



Duval County Public Schools

March 5, 2013, Regular Board Meeting

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

ATTENDANCE AT THIS MEETING OF THE DUVAL COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD with Dr. Nikolai Vitti, Superintendent of Schools, Ms. Karen Chastain, Chief Officer of Legal Services, Mr. Fred "Fel" Lee, Chairman of the Board, Ms. Becki Couch, Vice Chair and Board members: Mr. Jason Fischer, Ms. Cheryl Grymes, Dr. Constance Hall, Ms. Ashley Smith Juarez and Ms. Paula D. Wright, present.

Call Meeting to Order

[CALL MEETING TO ORDER](#)

Minutes:

Douglas Anderson Chamber Orchestra:

The 20-piece orchestra with us tonight is one of our own - the Douglas Anderson School of the Arts Chamber Orchestra. Yes, they are recognized as one of the finest orchestras throughout the State of Florida.

In addition to consistently having high numbers of students make the All-State Orchestras, the orchestra has also regularly received Superior ratings at Florida Orchestra Association performance assessments.

In 2011, the DA Chamber Orchestra performed for the Florida Music Educators Association clinic Conference in Tampa.

This group was one of six string orchestras selected to perform at the Midwest International Band and Orchestra Clinic in Chicago last December.

This marked the first time a string orchestra from Florida has ever been invited to perform at the clinic in its 66-year history.

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Invocation

[INVOCATION](#)

Minutes:

Dr. Albert Byrd
Holiday Hill Baptist Church

Pledge of Allegiance

[PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE](#)

Presentations

Board Members

[1. SCHOOL RECOGNITION - DISTRICT 7 - LORETTO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ROBOTICS TEAM](#)

Minutes:

Mr. Chris Begley, principal, Loretto Elementary School, said thank you for allowing us to come tonight as the luckiest principal in Duval County. Although our school is over 100 years old, about five years ago, we decided to enhance and become a Technology Magnet. This is our eleventh year earning an "A" school; we have 1,100 students with 118 faculty and staff. If you came to our campus, you'd think you were on a college campus where we have 14 buildings plus 13 portables and four playgrounds, running track and softball field. It's a very nice atmosphere in the heart of

Mandarin. Additionally, we have a two-story library with a 30 computer student research section; two computer labs with computer teachers in each lab as our theme and magnet is technology. Every classroom has a "smart board", student response system and Moby boards to help integrate technology into the classroom.

Like the Board's Strategic Plan that you are proposing, our Loretto's Strategic Plan goal is to integrate technology into every classroom for every student every day.

Our latest bragging rite are the young men and women before you who are scurrying to set up their robotics table for you to view, tonight. We started a Robotics Team two years ago and I'd like to introduce the coach of the Robotics Team who is a third grade teacher, Ms. Gina Riley.

My name is Gina Riley, a third grade teacher and coach of the Wisdom Warriors, our Othello Robotics Team at Loretto Elementary School. We recently attended a competition in Cocoa Beach, Florida. The competition included three different sections: robot design, research and core values. The theme this year was "Senior Solutions" so all of the processes we performed had to help people as they age. Our team along with teams all over the world had to come up with ideas to help seniors as they grow older. This year with the Senior Solutions, the children are given tasks that they must complete within a certain timeframe. The students had to research some problems that people experience as they grow older and we chose to focus on hearing loss. The students created a product called the "hearing helper" and we presented our research in the form of a talk show to the judges when we were at competition. For the robot category, they had to build and program the robot you'll see shortly. Core values involved how well we worked as a team as well as working with other teams and other members in the community. Our team received an award for being the *"Rising Stars of the Region"* as they had overall exemplary performance in all three categories and we were one of the youngest teams in the competition. Many of the teams were 8th grade honors classes so for 4th and 5th graders to really put on a showing, I was very proud of them.

The Warriors would now like to show you a brief demonstration of our robot in action.

Communications

[1. UNITED WAY AWARDS](#)

Minutes:

- Our first presentation recognizes one of our community's greatest advocates – The United Way of Northeast Florida.

- Will Connie Hodges, President and CEO of United Way of Northeast Florida, and Terri Cicero, Supervisor of our Employee Wellness Department, please come forward?
- To show appreciation for their kindness, each year, the district hosts an employee-sponsored United Way fundraising campaign.
- Connie Hodges and Terri Cicero will now tell you more about the program and announce the campaign winners.

2. TEACHER OF THE YEAR FINALISTS

Minutes:

- Five Duval County teachers represent the best of the best in excellence. They are vying for the title of 2013 Florida Blue Duval County Teacher of the Year.
- Sponsored by Jacksonville Public Education Fund and the Schultz Center for Teaching & Leadership, the event will honor all the schools' Teachers of the Year throughout the district.
- The Teacher of the Year, selected from these five finalists, will be announced at the EDDY Awards on Thursday, March 14th at 7:30 p.m. at the Times-Union Center for the Performing Arts.
- Our five finalists are here with their principals. They include:
 - o Scott Cason, Mandarin High School (Principal Donna Richardson)
 - o Cameron Foley, Ramona Boulevard Elementary (Principal LaShawn Russ)
 - o Blair Nolan, First Coast High School (Principal Vincent Hall)
 - o Apryl Shackelford, Northwestern Middle (Principal Arvin Johnson)
 - o Robyn White, West Jacksonville Elementary (Principal Robert Gresham)
- These finalists competed in a rigorous process that examines their teaching philosophy and practice, and this recognition is a testament to their hard work in the classroom.
- Congratulations teachers!

