



Duval County Public Schools

March 3, 2009, Regular Board Meeting

Ms. Betty Burney
Mr. Tommy Hazouri, Chairman
Mr. Stan Jordan
Mr. W. C. Gentry
Ms. Nancy Broner
Ms. Vicki Drake
Ms. Brenda Priestly Jackson, Vice Chairman
Mr. Ed Pratt-Dannals, Superintendent

ATTENDANCE AT THIS REGULAR MEETING OF THE DUVAL COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD with Mr. Ed Pratt-Dannals, Superintendent, Ms. Karen Chastain, Office of General Counsel, Mr. Tommy Hazouri, Board Chairman, Mrs. Brenda Priestly Jackson, Vice Chairman, and Board Members: Mrs. Nancy Broner, Mrs. Betty Burney, Mrs. Vicki Drake, Mr. W. C. Gentry, and Mr. Stan Jordan, present.

Call Meeting to Order

[CALL MEETING TO ORDER](#)

Minutes:

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

Invocation

[INVOCATION](#)

Minutes:

Reverend James Scott
Christ the King Catholic Church

Pledge of Allegiance

[PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE](#)

Presentations

[1. PRESENTATION TO THE BOARD - YOUTH ART MONTH](#)

Minutes:

District Art Specialist, Jack Matthews, said throughout the United States, the month of March has been designated "Youth Art Month".

[2. 2009 NATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM SEMIFINALISTS](#)

Minutes:

This year, ten Duval County Public Schools students were among more than 1,600 African-American high school seniors to be designated semifinalists in the 45th annual Achievement Scholarship competition conducted by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation.

Approximately 1,300 semifinalists are expected to fulfill additional requirements and advance to the finalist level in the 2009 program and become eligible for more than \$2.6 million in scholarships to be awarded this spring.

All Achievement Scholar awardees will be selected from the Finalist group on the basis of their abilities, accomplishments and potential for success in rigorous college studies:

Eric Vincent - Ed White High
Purterson Justilien - Paxon School for Advanced Studies
Christen Wilson, Paxon School for Advanced Studies

Nana Nimo, Paxon School for Advanced Studies
Whitney Anderson, Stanton College Preparatory
Sarah Grant - Stanton College Preparatory
Britney Jones - Stanton College Preparatory
Adrienna Wright, Stanton College Preparatory
Jerry McMillan, Stanton College Preparatory
Natasha Williams - Stanton College Preparatory

Congratulations on your nomination and best wishes as you move to the final competition!

[3. 2009 FNAA ADMINISTRATOR OF THE YEAR - JACKIE CORNELIUS](#)

Minutes:

This past January, during the Florida Network of Arts Administrators' annual conference, Jackie Cornelius, principal of Douglas Anderson School of the Arts, was named Florida Network of Arts Administrators' 2009 Arts Administrator of the Year in the Arts-specific category.

This award recognized Jackie for her consistent artistic vision and leadership in the field of arts education.

Jackie joined the Douglas Anderson family in 1988, serving as its arts director and vice principal before taking the reins as principal in 1996. Under her leadership, Douglas Anderson has been recognized as a National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence, a National Model School and a National Leader school by the U.S. Department of Education, as well as being listed by Newsweek magazine as one of the Best Academic High Schools in the country and they were named a 2008 Gold Grammy Signature School by the Grammy Foundation.

Congratulations on a job well done. It is a privilege and an honor to recognize you for receiving this prestigious award from your peers in the arts community.

[4. CFE RECOGNITION - FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF JACKSONVILLE](#)

Minutes:

Tonight, during our Community and Family Engagement recognition, we would like to honor one of our faith-based partners, First Baptist Church of Jacksonville. Mr. Clyde Champlin, the church's Director of Sports Ministry read:

"Last October, through contributions in part by First Baptist Church and the Community and Family Engagement Office held its first Church Leaders Assuring Student Success Symposium, also known as CLASS. The CLASS initiative, created by the University of South Florida's Parental Information resource Center, involves faith-based and community groups in education and promote the collaboration and sharing of educational resources and information between faith-based organizations, community groups, schools, and parents.

To make this event successful, the church provided, free-of-charge, the facility for the symposium, full access to their campus and assisted with advertising the event. Attendees were equipped with resources, training and technical assistance required to establish partnerships with our local schools, parents and with other faith-based and community-based organizations."

Through relationships like those established with strategic partners like First Baptist, the Duval County Public Schools system is able to reach our goal of engaging family and community support. We recognize that the faith-based community is an important support system for many families and that when families and communities work together with schools, our students succeed.

Comments From Audience

[COMMENTS FROM AUDIENCE](#)

Minutes:

Mr. Thomas J. Thomas, Jr., representing Leading Edge Marketing Consultants, distributed a memorandum regarding Budget Monetary Shortfalls - \$30 million - next 6 months and \$83 million - 2009-2010. (*See Attachment*)

Pastor Ted Corley, representing the Duval County Council of PTAs Legislative Chair and I have a question - "What is the greatest asset in Jacksonville?" - It is our children and, "What is the most important gift we can give them aside from love?" - A quality education. Since our state legislators need to be reminded of their paramount responsibility of educating our children, the Florida PTA is organizing a rally in Tallahassee on March 18. We have 2 buses leaving from Jacksonville - one at 6:00 am for early birds; and one at 8:00 am. We will be rallying on the Capitol's steps in front of the Supreme Court building that day and hope to see our legislators. We want to encourage everyone in Jacksonville to contact our state legislators to remind that we have a responsibility to educate our children and if we fail in that responsibility, the price we pay today will be far greater in the years to come. You can go to our website: schoolnotes.com/32207/dccpta and at the bottom of the page, there is a link to the registration form which will give you all the details about the buses. Now is the

time to contact your legislators by either email, telephone, fax or letter. Let them know that our children must come first in this state and a quality education is the priority that we must place in our legislative budget in the days to come. Thank you.

Ms. Stephanie Perry, a pediatric dietitian, spoke about the food service contract and the rating scale being 40% on the rate of the food with only 5% concerning nutrition. You may not be able to change the bidding formula, but please collaborate with the organizations and think out of the box on how we feed our children. We're seeing numerous cases of Type II diabetes and high blood pressure in children. I'd be happy to work with your district and come up with healthy diets for the students. We must offer health food choices on a daily basis.

Ms. Trisha Howell, a mother of two boys in school and one has Type I diabetes; also, a dietitian. Childhood obesity is on the rise and I would like to be a support piece for the district. We must change the behavior of our children at an early age and adopt a healthy lifestyle. I encourage and support you to help make all children healthy and ready to learn. They must be offered nutritional food every day and I'd love to be part of that solution. There are wonderful and effective programs out there and many are free.

Ms. Jennifer Snead thanked everyone for their efforts putting into the budget and the decisions you're about to make. Your position is not a desirable one because it won't be easy to deal with this and what is best for kids all across the board. I want to thank you for your support of the arts. Individually, many of you have supported the different activities that have been ongoing throughout the year and I also want to thank collectively for the elementary roll out and to bring equity to all students at that level. Your support is also appreciated at both the middle and high school levels, as well. All students must receive a complete education as it is most vital. Please put an emphasis on the art resource in the classroom. Thank you.

Ms. Wendy Dunlap, a school counselor and president of First Coast Counseling Association which is a local and professional organization comprised of Duval County school counselors and school counseling graduate students from local universities. The reason I'm here tonight is because of current budget concerns. First, I'd like to thank the Board for your ongoing support of school counselors and our programs and the unique role a school counselor. To be employed in the state of Florida, a school counselor must receive specialized training and obtain a Master's degree. It is the mission of Duval County's school counselors to deliver a comprehensive and accountable guidance program which focuses on academics success for all students. We address three critical areas of student development that include academics, career advising and personal/social skills. Counselors are advocates for the students. Thank you for your time.

Mr. Edward Exson spoke about education and the lack thereof which brings horror. So many brilliantly educated people have allowed America to fall into some dark and scary holes. Her greatness will be defined as how she emerges on a variety of fronts. *(See Attachment)*

Dr. Leslie Kaplan said I'm an educator and a parent with three children who are going through the public school system and I've done a lot of volunteering on nutrition

education programs at my children's schools. I'm disappointed by the contract renewal process in part, because there has not been enough public input. I'm here because I'm most disappointed by the criteria weighting - 5% for nutrition is ridiculous. Of course, we need to keep cost down especially in this economic climate, but short term costs vs. long term costs - the short term costs suggests we get the absolutely cheapest lunch as possible but the long term costs simply ignores the much larger public health costs of diabetes, high blood pressure, etc. Basically, as a tax payer, I'm going to pay either way and I would like to pay the cheaper option with the lower human toll so I'm asking you to please consider raising the weighting for nutrition. Thank you for your time.
(Hand out)

Mr. Stanley Scott said Mr. Donaldson, a local bus owner, asked me to pass on this message that he's glad the chickens came home to roost regarding the bus situation. Mr. Scott spoke about the 6th grade back in the elementary schools and that he supports Mr. Jordan with this recommendation. It's wrong to put the 6th graders in middle school. We need a study concerning this issue and involve the community. Mr. Scott said he's concerned about the lack of leadership from the African American community. I see no action and no plan...the pastors in the community and the business people. There are too many dropouts in Jacksonville with some of the best schools in the country. Why is the dropout rate so high here in Jacksonville? These children need someone who can work with them on their level. Salaries - 1/2 billion dollars just for salaries and kids still dropping out of school? What's wrong with this city?

