are many opportunities from going to the grocery store to attending some of our cultural institutions that can become learning experiences for students. I encourage parents, care givers, community partners to continue that strong work over the summer with students.

Dr. Constance Hall said congratulations to James Weldon Johnson Middle School for your 27 students receiving the Perfect 6 on the FCAT Writing portion. I recall being at J.W. Johnson when we had 36 students that received the Perfect 6. At the end of the celebration, the teacher asked, "*How are we going to continue this?*" The very next year, over 98 of the students received the Perfect 6. So, J.W. Johnson with your 27, congratulations and let's double it next year. *Go Trojans!*

Paxon High School - 300 graduates, over \$10 million dollars in scholarships, two appointments to West Point Academy; one appointment to the Coast Guard Academy; one appointment to the Merchant Marine Academy and one accepted into Harvard.

Frank H. Peterson - 208 graduates, 40 Honors Diplomas, \$658,110 dollars in scholarships, 109 students received an Industry Certification and 16 students received the State Merit Diploma Designation.

The Nathan B. Forrest graduation marked the end of an era. The 55th Commencement Ceremony was the last under that school name. Next year will mark the first Commencement of Westside High School. The last Rebel standing had some remarkable achievements. The 270 graduates took over 600 AP and AICE exams and earned more than \$750,000 dollars in scholarship money. Over 65% have planned to further their education or join the military. In addition, it was a special occasion to honor the following student:

Zachary Willis who would have graduated in 2014 and it was touching to watch the graduates and the faculty honor his memory and the parents, as well.

Raines High School with 200+ graduates and a National Merit Scholar.

The Bridge to Success honored their graduates at Atlantic Coast High School in a very outstanding ceremony and we know how the Bridge to Success started and how great it was to see those students reach that part in the lives and be able to graduate. We know that at the start of the next school year, there will be a smooth start and they'll need a larger venue to hold their graduation.

My favorite was Palm Avenue. There was a student that during the course of the year would not get out of the car until she was ready. She would get into those moods at times. During graduation she didn't want to get out but during graduation, towards the end when they called her name, who rushed down the aisle with the biggest smile you've ever seen, up on the stage and if you've ever seen the Rocky movie, there she was, holding her diploma as if she had won the race - it was so exciting and that kind of enthusiasm let's us know why we do the work that we do. It's lets us know we must work harder so that all students can reach that point in time in their lives to feel success and to be successful.

I want to wish all staff, our parents, our partners a very happy and safe summer and be sure to read, read and read! Thank you.

Ms. Becki Couch said I'd like to commend the district for the Pep Rally. I think it was a great event. I had a great time and I believe it gets better every year.

We had alot of faculty here this evening from Joseph Stilwell Middle School and Jason Bloom, principal, brought some members of the faculty. It was on the agenda this evening that we're going to be adding at the school, a magnet for military leadership. That will begin the 2014-2015 school year. It's been very exciting and the Superintendent and I have spoken with the community about this idea and we have the support that is needed. I feel it will be well embraced on the westside of town. We are currently looking for students to apply, 6-8 grades. You may contact the School Choice Office (390-2144) for applications.

I had the opportunity to attend Chimney Lakes Elementary as they are a multi-cultural magnet school and they held a festival. I was blown away and wish I had a news crew with me to show off every thing the students worked on. It was better than the World of Nations. Every hallway was decorated with the projects the students did all year long. Each grade level chose a country to study. Many parents and partners attended the

event. There was no cost to the school as the partners support the school. It was so great seeing so much support for this elementary school. Words can not express how proud I was of the students, faculty, parents and volunteers - that is what great public education looks like! I hope we'll have some coverage next year so that the public can see what great things are ongoing in our schools.

I attended a luncheon with the Superintendent and Board Member Cheryl Grymes to celebrate the partnership that the Logistics Academies at Ribault and First Coast High Schools have with JaxPort. It was on the Carnival Fascination ship before they set sail and it was so exciting and great event. The kids attended and chose to have a formal dinner along with a scavenger hunt. It was a great opportunity for the students and me. Thank you Big Brothers and Big Sisters for your partnership.

Several of us attended the 5th and 8th Grade Graduation Ceremonies. I'm looking forward to those becoming bigger and better over the years. It was so heartwarming to see so many parents show up, particularly at the 5th grade at Lee High School. It's a good thing to see people sharing the success of our students. I want to thank the district for putting that together and acknowledging the hard work that our 5th and 8th graders did in the top 5%.

I want to commend the district for all of the graduations I attended. Lee High School had 40 students graduate with an AA degree. That is so amazing to me and I wished I had that opportunity as a high school student as it would have saved my parents a lot of money. I don't think we really tell our story as we have so many opportunities for our students to go beyond high school while they're within the walls of our buildings and experience college which helps parents save a lot of money. Most private schools can't say they can do that for students and we're beating the competition in that arena.

I do want to mention that we are getting a new test for Common Core, Florida Standards whichever the new name will be. Several things are being worked out and it will have an impact on our students. Parents should be made aware of that. 5th grade will be on a computer with writing which is something we've never experienced, before. 11th graders will need to type their essay on a computer, as well, in a time limit and many of us may struggle with that, especially, if you don't have access at home. I think it's important for parents to understand what is happening and to be more vocal. You can contact your state lawmakers, contact us and learn what is happening and we will share this information with parents.

I'd like to ask Mr. Fischer, *"Do you have a real estate agree for this building?"* We're definitely looking forward to that conversation, later. I don't think that any of us against that idea.

Adjournment

[ADJOURNMENT](#)

Minutes:

The meeting adjourned at 9:42 p.m.

Isd

Superintendent

Chairman