4. TOP FLORIDA DISTRICT IN SCHOOL BREAKFAST PARTICIPATION

Minutes:

- If the saying “we are what we eat” is true, we’re off to a great start.
- Recently, Florida Impact and the Food Research and Action Center released a report, “A Good Start for Learning: School Breakfast Participation in Florida” for the 2011-12 school year.
- The report measures the reach of the School Breakfast Program throughout the state in each of the 67 school districts by comparing the number of low-income students eating school lunch to the number of such students eating breakfast.
- Duval County ranked 13th in the state.
- Today, we recognize several key contributors to the district’s “Breakfast in the Classroom” program:
 - o Paul Soares, Chief Officer of Operations Support
 - o Wayne Atwood, Director of Consolidated Services
 - o Diane Pain, Supervisor of Contract Compliance
 - o Joel Mee, Chartwells’ Regional Manager
 - o Eric Bankhead, Chartwells’ Operations
 - o Darryl Smith, Chartwells’ District Manager
- Our district’s “Breakfast in the Classroom” program offers breakfast in 69 schools, and has the highest breakfast participation rate among Florida’s larger school districts.
- All students in these schools are offered free breakfast. Menu items vary - cereals, sandwiches, fruit, 100% juices, and milk.
- The School Board’s support contributes to the program’s success. The Board adopted a policy recommending schools with 75% free or reduced-price certified students offer free breakfast to all students.
- Our Food Service department ensures collaboration with principals to modify the program, maximizing participation and administrative support.

[3. RIBALT GIRLS' BASKETBALL TEAM - CLASS 4A STATE CHAMPIONS](#)

Minutes:

- “Excellence” can also best describe our next honorees – the Ribault High School Lady Trojans basketball team.
- Led by Principal Edward Robinson and Coach Shelia Seymore-Pennick, the

Ribault Lady Trojans basketball team is the FHSAA Class 4A State Champions.

- The team came home with a win, 65 to 47, earning them the Class 4A basketball champions' title for the ninth time.
- The team consisted of only four returning players – Sherranda Reddick, Tiffany Harris, and twins Tierra and Sierra Shepherd – all of whom are in AP or IB courses.
- The Lady Trojans have earned another A+, finishing their undefeated season with a record of 31-0.
- Congratulations!

Comments From Audience

[COMMENTS FROM AUDIENCE](#)

Minutes:

Ms. Nancy Barnard said I am with Educational Development Services. We do private tutoring in Jacksonville. I'm here to talk about the School Board's policy regarding FAIR testing of second graders. My understanding is that this is a test used to retain second graders should they not perform adequately at a 52% level on a PRS which is a timed fluency test. Through my tutoring, I work with a lot of children who struggle with reading. Whether they've been diagnosed with dyslexia or not, they still struggle with reading and a timed fluency test is probably the worst part of their reading struggles. Many of these children can't achieve the level of comprehension because of the way a struggling reader's brain is queued, fluency is a constant struggle for them. Dyslexia or reading struggles are not a visual issue for these students...it's a brain processing issue in which the brain of a dyslexic child lights up in a different area than a brain of a child who does not have dyslexia. Therefore, there's a natural delay of progression through their brain when they're trying to read. During a timed reading test, it is against them as well as sight words which also adds to their struggles. It's hard to put phonics in play with words that don't necessarily play fair. I like the FAIR test and I think it's good but the whole purpose of the test from the Florida State University, is to direct the teachers in their diagnostics and to direct their instruction. So, instead of using it for retention, the School Board should use it as an indication of what the child needs in order to improve their reading abilities. Their intervention should be researched based, explicit, intensive and repetitive in order to help the individual child reach the goal that he needs to reach. I know there's a policy so what I'm asking is that the Board reconsider that policy this year. Duval County is the only county in Florida that retains children in second grade based on that test. That test is not a retention type of a test; it's a diagnostic and is designed to guide interventions for these children. Thank you.

Mr. Marvin Lockett spoke regarding his Notice of Termination of Employment Contract

and Immediate Suspension Without Pay as well as an Appeal Process Regarding Employment Status: Termination Date of March 6, 2013.