Comments From Parent Organizations

[COMMENTS FROM PARENT ORGANIZATIONS](#)

Minutes:

PTA - Annette Worthen, PTA President:

Good evening I am Annette Worthen, President of the Duval County Council of PTAs/PTSAs. While we have been very busy this past month, I am going to focus on only a few of the issues that need immediate attention:

First, I understand the Rally in Orlando was a huge success. Several PTAs/PTSAs supported the DTU's efforts in the schools to promote awareness of the upcoming budget crisis that we are facing. I know several PTAs helped organize and collect the pennies and that they all promoted the "Education Cuts Hurt" wear red campaign. I happened to be in 5 schools the day everyone was supposed to wear Red and I would like to point out two schools that went way over the top. Both Rutledge Pearson Elementary and Sandalwood High School were a sea of red clothing and band-aids. I

did notice students, teachers, support staff, administrators and volunteers at all the schools I was in this past Friday were participating. I would like to encourage everyone that participated to keep the momentum going and contact the legislators that represent Duval County.

Secondly, the Florida PTA Rally in Tallahassee is scheduled for March 18th from 11:00-1:00 and PTA's here in Duval County need to have a strong presence at the Rally. It was really important to the DCCPTA Board of Managers to keep our involvement in this event as low cost as possible. FEA has generously agreed to provide lunch for all the PTA members that attend the Rally and here in Duval, First Student is providing transportation to Tallahassee and back for us at no cost. Please go to the DCCPTA website <http://www.schoolnotes.com/32207/dccpta.html> and download the flyer, fill it in and mail it to us. You can purchase a T shirt for \$5. If you choose not to buy the shirt but still want a lunch and/or a seat on the bus we need to have that information now so please fill out those forms and send them in. We will have the support and attendance of the Superintendent and several of our School Board members at the Rally. We appreciate you coming and being a part of the Rally. We have two scheduled departure times from here at the DCPS building. One bus leaves at 6:00 am arrives early for the Rally and allows time for us to meet with the Duval legislators before the Rally. The second bus will leave here at 8:00 am arrive in time for the Rally and allow for the riders of that bus an opportunity to meet with the legislators that were not available that morning. We really encourage you to make this trip with us. We are the voice for every child in this State and we need to let the legislators know that their actions on behalf of the children in this State are shameful.

I'm off my high horse now and would like to end on a positive note. The Teacher Supply Depot is packed to the rafters with new materials. There are a lot of trash cans, pens, pencils, office supplies, folders, reams of legal size paper and foam coolers. Thank You to all the businesses and Community members that support the Depot every month. The next opening is March 12th from 3-6 pm. Don't forget the Production Room is open during the Depot opening and you can bring your own materials or use what you find at the Depot. If you have any questions or would like to make a donation to the Depot, please call Chris at the Depot. Her number is 381-7480.

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

DAC - Rachel Raneri, Chairman:

The District Advisory Council met on Monday, February 23rd. We had a smaller attendance than usual as there was a community budget meeting at the same time. We had three informative presentations: Dr. Terri Stahlman shared the Electronic Grade Book and showed us the five parts of the Grade Book Application for teachers. Additionally, parents will be able to use it, as well. Ms. Stahlman addressed the district's Parent Communication system and it is scheduled for implementation by the end of this year.

Ms. Josephine Jackson gave us an overview regarding the Office of Equity and Inclusion, formerly known as Affirmative Action. Ms. Jackson showed a video about the S.P.I.R.I.T. program that stands for Student Problem Identification and Resolving Issues together. This is a wonderful leadership program for middle schools.

Ms. Karen Hanson with the Office of Community and Family Engagement announced that the department will begin providing communications through a new TWITTER account. We're looking forward to this!

Ms. Kathy Bowles from the Department of Safe and Healthy Schools explained the district's Bullying Policy which is actually an Anti-Bullying Policy. She explained many of the other functions of their department. I'd like to publicly thank Kathy for staying to the end of the meeting to let us out of the building with her swipe card.

We have a new member on the District Advisory Council - Mr. John Daley, Regional Manager, for Domino's Pizza. Mr. Daley is a district business partner.

We look forward to having Board Member Vicki Drake at the next DAC meeting which is March 23 at 6:00 pm in room 613.

Comments From Employee Organizations

[COMMENTS FROM EMPLOYEE ORGANIZATIONS](#)

Minutes:

Mr. Nicholas Dix, Regional Director for AFSCME Council #79 and I'm joined here by our local union president, Mr. Elton Brown, along with our members from the AFSCME Local #1279 who represent City employees. We're here today, first, as a point of information, to share with you, like other organizations that spoke this evening, we'll be having our annual Lobby Day on March 17th. I'd like to thank the Superintendent for sharing with us the district's legislative objectives as we'll be able to use these as additional target points as we prepare to meet with our legislators and encourage them to meet legislative intent and mandates to provide a quality education to our students. We'll also be meeting with them to have some discussion about this loss of tax revenue, the unfulfilled promise of lottery dollars, how that negatively impacts education, however, it does not relieve them of their constitutional duty to make provisions for education. We wanted to bring to your attention one of the issues we have related to one of the budget proposals. As we review these proposals and as you have seen in your Board workshops, there is an asterisk that's been placed to indicate that these are issues that will have to be bargained with the unions. Item #14 has not received an asterisk. This is an issue that is being described as a Conversion which would mean our bargaining unit members who work in Food Service and Custodial Services would be changed over from being district employees to private

contract...wages, hours, terms and conditions of employment and unilateral change of our employees from being public workers to private workers and then being placed on a prenegotiated contract requires our involvement as the legal representative. So, we encouraged that in the next version that we see these budget proposals that the issue is resolved. This action on its face reflects very poorly on the relationship that we have. It has been marred by good faith and collaboration. This Board has a longstanding history of rejecting proposals like this and we respectfully request that you reject this one, as well. Thank you.

Student Achievement, Reform Activities, And Reports

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Minutes: THE SUPERINTENDENT AND I RECENTLY MET WITH STATE ATTORNEY ANGELA COREY AND SOME OF HER STAFF TO LEARN HER VIEWS ON JUVENILE JUSTICE, TRUANCY, AND IN GENERAL HOW WE CAN WORK COLLABORATIVELY WITH HER OFFICE, THE SHERIFF, AND MAYOR TO ADDRESS COMMON ISSUES REGARDING OUT STUDENTS TO KEEP THEM IN SCHOOL AND ON THEIR WAY TO GRADUATION.

LIKEWISE, YESTERDAY, THE SUPERINTENDENT AND I MET WITH SHERIFF RUTHERFORD IN THE SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE TO DISCUSS OUR PROGRAMS WITH THE SHERIFF, INCLUDING REQUESTING A MID-YEAR UPDATE ON SAFE STUDENTS IN SCHOOLS, OUT OF SCHOOL SUSPENSIONS AND TRUANCY, AMONG OTHER ITEMS. LEARNING, AGAIN, HOW WE CAN WORK TOGETHER AS A TEAM FOR OUR STUDENTS.

REGARDING THE FINANCIAL PICTURE, THIS PAST YEAR IN GENERAL, AND THESE PAST FEW MONTHS, IN PARTICULAR, HAVE BEEN MOST DIFFICULT AS THE BOARD AND SUPERINTENDENT HAVE COMBED THE DISTRICT'S BUDGET TO MAKE CERTAIN OUR COMMITMENT TO OUR STUDENTS AND TEACHERS WILL HAVE NOT BEEN IN VAIN.

WITH ONE BUDGET CUT AFTER ANOTHER, ONE STATE BUDGET SHORTFALL AFTER ANOTHER, SCHOOL DISTRICTS THROUGHOUT THE STATE ARE STILL STRUGGLING FOR SOLUTIONS AS STILL NO DOLLARS HAVE BEEN FIXED. AND THE BEAT GOES ON.

TWO WEEKS AGO, I WAS IN A CONFERENCE CALL WITH BOARD CHAIRMEN, SUPERINTENDENTS, AND BUDGET STAFF THROUGHOUT THE STATE WITH COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION ERIC SMITH, AND HIS BUDGET CHIEF, TO DISCUSS THE RECENTLY PASSED STIMULUS PACKAGE - THEY HAD NO ANSWERS.

GOVERNOR CHRIST WANTS TO USE MUCH OF WHATEVER IS IN THE STIMULUS PACKAGE FOR ONE TIME RECURRING EXPENSES. NOT A GOOD SOLUTION.

SENATOR WISE AND MEMBERS OF THE DUVAL DELEGATION MET WITH SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS AND THE SUPERINTENDENT JUST LAST WEEK. LISTENING AND EMPATHIZING WITH THE DISTRICT AND OTHERS NEEDING EDUCATION DOLLAR RELIEF. THE DELEGATIONS SPIRIT WAS WILLING, BUT STILL NO COMMITMENT UNTIL THE STATE RECEIVES ANOTHER ROUND OF

REVENUE ESTIMATES DUE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE MONTH.

IN THIS ACADEMY AWARD SEASON, SOMETIMES WHEN I THINK OF FLORIDA, I AM REMINDED OF HOW FLORIDA BEGAN AND HOW IT HAS GROWN FROM THE SWAMPS TO THE SUNSHINE STATE. WE BECAME A SLUMDOG MILLIONAIRE.

NOW, WE HAVE A GOVERNOR WHO WANTS TO FURTHER REDUCE PROPERTY TAXES, AND FIX OUR PROBLEMS BY PATCH WORKING OUR BUDGET WITH ONE TIME DOLLARS.