Mr. Edward Exson said first, I commend Dr. Vitti for his vision and commitment to the district and congratulate him in helping the Miami-Dade school district win the Broad Foundation award for college scholarships for seniors 2012. The Eli and Edythe Broad Foundation is a vast difference from the Bradley Foundation that is totally against public school education that many black leaders are smitten over, advocating and fronting for. Lynchings that took place with blacks was reprehensible. Coloring books of such images by children, to me, is less egregious, and far worse is what black leaders, politicians and preachers are doing to their people. Psychologically, children of a certain age can discern that lynching is a dastardly act and would have shown empathy for the victim. A child that emulates lynching is sending a signal of needing help. The philosopher, Friedrich Nietzsche, was said to be an angry man...I am angrier and my anger stems from the black leadership. Any black having any comprehension of the urban crisis should be as angry! The results from most black leadership for blacks are tantamount to high tech lynchings. Our mayor, being a surrogate for the benefactors, hosted Bill Cosby and paid the comedian to speak at an education summit. The comedian, by his own confession, was not a good parent and could do little more than make one laugh. Mayor Brown who has abdicated all of his constitutional powers to an unelected group, simply refused to host President Obama's visit to Jacksonville, thus denying his two sons the inspiration of seeing, personally, what they could become. With the mayor's obsession with downtown development, he abandons all areas with a big black population to just dwell in the abyss, leaving most black students unable to overcome all the obstacles placed or allowed by their black leaders. If the summit was silent on critical thinking for creating and development for black leaders, starting at the bottom changing their communities, the result would be nil. Most modern black leaders feel there is no prerequisite for leadership, *i.e.* character, vision, loyalty, qualification, courage, temperance, etc. Most think its just popularity and preachers say, "*I was called by God.*" The Black Alliance for Education funded mostly by the Bradley Foundation is devastating public school education for charter schools. Most charter schools' unwritten mission is an entrepreneur's haven, free of most educational mandates. Materialist black leaders, you that are clever, sagaciously deceitful, join us, fast advancement awaits you. Your stipends will be called "Faith Base". Pursuant to the 1965 Voting Rights Act, the powerful said "they" (blacks) can now vote, but we're going to make them vote for who we want. As a result, most black representatives are grossly ineffective. Black preachers new mantra to the old widow needing help is that "*God won't put any more on you than you can bear.*" There needs to be a Revolution not to overthrow the government but to oust all black leaders that are perpetrating a fraud on their people! I thank you!

Ms. Catherine McAvoy said I'm Executive Director of the Performance Academy. We're a performing arts education center with all of the disciplines under one roof. We have all of the arts - dancing, singing, acting, musical instruments and even martial arts. I'm here, today, as a representative of ACE - Arts for Complete Education Coalition. We support your this Board's consistent effort to provide a balanced education which includes the arts to all Duval County students. The Performance Academy is happy to support the Board's commitment to the arts education through partnerships we've made with various schools as well as non profits. We're particularly excited this month

about a partnership we have with MOSH in celebrating the cultural arts. There is Family Day on March 16. We've made an incredible movie called "The Arts Unitas" which will be playing in the planetarium. The Performance Academy has used the arts to encourage children to get back and stay in school and we've made partnerships with various charter schools. If these students are in good standing, they are allowed to come to us for two hours for arts education. We've had some art instructors, including myself, obtain our teaching certificates in order to work towards getting them credit for the classes their receiving at the schools in various disciplines. We've demonstrated the success of using the arts as an incentive through a three-week summer camp. We've done this for foster children who are at risk and we had nineteen 17 year old foster kids that came in without knowing anything about the arts and after a few weeks, they put together some fabulous performances which greatly improved their behavior. We know the arts make a difference and we appreciate the support that this Board has given arts education and we would like for you to consider, any way in the future, that the Performance Academy can work with you to bring the arts to all Duval County students. Thank you for your time.

Ms. Meagan Elsner said thank you for allowing me the time to speak, tonight. As a former elementary teacher and a mother, I wanted to address the FAIR testing. I don't feel that it's an accurate tool to base retention on in second grade. I have a second grader who is an honor roll student, gifted and is reading on level according to all Duval County standards, and all aspects of the FAIR testing except for the portion that counts in the retention portion. I don't think the FAIR testing shows an accurate portrayal of who she is as a student. Based on the FAIR testing scores, she has failed both times, previously. She has a mild reading disorder and we don't want her to be retained next year since she's ahead of where she needs to be and we don't want her to go to summer school for a problem she does not have except for this one timed area, we're choosing to home school her, now based primarily on the FAIR testing. I just want to give you a parent's perspective on how the FAIR testing is affecting people. Thank you for your time.

Comments From Parent Organizations

[COMMENTS FROM PARENT ORGANIZATIONS](#)

Minutes:

PTA Report - Gretchen Lynch, President:

Our last session of the student leadership academy is this Saturday at Wolfson High School. That morning, we will also be leading our parent advocacy sessions on Building Coalitions and Meeting with a Decision Maker. Wednesday, March 20 we will travel to Tallahassee with the students so they can experience democracy in action.

March 29 is the deadline for seniors to apply for one of our 4 college scholarships. These scholarships are funded by our local PTA units from their donations to our

scholarship fund. The applications are available through all high school guidance departments.

We have just finished up a legislative postcard campaign and will deliver our member's thoughts to our legislators the week of March 18th which is the week Florida PTA has assigned Duval.

At this time we have our communication tool ready to send legislative updates to our PTA leaders.

This time of year PTA's are beginning their transition of leadership governed by procedures in their bylaws. Local units are: electing a nominating committee, slating officers and then holding an election at a general membership meeting.

Our next General Meeting is Tuesday, March 19 at 10:00 in the Cline Auditorium.

District Advisory Council Report - Sabrina Zinamon, Vice Chair:

The District Advisory Council met Monday, February 25, 2013 @ 6 pm

-Guest for the meeting

Honorable Jason Fischer- School Board Member

Kimberly Davis – Chief of Intergovernmental Affairs & Community Relations

Dr. Lillie Granger – School Improvement, Executive Director

-Honorable Jason Fischer

He introduced basic information concerning the Strategic Plan because he knew the superintendent was sharing the same information as well.

-Superintendent Vitti

He discussed the Strategic Plan with the District Advisory Council. He helped us to understand and explained the Mission, Vision and Core Values/Goals of the Strategic Plan through hand outs and power points. He informed us of what was expected and needed from the District Advisory Council, Area Advisory Council and School Advisory Council. The Superintendent gave us some valuable information and points such as, we need to focus on the "whole child" not just "academics" but character development, behavior training, tutoring, mentoring and art just to name a few of the services.

Superintendent asked everyone to fillout the survey form attached to the handout and also to remind or ask parents and stakeholders to fill out the survey as well whenever the schools have their advisory meetings.

-Kimberly Davis, Chief of Intergovernmental Affairs and Community Relations

She informed us of the Parent Academy and what it is designed for:

-Promote student achievement

-Help parents navigate the educational system

-Help parents develop personally and professionally

1st meeting is scheduled for March 13 from 3 – 6 pm; the place will be announced at a later date.

-Dr. Lillie Granger, Executive Director of School Improvement Office

-Niki Micheau, Supervisor of School Improvement Office

-Provided handouts with the updated feeder pattern for high school

- Describe the acronyms used by the district for PTA, PTSA, SAC, and DAC
- Reviewed the big bucket item for SAC
- help develop and evaluate the School Improvement Plan
- assist in preparation of the annual school budget

The next District Advisory Council meeting will be held the third Monday, March 18, 2013 at 6 pm because we will be on Spring Break for the fourth Monday.

No Title I Report this month.

Comments From Employee Organizations

COMMENTS FROM EMPLOYEE ORGANIZATIONS

Minutes:

Ms. Terri Brady, Duval Teachers United, President, said my comments will be brief, tonight, because I feel like we've been commenting all day on issues that have been very positive and healthy for our members and students. We're in the process and have some wonderful conversations to finalize conversations about the new Coaches Academy. I find this will be stimulating, informative, sustainable and will truly enhance and raise the standards of where we need to be as far as all of our coaches throughout this county. We have had continuous collaboration on a multitude of issues that keep coming.

There is one issue and it saddens my heart - it is a Magnet Grant that was just submitted by the district and the Superintendent is aware of my concerns. He, Ms. Sonita Young, Ms. Karen Chastain and I will work through this process. This grant was just submitted that we have never read and we were asked to sign off on a support letter without reading it. Of course, I said "no" for those of you who know me. The Superintendent was very supportive of me because he would never ask me to support something that I have never read and I must make sure that I make that comment very clear. This grant is exciting but very convoluted. It will take massive amounts of working condition changes in the Collective Bargaining Agreement, massive amounts of collaboration and effort from each of you on this Board, and alot of buy in and input from our parents and community leaders from which I'm sure is the process we're going to be using.

The concern that I have and have raised in the past and will raise now is in the past, if we receive a grant of this magnitude, it's very difficult that once it gets here to negotiate those changes if they're a direct conflict with the Collective Bargaining Agreement and/or having to write new language for the Collective Bargaining Agreement. It has never been the intent of the Superintendent, Ms. Young or even Ms. Chastain to circumvent or to negate that of the Collective Bargaining Agreement and I can say that with the utmost faith and consideration in my heart. We had a past practice that major grants would not be submitted until we were able to sit down and

review them. This is one of the largest grants we have submitted in quite a while; a pretty sizable grant - the Magnet Grant.

The Superintendent said, "Twelve million dollars; the same amount three years ago."

Ms. Brady said the changes are going to be pretty drastic in some areas. I wanted to let you know that it's never my intent to say if we get the grant which I hope we do, that if we sit down and start bargaining, I don't want you to think that I'm going to say, "*No, we're not going to negotiate...*" because we are. I really wish we had been able to do it on the front end which I expressed to the Superintendent and others and we're working through this process. I know there will be a new process put in place for this in the future. I don't want us to not get the money but I do know that this grant is going to be so involved and it will take almost a year to prepare and implement it. I want to make sure that we don't lose the grant because we can't come to a resolution as to where we need to be once and if the grant has been given.