THIS IS A REVERSAL OF FORTUNE THAT I CALL THE "CURIOUS CASE OF GOVERNOR CRIST."

WE NEED NEW REVENUE, MORE FLEXIBILITY, AND MORE HOME RULE FOR OUR SCHOOL DISTRICT. WE KNOW THAT MONEY ISN'T THE ANSWER, BUT IT IS PART OF THE SOLUTION, IF WE ARE TO GIVE OUR CHILDREN THE EDUCATION WE ALL DESIRE FOR THEM FROM EARLY CHILDHOOD THROUGH HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION.

PRESIDENT OBAMA SAID LAST WEEK IN HIS INAUGURAL ADDRESS THAT "IN A GLOBAL ECONOMY WHERE THE MOST VALUABLE SKILL YOU CAN SELL IS YOUR KNOWLEDGE, A GOOD EDUCATION IS NO LONGER A PATHWAY TO OPPORTUNITY – IT IS A PREREQUISITE,"...AND DROPPING OUT OF HIGH SCHOOL IS NO LONGER AN OPTION. IT'S NOT JUST QUITTING ON YOURSELF, ITS QUITTING ON YOUR COUNTRY – AND THE COUNTRY NEEDS AND VALUES THE TALENTS OF EVERY CITIZEN."

WE ARE GETTING MORE TELEPHONE CALLS, MORE GROCERY AND ELEVATOR CONVERSATIONS, AND MORE E-MAILS ASKING US TO HELP OUR TEACHERS AND PROTECT ART, MUSIC, PE, MAGNET SCHOOLS, SPORTS PROGRAMS, OUR MEDIA CENTERS, AND, OUR ACADEMICS.

THIS BOARD AGAIN THANKS ALL OF OUR CITIZENS WHO ARE WRITING OR CALLING OUR LEGISLATORS HAVING MEETINGS LIKE THAT IN ORLANDO LAST WEEKEND, AND DOING ALL THEY CAN TO LET THE GOVERNOR AND OUR LEGISLATORS KNOW THAT EVEN WITH THIS ECONOMY, EDUCATION CANNOT BE PUT ON THE BACK BURNER. TODAY IS THE FIRST DAY OF THE 2009 LEGISLATIVE SESSION. IT IS ALSO THE FIRST DAY OF THE REST OF THE LIVES OF OUR CHILDREN, WHEN IT COMES TO THE STATE'S COMMITMENT TO OUR CHILDREN'S EDUCATION.

WITHHOLDING DOLLARS FOR EDUCATION SHOULD NOT BE AN OPTION. PROVIDING ADEQUATE FUNDING FOR QUALITY EDUCATION FOR OUR CHILDREN IS A CONSTITUTIONAL MANDATE.

SAN PABLO ELEMENTARY IS A UNIQUE NEIGHBORHOOD SCHOOL THAT ALSO SERVES AS A HEALTH AND FITNESS MAGNET SCHOOL. SAN PABLO IS LOCATED IN JACKSONVILLE BEACH, ACROSS FROM FLETCHER HIGH SCHOOL AND DIRECTLY BEHIND FLETCHER MIDDLE SCHOOL.

THEIR HEALTH AND FITNESS PROGRAM, WHICH IS INCORPORATED WITHIN THE INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAM, ENCOURAGES STUDENTS TO DEVELOP LIFELONG HEALTH AND FITNESS SKILLS WHILE ALSO FOCUSES ON INTERPERSONAL SKILLS AND NUTRITION.

THE HEALTH AND FITNESS MAGNET PROGRAM PROVIDES SPECIAL ACTIVITIES THAT INCLUDE BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO THE FOLLOWING:

- SWIM AMERICA
- GOLFING
- TENNIS
- BOWLING
- TEAM-SPORT SKILLS
- WALKING CLUB
- GIRLS ON THE RUN
- ANNUAL WALK-A-THON
- ANNUAL 5K FOR PLAY AND 2.5 K RUN

THE INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAM ALSO PROVIDES A VARIETY OF EXCITING EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE WITH AN ENRICHED AND INTEGRATED CURRICULUM USING THE STANDARDS-BASED INSTRUCTION AND BEST TEACHING PRACTICES. IN ADDITION TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE REQUIRED CURRICULUM, SUPPLEMENTAL SUPPORT MATERIALS ARE USED TO ADDRESS THE NEED IN DIFFERENTIATED INSTRUCTION.

THROUGH THE DEDICATED EFFORTS OF TEACHERS AND STUDENTS, SAN PABLO EARNED A GRADE OF AN "A" FROM THE FLORIDA STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION FOR NINE-CONSECUTIVE YEARS AND IN 2005 WAS NAMED AS ONE OF THE TOP 100 SCHOOLS IN THE STATE OF FLORIDA. THIS DID NOT COME EASY. PARENTAL AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT PLAY A MAJOR ROLE IN THE SUCCESS OF SAN PABLO. EVEN THOUGH, IT IS A SMALL SCHOOL, THE COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT HAS BECOME MONUMENTAL. OVER THE YEARS, THE PTA AND SAC HAVE WORKED COOPERATIVELY TO ENSURE THAT SUCCESS CONTINUES. THIS IS WHY THEY REFER TO THIS SMALL COMMUNITY SCHOOL AS THE SAN PABLO FAMILY. ONCE YOU BECOME A PART OF THIS FAMILY, YOU IMMEDIATELY FEEL THE WARMTH, CARE, SINCERITY AND DEDICATION FROM ALL STAKEHOLDERS. SAN PABLO OPERATES USING THE "FAMILY CONCEPT" IN THAT EVERYONE IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE WELFARE OF THE STUDENTS.

A PERFECT EXAMPLE OF THIS IS THE RECENT FUNDRAISING DRIVES THAT WERE HELD TO RAISE MONEY FOR THE REPLACEMENT OF PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT THAT DECAYED AND BECAME UNSAFE FOR STUDENTS TO USE. ONCE THE WORD SPREAD OF THEIR INTENT, THEY HAD STAFF MEMBERS, PARENTS, STUDENTS, BUSINESS PARTNERS, ALUMNI, GRANDPARENTS, COMMUNITY MEMBERS, AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS THAT WERE AFFILIATED WITH FAMILY MEMBERS RESPOND TO THEIR REQUESTS. VOLUNTEERS COMMITTED THEIR TIME AND SERVICES AT THE VARIOUS FUNDRAISING EVENTS. OTHERS PROVIDED MONETARY DONATIONS TO THE CAUSE. TWO OF THEIR MOST DEDICATED BUSINESS PARTNERS, HSL-40 AT MAYPORT NAVAL BASE AND COMMUNITY FIRST CREDIT UNION HAVE PROVIDED A WEALTH OF IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS TOWARD THIS EFFORT AND OTHER WORTHWHILE EVENTS AT SAN PABLO.

FOR MANY YEARS, SAN PABLO ELEMENTARY HAS BEEN A SUCCESSFUL AND PRODUCTIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT, WHERE STUDENTS ARE VALUED, RESPECTED AND ARE ACTIVE PARTICIPANTS IN THEIR LEARNING PROCESS. PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE AND THE LOVE FOR LEARNING IS PRACTICED ON A DAILY BASIS AT SAN PABLO. SO AS WE MOVE TO ACCOMPLISH GREAT TEACHING AND LEARNING, WE REMAIN FOCUSED ON THE FUTURE TO BUILD LIFELONG LEARNERS. THIS HAS BEEN THE TRADITION, AND IT WILL CONTINUE, FOR MANY YEARS TO COME.

MS. LINDA GRAHAM, PRINCIPAL OF SAN PABLO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, IS IN OUR AUDIENCE. I WOULD LIKE TO ASK HER AND THOSE STAFF MEMBERS HERE WITH HER TONIGHT TO PLEASE STAND. THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU DO.

THIS CONCLUDES MY REPORT.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Minutes:

My key vocabulary word has, unfortunately, moved from "achievement" to "budget" so I'm telling everyone else to keep focused on academic achievement and Mr. Perrone, Mr. Ayars and I will focus on the budget. I'd like to catch the public up in case you're not able to come to one of the meetings. We did have three meetings last week and have a final one at Sandalwood High School on March 5 at 6:00 p.m. I'd like to hit a few of the key points in that presentation because at this point, it's the primary driver in terms of our being able to meet our obligation as a school district and fulfill the commitments within our Strategic Plan to have all students meeting high academic standards, eliminating the achievement gap and dramatically increasing the graduation rate.

As was mentioned earlier by Reverent Corley, within the state Constitution, there is a phrase talking about the paramount responsibility of the legislature to provide a high quality, free, public education for all students within the state. The paramount responsibility means that is the number one responsibility. We want to continue to bring this to our legislative Delegation's attention and particularly to those in key leadership positions within the House and Senate. Over the last 10 years, the split of who funds schools in Florida has dramatically shifted. In Duval County, it shifted by 11% towards local property taxes and away from the state picking up its portion of the responsibility in funding education. That shift mirrors as to what is happening state-wide. Over the last two years, we anticipate funds per student dropping by over \$600 for a total of a loss of revenue of \$75 million dollars. The lottery dollars to Duval County dropped from \$32 million dollars in 1990-91 to \$8.8 million dollars with over \$5 million dollars required to go to School Recognition. That leaves just over \$3 million dollars to spend on all other needs - compared from \$32 million to \$3 million dollars. Most of that revenue is going to higher education and much of that to the Bright Future's Program; not a bad program, however, I don't think the people of Florida were promised when they supported the lottery.