So, I felt very compelled because this is the one thing that we haven't been able to work through because of time constraints. I came over Friday afternoon after five and found out that the grant had already been submitted after several of us had been working on some kind of a letter to give all of us some comfort level and wiggle room for me. I wanted to say that in no way am I an obstructionist but I believe there's got to be greater thought and collaboration in this aspect before we submit for grants like this and changes where we need to go in some of our schools. The changes could be very positive. I know that in the future this will not happen and I know I have the commitment of the Superintendent, Ms. Young and Ms. Chastain that it won't happen, again, but I must make sure you're aware that if we're given this grant, it's going to be a very long process to work through the challenges that I think this grant is going to propose to us in working conditions for our employees and our students. So, to that, Mr. Chairman, that's all I have to say on the subject, tonight.

Dr. Vitti said I'd like to make a couple of points of clarification. Ms.. Brady, just for clarification, we received the grant awful late this year, in January. We started to work on the grant at about the same time the district notified you of the grant. I don't know if it's accurate to say that you were informed of the grant when we submitted it because you were informed of it in January and I just wanted to make that clear.

Ms. Brady said we were not informed of the grant. I was informed that I was asked to sign a letter with never receiving the grant...no, no paper telling me what the grant was about, what was the content of the grant or anything. I was asked to sign a letter of support and I can not sign a blanket letter of support that negatively affects and changes the working conditions of my employees.. So, I want to make sure that we get on the record.

Chairman's Report

[1. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT](#)

Minutes:

Chairman Fred "Fel" Lees said what I've attempted to do as Chairman is to continue to educate our constituents, public and community in Jacksonville with what the Board is doing and how it is progressing. We recently completed the Board's Strategic Plan revision with collaboration with the Superintendent. We're now working through a 30-day vetting process which is to acquire feedback from not only the organization of folks within Duval County Public Schools but also community stakeholders throughout. This is ongoing and we have several community meetings that are ongoing. The goal is to try to elicit as much feedback so that the Board go through additional deliberations in the next few weeks and move forward.

One of the speakers mentioned earlier, we've not only done a revision of the Strategic Plan, we've also done a revision of the Mission, Vision and the Core Values. I'd like to encourage any of you who may not have had an opportunity to provide feedback, you can go to Duval County Public Schools' website (www.duvalschools.org) and there is an area that you can click on and see the entire revision and then provide any input for the Board to consider going forward.

We are starting tomorrow the Budget Prep. We will have a multitude of meetings and the Superintendent will provide information to the Board to go through the budget. There are many pieces to the budget. Tomorrow, we will talk about Capital. We're looking forward to the budget process this year and you are welcome to come and listen. The meeting begins at 8:00 am in Conference Room 613.

Superintendent's Report

[2. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT](#)

Minutes:

Superintendent Vitti said I'd like to inform the community about some educational issues that you may have read in the newspaper lately or heard on the television. One regards the possible, unfortunate, withholding of federal funds. Here in Duval County, that could mean just under \$6 million dollars. This would be a combination of Title I, Title II and IDEA funds which are specifically earmarked for students with disabilities. For Title I, we're looking at a possibility \$2.8 million dollars; Title II, just under \$500,000; and IDEA, about \$2.6 million dollars. Very concretely what this looks like and right now we don't know the dollar amount, that is what we set aside as a possible situation were we to lose this money. As many of you know, the U.S. Congress will be going through periods of negotiations to decide what that number might look like at the end of the day or the end of the session but it could be anywhere from 7-9% of the

total budget in these three areas. Title I dollars help students that qualify for free and/or reduced lunch so many of our students who are most at risk need the most amount of intervention, academic support, wrap around services could be affected. Title II is a federal program that targets professional development for our teachers. IDEA is money that specifically provides additional resources and services for our students with disabilities. This money would be taken out of next year's budget - 2013-2014. With federal funds, you're able to roll over money if you don't spend it so this money would be set aside, rolled over and then taken from as we go into the next fiscal year. I think it's important for the community to understand that this is something we're facing. So, if you have not written your local legislator or that individual that represents us in Jacksonville in the U.S. Congress, please do. We're hopeful that we're able to communicate the impact on the funding. I don't know if any Board members have any questions or add anything as I know this is an issue on your radar screen, as well. We've been talking to our legislators, at least in Tallahassee, about the issue and also starting to engage at the federal level, as well.

Board Member Becki Couch asked if you have clarified for the folks watching, the services that we're required by law provides do not go away even if the funding will go away. I think that is important for people to understand. We will continue to provide services for our special needs students, Title I students but that funding will not be with us from the federal government through this sequestration. Correct?

Dr. Vitti said "correct". We are still for IDEA purposes, required to provide and implement a requirement of a 504 or an IEP (Individual Educational Plan). Yes, with less funding, it becomes even harder to do it as a requirement of the law.

Strategic Plan Vetting Process - The Chairman went over this already. We've had a series of vetting meetings in trying to engage everyone from the PTA. We have an upcoming DTU meeting, nonprofits, our Chamber, meeting with our principals, district staff. We've had one town hall/community meeting, already at Fletcher High School. We have two remaining meetings: March 7 at Robert E. Lee High School, 5:30-7:00 pm; March 12 at Andrew Jackson High School, 5:30-7:00 . We'll have a workshop to look at all of the feedback from the surveys online and from the community meetings and vetting meetings. The item will then be taken to the Board on April 2nd. If you haven't done so already, please go online - www.duvalschools.org to take this survey. We're hitting the pavement and getting into the community so we can get your feedback. It's not only about vetting it, but also trying to find a way for you to find where you can fit into the Strategic Plan, play your role and take our district to the next level.

Special Diplomas and Legislative Updates: Many of you may or may not know but special diplomas are diplomas that are given to students that graduate from high school but those requirements for those who are different based on their Individual Education Plan (IEP), they are through a series of tests, evaluations, observations...they are put on a pathway to a high school diploma but need to meet different requirements. They don't take the FCAT but take an alternate assessment and they are on that pathway based on I.Q. tests and observations. These students can still go on and do great things in our society. In 2011, when students who received the Special Diploma graduated, they were considered "graduates" in the graduation calculations. That was under the National Governor's Association Graduation Rate. In 2011, that

changed to a federal rate, the federal four-year rate and that excluded Special Diploma students from the graduation rate. Now, Florida changed the graduation rate in order to meet the requirements of the waiver - to change provisions of *No Child Left Behind*. All of that said, Florida created a compromise in creating two graduation rates: a four-year rate which did not include Special Diplomas and a five-year rate which did and then they blended the two for high school grading.

We recently received word from the Florida Department of Education that through pressure from the USDOE, the recommendation is that we have to remove the five-year rate from Florida which ultimately means that for purposes of graduation rate, Special Diploma students would not be counted as graduates. In an interesting conversation with Ms. Couch the other day and at the Mayor's Summit, it was mentioned that the mayor and I were both talking about the needs to create 100% graduation rate...that we want every student to graduate from a high school. The reality is with the change in policy, the highest graduation rate we would have achieved last year is 97.8%. So, that means if children did everything they were supposed to do based on their Special Diploma requirements and received a special diploma, they would be considered a non-graduate or in other words, a "*drop out*" for graduation purposes. So, as hard as we would work as a school district, we would not achieve 100% graduation rate based on these changes. I wanted to use this opportunity to talk through this policy change to gain awareness of the issue. Some other statistics is that many of our schools have a high number of Special Diploma students. Schools like Ribault, Ed White, their graduation rate would decline by almost 6% points. N.B. Forrest High School's graduation would drop by 6% point. This is if a student is doing everything we say they should be doing in order to receive a high school diploma. I do think this needs to be on people's political radar and they need to become involved.

Our Board and I created a legislative agenda and at this point, has been received well in Tallahassee. Many of the key issues that we believe need to be addressed are being addressed. Some of them include Class Size, changes to Class Size, moving from a classroom level average for requirement to a school-wide average. There seems to be momentum in the House to support this. I think there's growing support in the Senate. There's much support in providing additional flexibility with instructional materials so we can use more of instructional material funding for digital content for one-on-one devices to help with online texting and e-readers, etc. to give students more of those one-on-one devices and help with online testing. There's also strong support for multiple diplomas. I had the opportunity to present in front of the House Subcommittee and there is definitely traction within the House and I believe growing support in the Senate to move away from a "one size fits all" End of Course exam test where it's a "pass" or "fail", at least for certain subject areas and move more to either probably 30% of the grade based on the EOC score, not just a "pass" or "fail" scenario at the high school level. There seems to be support for Career Technical Education and modifying the requirements for upper level Math and Science to be blended into Career Technical Education or Vocational. I believe this goes well for Duval but more importantly, for students for a new and different options.

Lastly, for clarification and I know we'll talk more about this tomorrow about the Magnet Grant. One thing we did include in the Magnet Application to address Ms. Brady's concern was a provision that we would negotiate anything that required

Collective Bargaining within the application. I think it's important to know that and I admit, Ms. Brady, we probably did need to talk more but under time constraints, it was difficult to do that but if we are privileged enough to win the grant, we will be sure to actively collectively bargain anything and make sure we're on the same page if we actually implement the grant. Thank you.