We're currently 47th in the level of tax burden if you count local and state taxes compared to income. We're 50th in the country when you compare spending on education to income. I think to say it on an income level basis is the fairest way because one of the major factors in higher income states is that they then have higher real estate prices which drives teachers' salaries which is the biggest indicator on how much it costs to run a school district. Looking at it from a spending per income is the most equitable way of looking...we're 50th out of the 50 states. If you look at cutting

district administrators, only 1/5 of the district staff are administrators. The bulk of our district staff are resource teachers, psychologists, social workers, maintenance crews, clerical, etc. Even if we were to reduce all of that staff, we would still not be able to bridge the kind of funding gaps we're looking at for this year. Unfortunately, we're going to have to reduce some services that will impact students. What we need the public to do is to contact your legislators. This is not the time to go backwards in terms of our commitment to our students.

In addition of these losses, we've had some cost increases. Our electricity has gone up 25% and diesel fuel, 15%. Our funding gap is not just revenue shortfall but it's also cost increases that we must cover. We have less flexibility over our funding. Back in 1993, 5% of our funding was specified - categorical - you must spend it in particular ways. Currently, it is 25% in 2008. We have less flexibility and fewer dollars. We expect a shortfall of approximately \$152 million dollars on a budget of over \$900 million dollars; in the ballpark of 12-14%. We do anticipate a postponement of the Class Size Reduction penalty that we would have faced this coming year by not going to the classroom level on the averages...that will help by about \$40 million dollars plus about \$15 million dollars, we anticipate, will be moved over from Capital or Operating, so we're back into the ballpark of about \$100 million dollars with an approximate \$900 million dollar budget.

We've identified a number unfunded and underfunded mandates and we're getting that information to our legislators. This would help tremendously if they were reduced because with a smaller district staff and fewer teacher resources and support, it's important that we're able to focus on academic achievement and fewer mandates that are not funded. Our Reduction Strategies - if you go online to www.duvalschools.org you'll see the proposed, prioritized reduction strategies which are still in discussion and we'll have a better picture of our funding picture in a few weeks. We're still working on what the federal Stimulus Package means. Our strategies include and we don't want to do any of the following and many people are contacting me and the Board members asking, "Why are you proposing reducing art, music and physical education, or counselors?" This is not our choice but we must have a balanced budget and we're cutting some from many different areas. Here's a sample list, and not all inclusive:

- No salary increases including step increases (need negotiation);
- Reduce district staff by an additional 10%;
- Reduce service time for art, music, physical education, media and guidance by 1/3;
- Reduce Assistant Principals by 1/4;
- Reduce transportation costs by at least 10%;
- Reduce medical benefit increases so the medical increases, hopefully, go to 0 - changing the plan:
- Reducing or eliminating supplements for athletics, music, academics, etc. at the secondary level;
- Changing our high schools and possible middle school scheduling so that the high school students would have one less period per year.

We do look at the federal Stimulus Package in terms of providing some relief. The ones we know we're going to receive are:

- \$25 million dollars additional in Title 1;

\$33 million dollars additional in IDEIA, students with disabilities;
\$713,000 for Educational Technology;
\$55 million dollars for the capacity to do free bonding; the projects are not free but the interest is free.

We're pursuing all of these and discussing how we can use that money in the most effective way. What are we asking from the public? We're asking to contact your legislators and ask for the following:

Added revenue - a one cent, time limited, sales tax across the state, targeted specifically for education and it's written to be on top of current funding for education;
All School Boards with a super majority to levy additional funds out of local millage for a short time period in order to bridge this gap;
Flexibility in current funding - textbooks and School Recognition dollars, for a short time period;
Reduce requirements (unfunded and underfunded mandates); and
Fix the Class Size Amendment so it stays at the school level rather than going to the classroom level.

We did have a great discussion with our Legislative Delegation last week and they do want to do the right thing, but the specifics are still left up in the air and so everyone must contact their legislators.

We had two very good meetings with Ms. Angela Corey from the State Attorney's Office and Sheriff Rutherford from the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office. There is a solid commitment to renew our organizational support and commitment to improve attendance which is a major factor in our students not being promoted. When students aren't promoted, they don't graduate on time. This is a leading indicator of students not doing well along with behavioral problems and poor academic performance (particularly in math and reading). I look forward to our working continuously together, re-energizing our commitment and both Ms. Corey and Sheriff Rutherford have pledged the support of their staff to make this an emphasis which I feel is very important.

I have informed the Board that we are changing our Organizational structure as a part of our funding challenge. Dr. Alvin White has done brilliant work and has energized our Community, Family and Engagement work, making that a focus, having much stronger presence in the community, recruited 1,500 mentors, recruited more businesses and faith-based partners with our challenged schools. Dr. White said he will be leaving June 30 and I want to personally thank him for all of his efforts. I personally appreciate his support, commitment to this district of over 40 years. It was very important to me when he said "yes" and came back into this role. He's done great work and we'll thank him, again, when he's leaving. This now will fall to Mrs. Willis and Mr. Ayars to split up his division and we'll have two divisions instead of three.

We had a great response from our Magnet Mania. Congratulations to Dr. Sally Hague and her staff for doing such fine work. As usually, we had a gang-buster amount of applicants. We have over 50 magnet programs and we included our Career Academies, charter schools, etc. included in our Choice Operation...we're really

marketing "Choice" to our students. I want to congratulate that staff for a job well done!

We did receive this past week formal notice that used to be called the Southern Association for Colleges and Schools (SACS), our accreditation agency, that we were approved without reservation. Dr. White will explain the four categories we could have been and we are in the highest category.

Dr. White said back on October 5, 2008, about 35 educators from throughout the United States visited our school district for 4 days. They visited 1/3 of our schools, talked and interviewed over 1,300 stakeholders; looked at our schools in light of seven standards. Over 23,000 schools and 50 million students are evaluated by that same set of standards. They made their recommendation through the Regional Office in Decatur, Georgia. Then they made their recommendations to the Board of Commissioners and we are affirmed the decision of both the Quality Assurance Review Team who was here in October, as well as the Regional Team in Decatur, Georgia. They were impressed with the programs at Chets Creek Elementary School, they're asking the principal at Chets Creek to make a formal presentation in Chicago in the month of March. Having said that, they could have advised us, accreditation advise, accreditation warning, probation or just plain accreditation, but I'm very happy to report that due to all of the efforts of the stakeholders in Jacksonville and through the Board, they gave us the highest recommendation possible - Accreditation Without Reservation. We'll receive that formally in March when Mr. Lawrence Dennis and the principal of Chets Creek will receive that for us.

Speakers:

Ms. Betty Burney, Board Member
Mr. Ed Pratt-Dannals, Superintendent of Schools
Mr. W. C. Gentry, Board Member

Reports

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

Minutes:

Mr. Paul Soares, Chief Officer, Operations Support, made a few comments on the ACE Transportation process which we're coming into the final phase this month of March. The overall mission for ACE Transportation was to reduce transportation costs with the least impact on our schools and students. We had a 10% reduction in costs which is approximately \$4.8 million dollars.

On the participation, we worked through our working groups to come up with the draft scenarios which had over 40 members from the community, PTAs, SACs, DAC, MAC, district staff plus two community meetings. At the community meetings, we had very good attendance and generated over 400 written survey replies from those meetings

and additional online surveys. The surveys really constituted direct feedback on our draft scenarios. Going forward, our plan is to brief the draft scenarios to the Superintendent tomorrow, and whichever scenarios obtain tentative approval would merge as the Superintendent's recommendations at that time. Then looking ahead to briefing the Board at the workshop on March 10. Depending upon what guidance received from the Board, we would seek final approval for up to three policy revisions, including a Magnet Policy 5.46 and policies 8.3 and 8.32 which deal with student transportation. That would occur at the April 7 Board meeting. These are the revisions that would be needed to implement ACE Transportation recommendations.

It's important to know that in this year's Magnet catalog, we clearly stated that cutbacks were possible in transportation that is taking effect this August, 2009.

The actual draft scenarios and additional information on posted on the DCPS website under ACE then under Transportation, so this information is available. Up until this past Wednesday, you could do an online survey. We've had good access to the public for this process.

I'd like to provide a construction update for the current ongoing projects:

We have Bartram Springs K-5 facility which is over 70% complete and it has site work, roads and the parking area complete and the building work is going very well with the wings closing with the windows, painting, lights and air conditioning, the common area (cafeteria and administration area) is having the roofs poured which is a pretty good effort with this project moving forward.

The K-8 on 103rd Street and Connie Jean is over 80% complete, floor finishing and the classrooms are near completion, landscaping and fencing with an August, 2009 opening.

AAA High School is targeted for an August, 2010 opening and most of the site work has been completed, parking lots, access road ways, fields grading and that type of work complete; roadway construction is underway and building completion for the primary Buildings 1 and 2, energy plant and state and field house are all going well. So, overall, these construction projects are moving along well on track towards completion.

Speakers:

Mr. Stan Jordan, Board Member
Mr. Paul Soares, Chief Officer, Operations Support
Mr. W. C. Gentry, Board Member
Mr. Doug Ayars, Chief Operating Officer
Mr. Tommy Hazouri, Board Chairman

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

Minutes:

Ms. Willis, Deputy Superintendent, said tonight, we'd like to share some of our schools' progress on the district's benchmark assessments. The district's benchmarks in reading, math and science were conducted in September and December and as a result, the schools were able to look at progress made in these areas. Ms. LeRoy will give an update on our schools' progress from one benchmark period to the next and some of the strategies and supports that were put in place as any gap evidenced areas were evident. So, following Ms. LeRoy, Ms. Myrna Amos will give a brief report on the new Title I initiatives for Parent Involvement Success By Design.

The district Benchmark Assessments in Reading, Mathematics, and Science were administered in September and again in December. The District Benchmark Assessments are intended to satisfy the FLDOE mandate for monitoring the progress of students toward mastery of the Florida Sunshine State Standards. The assessments consist entirely of multiple-choice questions and are designed to mirror the actual FCAT assessments in Reading, Mathematics, and Science. The correlations for our benchmark assessments vary from grade level to grade level in reading and math, but they generally fall within the .7 to .8 range. Also, since this is the first time we have given science benchmarks, the correlations have not yet been established, but will be calculated this summer once the FCAT scores are available.

The results from the benchmarks are as follows:

All Elementary Schools

- The benchmark results in the elementary grades give us reason to anticipate higher scores across the district in both reading and mathematics.
- Demonstrated growth in reading in 100% of our elementary schools.
- Demonstrated growth in mathematics in 100% of our elementary schools.
- Demonstrated growth in science in all but two of our elementary schools.

All Middle Schools

- The benchmark results in the middle schools are mixed.
- Although almost all middle schools demonstrated growth in reading, mathematics, and science, the level of improvement has not been as great as we would have liked in reading.

All High Schools

- Sixteen (80%) of our high schools demonstrated significant growth in reading from September to December.
- Eighteen (90%) of our high schools demonstrated significant growth in mathematics from September to December.
- Although fifteen (75%) of our high schools demonstrated growth in science, the performance was not at a level that makes us optimistic that we will see the kind of improvement on the Science FCAT that we would like to see.

Turnaround Schools

- All of the Turnaround elementary schools showed growth between September and

December Benchmarks at all grades in reading, math, and the grade 5 science, with the exception of one school in science.

- Five Turnaround middle schools made gains in all subjects, at all grades. Two Turnaround schools made gains in Reading, however, not across all grades in math or in grade 8 science.
- Six Turnaround high schools made gains in all subjects and in all grades; however, six high schools did not make gains across all grades.

In cases where students at Turnaround schools lost ground between the first and second administration of the Benchmark, a content-specific district team worked with those schools individually.

Improving student learning requires a systematic approach that reaches into every classroom and impacts every student. Academic Services staff in collaboration with Schultz and the Strategic Turnaround and Restructuring Schools (STARS) support team has worked extensively with administrators, coaches and teachers to ensure they fully understand the importance of this data to inform classroom practice by teaching them how to read and analyze the data and develop targeted strategies for intervention.

This first thing that we support our teachers with is to look for patterns in the data. They disaggregate the data by subgroup and identify which students within a specified classroom are not making sufficient gains in Reading, Math and/or Science. It is important for teachers to drill down to specific areas within each benchmark. Next they need to compare what they are seeing through the formatives that have been given throughout the school year to the benchmark data to look for similarities across the content to help target gaps in proficiency. Once these needs have been identified we work with them to develop an action plan for specific students or groups of students to improve student learning and ultimately achievement.

The following are examples of recommended interventions that have been suggested to schools for Reading, Math and Science:

- Continue instruction on the District Learning Schedule so that no benchmarks go untaught.
- Continue to teach learning strategies designed to answer the different types of questions related to a piece of text.
- Continue working with the students whose scores are clustered around cut levels for the FCAT and specifically retake students at the high school level.
- Encourage parents and teachers to actively use the DCPS' new FCAT website for support.
- Continue working with students in scoring anchor and qualifying papers to help them understand the short and extended response items and rubrics.
- Continue to provide safety nets such as Saturday School, Small Group Remediation, and Team – Up.
- Continue to use technology resources such as Compass Odyssey, FCAT Explorer, Riverdeep and Gizmos.
- Continue to use the FCAT Item Specifications & Released Tests to find Problems of the Day aligned to student needs.
- Continue to provide support for students based on identified needs evident in data such as intensive small group work, pull-out programs, focus lessons, using available technology tools, and before or after school tutoring.
- Continue to emphasize the use of academic vocabulary in context during lessons.
- Continue to provide rich science focus lessons in middle and high schools to

ensure deep conceptual understanding of the content.

Myrna Amos, Executive Director, School Programs K-8:

Title I "Success by Design" Parent Involvement Initiative (2 minutes)

The District's Title I grant for 2008 – 2009 laid the foundation for a new parent involvement initiative to further ensure district and schools compliance with Section 1118; the parent involvement section of No Child Left Behind. This new initiative was coined the "Success by Design" Parent Involvement Initiative with the goal to deliberately provide schools a parent involvement program that helps parents with helping their children to achieve at our most high need schools.

In November 2008, the board approved a partnership agreement between the University of North Florida , Florida Institute of Education and the district to conduct a needs assessment and design a district model Parent Involvement Center which would be launched at numerous Title I schools this year. The goals of the Success by Design Title I Parent Involvement Centers are to:

- Build school-family connections
- Improve the transition from prekindergarten to kindergarten
- Empower families to support their children's academic growth
- Support social-emotional development and
- Foster healthy behaviors

The Success by Design Parent Inv Centers operates with a support system that reaches beyond the school building into the school community. This support system for each school is a Neighborhood Learning Network which resembles the well researched and successful Chicago Parent-Child Centers, and the Harlem Children's Zone. Each Title I Parent Involvement Center is led by a parent liaison supported by a parent involvement specialist team in the field. The Success by Design Parent Inv Centers have established partnerships with their neighborhood public library as well as community and recreation centers. The director of the Jacksonville public Library and the Program Manager for Recreation and Community Programming have committed as partners with the Neighborhood Learning Network by integrating programs to best meet the academic and social needs for students and families. Each center will also be linked to the district's Full-Service Center high schools. The Success by Design Parent Involvement Centers will position parents as a key stakeholder and active participants in the successful education of their child.

-
The Success by Design Parent Involvement Centers are:

1. S. P. Livingston Elementary
2. Eugene Butler Middle School
3. Pinedale Elementary
4. Paxon Middle
5. Lake Forest Elementary
6. Northwestern Middle

7. Sallye B. Mathis Elementary
8. Rutledge Pearson Elementary
9. Matthew Gilbert Middle
10. Woodland Acres Elementary
11. Spring Park Elementary

Speakers:

- Ms. Brenda Priestly Jackson, Vice Chairman
- Ms. Betty Burney, Board Member
- Mr. Ed Pratt-Dannals, Superintendent of Schools
- Ms. Nancy Broner, Board Member
- Mr. Stan Jordan, Board Member
- Mr. W. C. Gentry, Board Member

Approval of Agenda

[APPROVAL OF THE MARCH 3, 2009, AGENDA](#)

Motions:

That the Duval County School Board approve the March 3, 2009, Agenda as submitted on February 24, 2009, with the changes listed in the agenda item. - PASS

Vote Results

Motion: Nancy Broner

Second: Victoria Drake

- Nancy Broner - Aye
- Betty Burney - Aye
- Victoria Drake - Aye
- William Gentry - Aye
- Thomas Hazouri - Aye
- Stan Jordan - Aye
- Brenda Priestly jackson - Aye

Approval of Minutes

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes:

That the Duval County School Board approve the following Minutes:

- December 9, 2008- Board Workshop
- January 5, 2009 - Board Workshop
- January 13, 2009 - Board Workshop
- January 22, 2009 - Board Workshop
- February 3, 2009 - Regular Board Meeting
- February 10, 2009 - Special Meeting - Student Expulsion Hearing
- February 10, 2009 - Board Workshop
- February 17, 2009 - Board Workshop

Motions:

That the Duval County School Board approve the Minutes for the Meetings listed in the Agenda Item. December 9, 2008 - Workshop
January 5, 2009 - Workshop January 13, 2009 - Workshop - PASS
Workshop January 22, 2009 - Workshop
February 3, 2009 - Regular February 10, 2009 - Special - Student Expulsion
February 10, 2009 - Workshop
February 17, 2009 - Workshop

Vote Results

Motion: Nancy Broner

Second: Victoria Drake

| | |
|----------------|-------|
| Nancy Broner | - Aye |
| Betty Burney | - Aye |
| Victoria Drake | - Aye |
| William Gentry | - Aye |
| Thomas Hazouri | - Aye |

| | |
|-------------------------|-------|
| Stan Jordan | - Aye |
| Brenda Priestly Jackson | - Aye |

Approval of Consent Agenda

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Minutes:

The Superintendent announced that Michelle Floyd-Hatcher has been approved to move from West Jacksonville Elementary School to the new K-8 on Connie Jean Road and 103rd Street; and Judd Strickland moving from S.A. Hull Elementary School to the new K-5 at Bartram Springs, as principals. I'd like to say that both of their prior schools were in Ms. Burney's area and we promise to find excellent replacements for those two schools because they are both "high needs" schools and looking at people's long term careers, sometimes it's good to have a variety. We are very excited about these moves and I know their faculties and parents will deeply miss them because they have both done a superior job in their current schools and we wish them well in their new schools.

Ms. Burney said she would be remiss if she didn't say something about both of these principals who have served District 5 exceptionally well. There would be times when I called Mr. Strickland and he would say, "Ms. Burney, I have to call you back...I'm tutoring the kids." He would tutor those kids in the afternoon and he gave 1,000% to the students at S.A. Hull Elementary and they are the better for it. The parents and students love you and only because I know you have to go, it is time for you to test your wings and we will hold the Superintendent's feet to the fire to make sure he finds a replacement for you. Thank you so much for all you have done for the students at S. A. Hull.