Reports

Approval of Agenda

[APPROVAL OF THE MARCH 5, 2013, AGENDA](#)

Motions:

That the Duval County School Board approve the March 5, 2013, Agenda as submitted on February 26, 2013, with the following changes:

1. Human Resource Services - Staffing - Item 2 - Human Resource Services Employee Transactions - Revised Attachment
2. Human Resource Services - Professional Standards - Item 3 - Suspension Without Pay and Termination of Second Year Less Than Satisfactory Teachers - Revised Attachment - PASS
3. Human Resource Services - Professional Standards - Item 9 - Suspension and Termination - Stephanie Raver - Item Withdrawn
4. Operations - Purchasing and Logistics - Item 20 - Service Agreement Between the School Board of Duval County, Florida, and the City of Jacksonville - Item Withdrawn

Vote Results

Motion: Rebecca Couch

Second: Cheryl Grymes

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

Approval of Minutes

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes:

That the Duval County School Board approve the following minutes:

January 30, 2013 - Joint Duval County School Board & Duval Delegation Meeting

February 5, 2013 - Regular Board Meeting

February 11, 2013 - Board Workshop

February 18, 2013 - Board Workshop

February 18, 2013 - Committee Meeting

Motions:

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

- January 30, 2013 - Joint DCSB - Duval Delegation Meeting
- February 2, 2013 - Regular Board Meeting - PASS
- February 11, 2013 - Board Workshop
- February 18, 2013 - Board Workshop
- February 18, 2013 - Committee Meeting

Vote Results

Motion: Cheryl Grymes

Second: Jason Fischer

Rebecca Couch - Aye

Jason Fischer - Aye

Cheryl Grymes - Aye

Connie Hall - Aye

Ashley Juarez - Aye

Fred Lee - Aye

Paula Wright - Aye

Approval of Consent Agenda

[APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA](#)

Motions:

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

Vote Results

Motion: Cheryl Grymes

Second: Ashley Juarez

Rebecca Couch - Aye

Jason Fischer - Aye

Cheryl Grymes - Aye

Connie Hall - Aye

Ashley Juarez - Aye

Fred Lee - Aye

Paula Wright - Aye

Consent Agenda

Academic Services

[1. PURCHASE OF TEST ITEM BANKS FROM CORE EDUCATION AND CONSULTING SOLUTIONS, INC. TO ENABLE ASSESSMENT DEVELOPMENT](#)

Human Resource Services - Staffing

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

Attachment: [HRS Attach 03-05-13_TRANS.pdf](#)

Human Resource Services - Professional Standards

[3. SUSPENSIONS WITHOUT PAY AND TERMINATION OF SECOND YEAR LESS THAN SATISFACTORY TEACHERS](#)

Attachment: [HRS Attach 03-05-13_susp.pdf](#)

[4. SUSPENSION WITHOUT PAY AND TERMINATION - EUGENE EUBANKS](#)

[5. SUSPENSION WITHOUT PAY - JENNIFER CREASON](#)

[6. SUSPENSION WITHOUT PAY - LEUNA LEE SHABAN](#)

[7. SUSPENSION WITHOUT PAY - PETER KEEVES](#)

[8. SUSPENSION AND TERMINATION - JAMES RICHBURG](#)

~~[9. SUSPENSION AND TERMINATION - STEPHANIE RAVER - WITHDRAWN](#)~~

Administration and Business Services - Budget and Financial

[10. MONTHLY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS](#)

Attachment: [Dec 2012 Cash and Invest.pdf](#)

Attachment: [December 2012 Board Statement Worksheet.pdf](#)

Attachment: [December 2012 Monthly Financial Statement Narrative.pdf](#)

[11. ADOPTION OF BUDGET RESOLUTIONS JANUARY 31, 2013](#)

Attachment: [January items for March Meeting.pdf](#)

Operations - Facilities Project Design, Construction and Maintenance

[13. DISTRICTWIDE ENERGY RETROFITS/LIGHTING RETROFITS - GROUP 4 - PHASE 2-5 SCHOOL NOS. 202, 214, 242, 270, 98, 252, 240, 269/DCSB PROJECT NO. M-83750/OFDC-ITB-006-13: CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT AWARD](#)

[14. DISTRICTWIDE ENERGY RETROFITS/LIGHTING RETROFITS - GROUP 4 - PHASE](#)

[3-1, SCHOOL NOS.86, 219, 31, 30, 237, 25, 35/DCSB PROJECT NO. M-83750/OFDC-ITB-007-13: CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT AWARD](#)

[15. DISTRICTWIDE ENERGY RETROFITS/LIGHTING RETROFITS - GROUP 6 - PHASE 4-3 SCHOOL A. PHILIP RANDOLPH HS #285/DCSB PROJECT NO. M83750/OFDC-ITB-008-13: CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT AWARD](#)

[16. DISTRICTWIDE ENERGY RETROFITS/LIGHTING RETROFITS - GROUP 6 - PHASE 4-4 SCHOOL NOS. 76, 87, 91, 218, 222, 83, 209, 210, 220, 75, 145, 165, 211/DCSB PROJECT NO. M-83750/OFDC-ITB-009-13: CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT AWARD](#)

[17. APPROVAL OF ANNUAL CERTIFICATION OF FISH DATA](#)

Attachment: [OEF FISH Cert 2013.pdf](#)

Minutes:

Board Member Couch asked the Superintendent to explain what FISH is to the public so that they can get an understanding and to discuss the age of our buildings. We just talked about our legislative agenda and one of those items is Capital Funding which will be a very hot topic this session in relation to sharing those funds with charter schools. I want to let the public know some of the background of the district and why we have on our agenda to share PECO Funds which we currently do not get with the district relating to the FISH information that we were provided.