In addition to that, West Jax Elementary...Dr. Floyd-Hatcher came in and worked like a champ. She made sure that the expectations were extremely high and that the teachers were going to meet those expectations and changed the entire culture of that school. I will be eternally grateful for all that you've done. When I sat with you and your group when we watched the inauguration of the President, and I saw the level that those young people had reached, I knew that it was because of your true leadership.

So, Mr. Jordan and whomever else is getting them in them in your district, you're getting two jewels. Thank you so much for all that you have done for the students in School Board District 5.

The Chairman said the districts now will be in Ms. Drake's district and to mine. We're looking forward working with you and have heard nothing but great things about you. Every school has their own needs, as you know, and we're looking forward to working with you. New schools are exciting for both of you and they are big challenges, as

well, as we welcome you to the new schools.

Motions:

- PASS

Vote Results

Motion: Nancy Broner

Second: Brenda Priestly Jackson

Nancy Broner - Aye

Betty Burney - Aye

Victoria Drake - Aye

William Gentry - Aye

Thomas Hazouri - Aye

Stan Jordan - Aye

Brenda Priestly Jackson - Aye

Consent Agenda

Board Members

[1. RESOLUTION OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF DUVAL COUNTY, FLORIDA, INDICATING ITS INTENT TO SEEK EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION OF LOCAL FUNDING TO DUVAL COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS](#)

Attachment: [FUNDING RESOLUTION.pdf](#)

Minutes:

Ms. Priestly Jackson said she wanted to show her support for this item and I want to thank Board Member Gentry for working with Ms. Chastain on getting us some good language. It is so nice to have a fellow barrister on the Board, but I also want the public to be well aware that when there are new voices infused in our process which Mr. Gentry and Mr. Jordan bring, it reminds us of things that we should have probably done awhile ago. So, now we decide to pursue. I just want to thank them and show our support...no more, no less.

Ms. Burney said she, too, pulled the item to show support and, Mr. Superintendent, if you could share with the public how much the district pays for utilities and things of that nature so they can understand what good stewards we have been working with the city.

Superintendent said we spend about \$18 million dollars a year in our power bill. Our costs have gone up just because of the change of the fees - \$600,000 have been added to our bill this past year for additional fees. A few other points of information that we're often asked, "How much would be generated if the utility were privately owned, which is the case is most school districts within Florida?" We would receive about \$14 million dollars in revenue with some of that being shared with the state through the Required Local Effort, but we would receive almost \$4 million in direct funds to the district. Again, if that were a private utility like most school districts.

Ms. Burney said she, too, would like to thank Board Member Gentry for working on this and also Board Member Jordan for the institutional knowledge that he brought to this during our retreat. So, thank you.

Mr. Jordan said as we try to explain this contentious issue which is going to be very interesting to see how this is handled, I think it's for the public to understand that if the JEA were a private facility, that they would pay us and the property tax alone, somewhere between \$12-14 million dollars a year. Because they are exempt, we don't benefit from that, but they do pay the City of Jacksonville about \$98 million dollars a year as part of fees and franchise. So, I think this is really going to be a contest of establishing equity and, unfortunately, it will probably be a contest. I wish it were not. I wish we could state our equity claim and the laws of logic would apply and we could all of a sudden be granted this recognition that the district deserves. I think it's an easy issue to debate. I would certainly challenge it if someone would like to set up a forum, but I think it's important that the public understand that we have an equity issue and our main word is our equity position and we're not getting any funds. Years ago, the federal government, because of Naval Jax, Mayport and the other federal entities in our community, they used to have what they call the Federal Impact Funds where they gave you a little supplement because the federal government did not pay a property tax. I think the same principle applies here in this issue with the JEA. The JEA and what it is not...it is not a request by the Board that JEA increase our rates or increase their fees so that School Boards can participate. That's not what this Board is doing. The Board is simply staking a claim on the existing allocation from JEA to the City of Jacksonville...the \$98 million their contributing...that's all we're doing; that's all we're asking. I think we could expect a very interesting and high degree of support from the City Council members. I don't know if the Mayor's administration shares that same philanthropic decision, but we'll find out. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for the opportunity to make these comments.

Mr. Gentry said Mr. Jordan spoke about this at the retreat as an equity issue and I think that's the right approach and that's the approach the Board is

taking is in fairness of this \$98 million dollars that the city is generating from the JEA, that the School Board should be receiving some proceeds and it would be good to start working into that. On the flip side of it is the fact that these franchise fees and other fees the JEA has determined to tax the citizens of this community under the name of a "fee", are in fact, taxes and we are, in fact, tax exempt. The way they set the arrangement with JEA is they charge millage on the electric rate and I think it's 5. something mills; they charge 2.9 mills on water...it is a tax and we should not be taxed; a constitutional body should not be taxed. So, we are, have been for many years effectively taxed by the city through JEA. So, rather than going down that road and I think the right approach is the approach Mr. Jordan suggested, retreat as an equitable issue and let's not get into a controversy about taxes or that sort of thing, but let's do the fair thing and, hopefully, the city will respond appropriately. I also want to say I appreciate Mr. Thomas Thomas who has done a great job of looking into the JEA situation and has provided us with a lot of great information to not only us but other institutions in this community. I think, Mr. Superintendent, to see if we could hire him on a small contingency fee to see if he could go through our bill and find some places to save some money. He's done a great public service for this community.

The Chairman said this issue has been around a long time. Mr. Jordan raised it initially when he first got on the Board, again, and this would have been a one page resolution. Mr. Gentry did a great job. The barristers put their imprint on it but it is very detailed...it's excellent. We know what's out there. I'm a great believer in consolidation and we're a part of the consolidated government. This is not apples and oranges...it's about apples only. We're looking at the equity of it and there are a number of issues that are very intricate in this and you'll see it in the Resolution that has been proposed. We can sit down and begin a serious conversation...the president of the Council, JEA Chairman and the Executive Director, the Mayor and his staff and hammer out a long term plan. We're all have difficulties with our budgets and everyone wants a piece of the pie because of this. That's not the real reason; it's about equity and an investment in our children and that's what we're trying to do. There's a lot of shortcomings in regards to the dollars that we don't receive. Well, it goes up \$2 1/2 million. In addition to the \$98 million is inclusive of all the other fees that's been mentioned and the formula that they visit every five years which general even more dollars. When I was Mayor, it was \$44 million and it's going to get bigger. What I'd like to see us do and all of us to participate and it will build over the years and that will be significance to know there's a certain amount of dollars that we're going to be getting. Many citizens are being double taxed. I hope it will be amicable where there's a lot of reasoning as it's a new era for us and, hopefully, we won't have to make new laws to make a difference or change the Charter but to come forward with a plan that will be for the future and the investment for our children.

Mr. Jordan said when I came on the Board in 1984, I was the youngest

member. Now, here I sit tonight as the oldest member of this Board. I'd like to say a word to the City Council members and the City Administration...the Constitution endows the free system of public education which is in our Constitution, State of Florida. These are not the School Board's children...these are our children in this community and I hope that they will look at it in that light. These are our children. Thank you.

Human Resource Services - Staffing

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

Attachment: [Agenda_03-03-09_TRANS.pdf](#)

Human Resource Services - Labor Relations

[1. MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS](#)

Attachment: [HRS_attach_03-03-09_min_qual.pdf](#)

Administration and Business Services - Budget and Financial

[1. ADOPTION OF BUDGET RESOLUTIONS](#)

Attachment: [General Fund Resolution March 3.pdf](#)

Attachment: [Food Service Resolution March 3.pdf](#)

Attachment: [Spec Revenue Other Resolution March 3.pdf](#)

Attachment: [Capital Projects Resolution March 3.pdf](#)

Minutes:

Ms. Priestly Jackson said she had an opportunity to get an email from Mr. Ayars and what I was hoping for that he will allow Mr. Perrone to share with the public, explain the budgetary allocation process and how these deductions were anticipated and already included in each functions and if there's an impact to students, if any, at this time.

Mr. Michael Perrone, Budget Director, said last year, we knew that this year was going to be a tough year so we started centrally managing funds and freezing positions in the hope that we roll forward more money than we had in the past, which we did. Secondly, the Board in adopting the budget, adopted a fund balance which appropriated more fund balance than we had in the past. So, those two things together had us planning very well for what we knew was coming. Matter of fact, after the legislation ended, it was only about a week after, they told us to hold back 2%. There was no need to make any changes this year because that money was set aside. Unfortunately, we didn't receive that funding which we could have done some other things with but we were not prepared for that.

Ms. Priestly Jackson said this is an evolving process and I'm very appreciative to you and your staff for giving us more detailed budget information. We might want to add information to the Budget Resolutions - just an explanation like that so that members of the public who like to pull the document.

Mr. Gentry said as a new Board member, it's very clear now, particularly as we look around at the rest of the state, what a great job this Board has done and this administration has done in terms of fiscal management over the last several years. There are other school districts who are literally on the verge of bankruptcy and who are firing teachers and those things aren't happening here because this Board planned ahead and is able to continue to deliver services this year and we have a tough year next year. If they compare Duval County fiscal position with virtually every other county in the state, we are in excellent position and it is due to the stewardship of this Board and I just wanted to say that out loud and I'm very proud to be part of this group. You've done a super job.

Operations - Information Technology

~~1. RETROFIT FOR TECHNOLOGY: CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT AWARD- FISHWEIR NO. 20, PALM AVENUE NO. 170, HYDE GROVE NO. 214, JACKSONVILLE HEIGHTS NO. 229 - WITHDRAWN~~

~~Attachment: B and C March Retrofit Awards Westside Updated.pdf~~

~~Attachment: Award Letters Westside Schools March 09.pdf~~

[2. 2009 TECHNOLOGY RETROFITS PHASE III GROUP C: SAN MATEO NO. 218, PINE ESTATES NO. 250, ANDREW ROBINSON NO. 262](#)

Attachment: [B and C March Phase3 Updated.pdf](#)

[3. AMENDED COMCAST CONTRACT](#)

Operations - Real Estate, Planning and Programming

[1. DEDICATION OF SEWER LIFT STATION AND UTILITY LINES TO JEA AT NEW HIGH SCHOOL "AAA" NO. 268](#)

[2. GRANT TWO DRAINAGE EASEMENTS AND A TEMPORARY CONSTRUCTION EASEMENT TO THE CITY OF JACKSONVILLE AT VENETIA ES NO. 68](#)

Attachment: [XX-ATT-DCSB-CONVEYANCE-VEN.pdf](#)

Attachment: [XX-ATT-068-ESMNT-AERIAL-AND-BOUNDARY.pdf](#)

Attachment: [XX-ATT-CLOSING-STMNT-VEN.DOC.pdf](#)

3. AMEND THE 08/09-12/13 LONG RANGE FACILITIES CAPITAL PLAN

Attachment: [XX-ATT-AMENDED-5-YR-PLAN-Closed-Projects.XLS.pdf](#)

Attachment: [XX-ATT-Amended-2008-2009-Capital-Plan-Feb17-2009WS.XLS.pdf](#)

Attachment: [XX-Amended-5-YR-PLAN-Support-Pg.pdf](#)

Attachment: [B-C-Amended 5-Yr-Plan.DOC.pdf](#)

Operations - Facilities Project Design, Construction and Maintenance

1. NEW SOUTHSIDE K-8 NO. 151 (WITHIN HIGH SCHOOL AAA SITE ON R. G. SKINNER PARKWAY): APPROVE AGREEMENT WITH JSA ARCHITECTS, INTERIORS AND PLANNERS - RE-USE OF THE JSA 103RD K-8 CONTRACT DOCUMENTS, DCSB PROJECT C-91070

Attachment: [B-C-C91070 \(Re-Use of Plans\).doc.pdf](#)

Minutes:

Ms. Priestly Jackson wanted to take an opportunity for staff to share where the K-8's are located in the district...those that we currently have and where the K-8's are that we're proposing to build. Since we had a conversation recently and talked about grade configuration in middle schools and to transition that there was a mechanism in our system in place. In the past, when the Board discussed the item of K-8's, it was contemplated a regional concept to this K-8 idea. So, those parents who may have not wanted to deal with the transition, there would be an opportunity in your community or neighborhood to do that.

Mr. Doug Ayars, Chief Operating Officer, said we currently have three operating K-8's: John E. Ford, North Shore; Kernan. Those three schools right now carry an enrollment of about 3,700 students total which is elementary and middle school. We're constructing the fourth on 103rd Street and Connie Jean Road which will open in August, 2009 and we'll have a capacity of 1,200-1,400 students. There is in the Five-Year Plan and funded next year, a K-8 which will be located adjacent to the high school which is being constructed which is probably a couple of years away. So, when you look at where these are, we have some on the east and west of I-95 and we have some north and south of the river. We have a good dispersiveness once we construct them.

Ms. Jackson asked if there was any geographic area that would not be served?

Mr. Ayars said, regionally, I don't think so. Right now we have a pretty good dispersion when you look at the county and the district.

Ms. Jackson said many parents would choose the option of the K-8 and as we look at expanding choice within our district and I feel wonderful

opportunities to expand towards it, I see some folk who may have before chosen private school, may come back to us based on where we are right now. I think it is a wonderful opportunity to increase our enrollment but also broaden our options of choice to include K-8's.

[2. DW ROOF REPLACEMENT AT JOHN LOVE ES, SOUTHSIDE ESTATES ES, RAMONA BLVD. ES, & TERRY PARKER HS: PHASE III \(CONSTRUCTION\) DESIGN DOCUMENTS APPROVAL, DCSB PROJECT NO. M-84470, STAGE I](#)

Attachment: [B-C-M-84470.DOC.pdf](#)

[3. REPLACE WATER SOURCE HEAT PUMPS AT ALIMACANI ES AND MANDARIN OAKS ES: CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT AWARD, DCSB PROJECT NO. M-84500](#)

Attachment: [B-C-M-84500.DOC.pdf](#)

Attachment: [xx-Bid-Tab-Heat Pumps ITB M-84500.pdf](#)

[4. 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](#)

[5. PERIODIC REPORT OF SUBSTANTIALLY COMPLETE CONTRACTS AND CERTIFICATES OF FINAL INSPECTION ON VARIOUS MAJOR MAINTENANCE PROJECTS VALUED UNDER \\$1,000,000 AT VARIOUS SCHOOLS](#)

Attachment: [B-C-SC-CFI-FEB09.doc.pdf](#)

Attachment: [XX-1ATT-SC-CFI-FEB09.DOC.pdf](#)

[6. SECURITY SYSTEM UPGRADES AT VARIOUS FACILITIES: S. P. LIVINGSTON ES NO. 149 & ARLINGTON HEIGHTS ES NO. 240 CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT AWARD, DCSB PROJECT NO. M-85360](#)

Attachment: [B-C-6-M-85360.doc.pdf](#)

Attachment: [xx-Bid-Tab-SecuritySystems ITB M-85360.pdf](#)

Operations - Purchasing and Logistics

[1.SURPLUS PROPERTY RETIREMENT REPORT](#)

Attachment: [07MARCH.09.pdf](#)

Attachment: [March 09Woods.pdf](#)

Attachment: [04MARCH09.pdf](#)

Attachment: [xx-UPDATED-ROMAR09.pdf](#)

Attachment: [05MARCH09.pdf](#)

Attachment: [06MARCH09.pdf](#)

Attachment: [AGENDA step BENEFITS AND CHALLENGES FORM1.pdf](#)

2. REPLACEMENT ITEM: PROPERTY INSURANCE RENEWAL

Attachment: [xx- Property-Ins-Confirmed-Providers-022509-150M.pdf](#)

3. WORKERS' COMPENSATION SETTLEMENT - BETTY MONROE

Attachment: [XX-ATT-SPREADSHEET-Betty Monroe.XLS.pdf](#)

Attachment: [XX-ATT-MMO-Betty Monroe.DOC.pdf](#)

Academic Services

1. EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (EMS) MATCHING GRANT PROGRAM PROPOSAL

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

Minutes:

Chairman Hazouri said this is an excellent grant totally near \$100,000 and we need to get some matching money. The Jacksonville Heart Association, the local chapter, whose president is Nelson Cuba from the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office, is very active in the program. They had a Heart Ball a few weeks ago and I believe they raised approximately \$80,000 and they have committed about \$25,000 to the district to go along with this grant and I wanted to publicly, on behalf of the Board, thank Nelson and the staff at the Jacksonville Heart Association for their contribution and, hopefully, this grant will come through. I spoke with Nelson today and wanted to make sure we're on target and we are. I wish we had some representatives at the Heart Ball which was February 14 but he knew our heart was there and we very much appreciate all they are doing. Hopefully, we'll have a nice presentation from them in the near future.

2. SHELTERED INSTRUCTION OBSERVATION PROTOCOL (SIOP) TRAINING FOR TEACHERS OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS (ELLs)

Attachment: [Agenda Attachment -SIOP List of Schools to be invited to participate.pdf](#)

Attachment: [Benefits and Challenges SIOP Training.pdf](#)

3. HIGH SCHOOL SCHEDULING CONFIGURATION FOR 2009-2010 - WITHDRAWN

Attachment: [Benefits and Challenges H.S. Scheduling Configuration.pdf](#)

Attachment: [Agenda Attachment - HS Schedule Recommendation.pdf](#)

Discussion

Human Resource Services - Professional Standards

[2. 2009-2011 MERIT AWARD PROGRAM \(MAP\)](#)

Attachment: [MAP plan 09-10.pdf](#)

Minutes: (No discussion)

Motions:

That the Duval County School Board approve the attached Merit Award Program (MAP) plan for 2009-2011 pursuant to Sections 1012.225 and 1012.34, Florida Statutes, contingent upon MAP funding from the State. - PASS

Vote Results

Motion: Nancy Broner

Second: Victoria Drake

| | |
|-------------------------|-------|
| Nancy Broner | - Aye |
| Betty Burney | - Aye |
| Victoria Drake | - Aye |
| William Gentry | - Aye |
| Thomas Hazouri | - Aye |
| Stan Jordan | - Aye |
| Brenda Priestly jackson | - Nay |

Academic Services

[4. PUBLIC HEARING ON RECOMMENDED MODIFICATIONS TO THE 2008-2009 STUDENT PROGRESSION PLAN](#)

Attachment: [Benefits and Challenges Student Progression Plan Modifications.pdf](#)

Attachment: [3yearGraduationchart\(2-26-09\).pdf](#)

Minutes:

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

Modifications to the 2008-2009 Student Progression Plan

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.

Speakers:

Ms. Brenda Priestly Jackson, Vice Chairman
Ms. Betty Burney, Board Member
Mr. Ed Pratt-Dannals, Superintendent of Schools
Ms. Patricia Willis, Deputy Superintendent
Ms. Nancy Broner, Board Member
Mr. W. C. Gentry, Board Member

Board Member Travel

[BOARD MEMBERS TRAVEL](#)

Minutes:

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

2009 Legislative Session - Tallahassee, FL - Broner, Burney, Drake, Gentry, Hazouri, Jordan and Priestly Jackson

Motions:

That the Duval County School Board approve the following Board Members Travel: 2009 Legislative Session - Tallahassee, FL - Broner, Burney, Drake, Gentry, Hazouri, Jordan, Priestly Jackson - PASS

Vote Results

Motion: Nancy Broner

Second: Victoria Drake

Thomas Hazouri - Aye

Stan Jordan - Aye

Brenda Priestly Jackson - Aye

Nancy Broner - Aye

Betty Burney - Aye

| | |
|----------------|-------|
| Victoria Drake | - Aye |
| William Gentry | - Aye |

Superintendent's Travel

[SUPERINTENDENT'S TRAVEL](#)

Minutes:

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

2009 Legislative Session - Tallahassee, FL

March 25-26, 2009 - Florida Association of District School Superintendents (FADSS) 2009 Spring Leadership Conference - Tallahassee, FL

Motions:

That the Duval County School Board approve the following travel for the Superintendent:
 2009 Legislative Session - Tallahassee, FL March 25-26, 2009 - Florida Association of District School Superintendent's (FADSS) 2009 Spring Leadership Conference - PASS

Vote Results

Motion: Nancy Broner

Second: Brenda Priestly jackson

| | |
|----------------|-------|
| Nancy Broner | - Aye |
| Betty Burney | - Aye |
| Victoria Drake | - Aye |
| William Gentry | - Aye |
| Thomas Hazouri | - Aye |
| Stan Jordan | - Aye |

For The Record

[FOR THE RECORD](#)

Minutes:

Ms. Brenda Priestly Jackson commended the Brookview Elementary community. I participated in a Living Museum on February 20, 2009 with the principal, Ms. Shana Adams. I asked the little people what they enjoyed the most during the day and all of them overwhelming said, "Coach!" That would be Patrick Mercer who is the Teacher of the Year and he is a physical education teacher there. I asked, "What else?" The children said, "Art"; and then they said, "Music"; and we can't forget "Media". I promise you...these were. It was a wonderful Living Museum and phenomenal and on their own with no prodding and I didn't give them any leading questions...that is overwhelming as to what they said. It's an awesome school in your district, Mr. Jordan, and a wonderful day. They had the former body guard for Rosa Parks and it was fantastic. They also said Math and Science; they were great!

I participated on Saturday with the Florida Education Association out at the rally at the University of Central Florida. I want to comment Terrie Brady and the members of DTU. We had 13 bus loads. There were teachers there that taught me and taught my kids and everyone else. It was awesome. We had such a powerful group and it was such a good day. It was nice to see members of various unions and leaders, Superintendents, Board members..all on the same page. This was not a partisan issue...we all want education fully funded. I think we have a more unified voice in the state of Florida as to what it takes to adequately and equitably fund public education and make it a priority. They had on green shirts and looked great!

Ms. Priestly said she appreciates the Superintendent and his staff for the community meetings. I participated in the one that Mr. Gentry and Mrs. attended at Ribault High School along with Senator Wise and Representative Mia Jones. I'll tell you the one concern I had was there were not enough parents. I don't know if folk are understanding...I appreciate the district staff and the school staff and teachers are there, but parents must come out. Mrs. Drake and I leading an initiative to try and get as many parents as we can to go on the PTA trip on March 18 to Tallahassee...we must load the buses. We will be there for two days and we must make our voices heard because they expect us to have budget talks and the education needs but they (legislators) need to see their constituents that have voted them into office.

Ms. Nancy Broner commended the Fletcher PTSA for hosting a community meeting to help inform parents about the budget crisis and to garner their support for our legislative input in Tallahassee. So, many will be attending the Rally in Tally on March 18. I appreciate their efforts.

Ms. Broner attended a very moving program at the Schultz Center on February 12 called "Powerful Stories/Gentle Voices" which was a beautiful program, very touching, moving impact on our teachers and everyone in the room. It featured Paula Coughlin, Alton Yates, and Henry Landworthen. As I sat there listening to them, I thought what amazing resources we have right here in our own community living among us who shared their experiences of suffering and justice at the hands of others, and yet, turning it into positive motivation. I really appreciate the sharing of their gentle voices.

Mr. Jordan said if you really want to know what's going on in a school district, one of the best ways to do it is to survey the teachers. I have a survey I will share with you of 250 teachers in Duval County and this is what they said, "The classes are too large; interest and discipline of the students; lack of reference materials; lack of helpful supervision; too much clerical work; teaching load too heavy; and irregular and absentees of the students." This is our county but it happened 83 years ago. I brought tonight the Columbia University Study of Duval County Schools and it's 83 years old. It's amazing and people ask me all of the time, "How's it like being back on the School Board?" I tell you and I compliment you on the hard work you've done, but if you were to leave and come back 4 years from now, you'd be amazed how similar things are. In this book, they're featuring the opening of Kirby Smith and John Gorrie High School which is ironic as we closed out John Gorrie and they were built in 1927. Mrs. Broner had expressed an interest in this and I want all of you to be my witness, I am going to trust this wonderful, little book of Duval County's Schools...Mrs. Broner, I've brought you a gift and it is so interesting. If you get a chance to look at it...the things they talk about are so similar of today. Mrs. Broner, you'll find this very interesting reading and you'll be able to identify with alot of it and I trust you will bring it back to me in the same condition I give it to you.

Tomorrow, I will be participating in a news conference at Cecil Field with the Community College. I had the honor in 1990-91 by Governor Lawton Chiles chairing the entire Task Force designing a system from preschool through the university system for the state of Florida. One of the recommendations that we made was that Community Colleges, where and when practical, should offer four year degrees. For those of you, don't give up...it took 18 years from the time we made this recommendation for it to become a reality. I will be there tomorrow to participate in that and it's an honor and I will certainly let them know I am a member of this School Board and I will try to carry the flag as high as I can. These kinds of innovations in critical revenue windows, we've got to find how to do things better and use what we have more efficiently. In this book, they commend the Duval County schools for opening up their high schools and letting people utilize the schools at night. If you would, each of you at your own interval, look at this book. You'll find it so interesting. A teacher's salary was \$900 a year.

Ms. Betty Burney said she'd like to send a "shout out" to the President - "Thank you for the Stimulus money...we're going to need it!" I think that is going to help us a great deal with regards to funding some of the holes in our budget.

Ms. Priestly Jackson and I attended a check presentation at Sallye B. Mathis that was given by Aetna to Communities in Schools. The room was filled with people who

come out and read to young children on a continuous basis and the school is doing a phenomenal job. I appreciate Communities in Schools for all they have done.

Douglas Anderson School of the Arts and Ed White High School wanted to form SOLDIERS Clubs and they have. Their SOLDIERS Club met with the Raines Club so all three schools came together. It was the most wonderful display of brotherhood that I have ever seen. There were about 100 students. To top it all off, there was a gentleman there who was a part of the Matthew Gilbert 1958 football team who could not be a part of the ceremony to get his ring and jacket because he was in Germany. So since he was in town, I invited him to come by and speak to the young men. It was absolutely wonderful because this gentleman works with the Joint Chiefs of Staff; he is in charge of personnel for Iraq, Europe and several other countries. The young men were thrilled. We were able to get him to mentor a young man and there were other men in attendance who will mentor some of the SOLDIERS. I want to thank Mr. DeWitt Robinson for putting it all together for us. It was a really good thing to have all of those young men together.

Mr. W. C. Gentry said I think one of the most fun parts of this job is getting to go to the schools and I'm trying to visit whenever I can and we're not meeting and one of the really neat things is to see what incredible things are going on in the schools and Ms. Burney, partnering your experience with reading with the little kids. At San Jose, you have these 3rd and 4th graders who are immersed in foreign language and it is absolutely amazing. In the morning, they speak all English and in the afternoon, they speak all Spanish. It's just incredible to see these kids and knowing that when they graduate from the 5th grade, they will be bilingual.

Mr. Gentry said one thing you won't find in that book, Mr. Jordan, is this which is the future of our school book problem and the nap sacks that weigh 200 pounds that kids carry around. These things are absolutely amazing and for the 1,000 books right here, earmark it, underline it, save quotes...your teacher can go on the internet and send you the lesson plan for the night. When you read a passage and don't know the definition of the word, you can look at the following page and put the cursor on it. They cost \$350.00 now but in 3-4 years, they'll probably \$100 and this is what we need to be giving every kid. Hopefully, before I get off the school district, we'll be looking at something like this....amazing technology....an electronic book. I think it's in our future.

Mr. Jordan said several years ago, the legislature passed a provision that if a who was in the Greatest Generation did not get to complete high school, that we awarded them a high school diploma and I gave the first one at Terry Parker's graduation approximately 7-10 years ago. What is the status of that because the Greatest Generation...they're passing away at 1,800 a day. Do we still do that or do you have anybody come that didn't get a chance to finish high school?

The Superintendent said, "Not to my knowledge, but we'll check into it and we would want to support that, but I don't know of anybody..I don't know if Mrs. Mann knows of anybody...she says 'no', but we'll check into it. We would certainly support that.

Mr.. Jordan said I would like for us to do something either a news release or something. If you were part of that...because alot of them went right out of

school...16-17 years old and never had the chance to finish. Could we check on that, as the Military Liaison for the School Board?

Speaker:

Mr.. Tommy Hazouri, Chairman

Adjournment

ADJOURNMENT

Minutes:

The meeting adjourned at 9:39 p.m.

Isd

Superintendent

Chairman