Dr. Vitti said FISH is Florida Inventory of School Houses per school. Throughout the year, we have to conduct surveys and we take that data and provide it to the FDOE to show how much of our each building, each room is being utilized for academic services. That is also used to determine construction and possibilities for construction. Right now in the legislature, there are bills adjusting that if we do not use all of our buildings space, then a charter school could enter one of those buildings and utilize that available space for academic services. Right now, district-wide our percentage utilization is about 85%. Some schools are significantly below that and some are above that. 85% has been the mark over the past three years. As we go into the budget development process when we start talking about initiatives and opportunities, looking at a number of different strategies in order to maximize our space. One opportunity I believe is expanding four-year old Title I programs. Another opportunity would be expanding our three and four-year old ESE IDEA programs at the Early Learning level. We've talked about looking at the Head Start grant if that ever becomes available for open competition and application; however, there's now talk because of the set-aside at the federal level that those monies may not be there, nationally. Other opportunities we looked at is the over-age situations and maybe creating "schools-within-schools"; looking at autistic or dyslexic programs of "schools-within-schools" model and maximize our spaces. This will all be part of the budget development process and conversation with the Board in moving forward. I do believe we need to become much more aggressive with maximizing our space not only to offer

new programs, but to maximize our real estate and protect it moving forward.

Challenges linked to FISH, aside from utilization of facilities, but I think more into the Capital Funding issue that you mentioned, is that over the past two years our district as well as every district throughout the state, has not received PECO funds which is used for Capital Improvements. They have gone to charters over the last two years and because of the decline in property taxes since 2007, the revenue we've brought in from taxes has gone from \$117 million to \$76 million through 2012. Our buildings are becoming older as approximately 50% of our buildings are over 50 years old. This leads to many day-to-day repairs and millions of dollars worth of safety to life issues that need to be rectified and cannot be addressed without an infusion of Capital Funding. The challenge is how do we continue to address the safety to life issues? How do we continue to renovate our buildings to be competitive with declining revenue? This is where we stand right now. There is conversation about an increase in PECO but, perhaps, slightly to districts but most of those PECO dollars would go to charter schools.

Board Member Couch said some of the proposals that are just starting this week for Capital Outlay, I've read some of the bills and one has sharing buildings that are 50% or less utilization at no cost to the charter school. Often times as a Board member, I hear, "*You should just close schools to save money*". If that type of bill passes, we would not be allowed to close a school to save money but continue to keep it open and maintain the building. I think this is something people need to be aware of when this session is going through...pay attention to these types of bills. Thank you for responding.

Operations - Purchasing and Logistics

[18. SURPLUS PROPERTY RETIREMENT REPORT](#)

Attachment: [Copy of MAR RETIREMENT.pdf](#)

Attachment: [05March13FY.pdf](#)

Attachment: [04March13FY.pdf](#)

Attachment: [Copy of ROSUMMARY13.pdf](#)

Attachment: [Retirement Order Highlight outline MAR 2013.pdf](#)

Attachment: [06March13FY.pdf](#)

[19. LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE - MINORITY SHELTERED MARKET](#)

~~20. SERVICE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE SCHOOL BOARD OF DUVAL COUNTY, FLORIDA AND THE CITY OF JACKSONVILLE -- WITHDRAWN~~

Discussion

Operations - Facilities Project Design, Construction and Maintenance

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

Attachment: [Board Approval - Renewals 3-2013.pdf](#)

Attachment: [Board Approval - New 3-2013.pdf](#)

Minutes:

Board Member Couch made the following statement:

"I have asked that this item be placed on the discussion list so that I can disclose that this matter could inure to the benefit of my husband if his company enters into a subcontract with any of these prequalified contractors.

I will abstain from the vote to be taken for this matter, and I will file the appropriate form to be placed on record with the minutes of this meeting."

Motions:

That the Duval County School Board approve the attached list(s) of pre- - PASS qualified contractors.

Vote Results

Motion: Cheryl Grymes

Second: Paula Wright

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

Board Member Travel

[BOARD MEMBERS TRAVEL](#)

Minutes: *No Board Travel.*

Superintendent's Travel

SUPERINTENDENT'S TRAVEL

Minutes: *No Superintendent's Travel.*

For The Record

FOR THE RECORD

Minutes:

Ms. Becki Couch said I want to applaud Douglas Anderson School of the Arts for the Extravaganza that I was able to attend. It's always a treat and pleasure to see professionalism that our students have in the arts. It amazes every time and if you haven't had the chance to go, I recommend that everyone try to purchase tickets to this event so that you can see the great work that our students do - from the backstage production, orchestra, dance, theater, writings - it's all phenomenal!

I'd like to remind everyone about the Strategic Plan Community Meeting this Thursday, March 7 at Robert E. Lee High School from 5:30-7:00 pm. We want to hear from you and receive feedback. Everyone in the city of Jacksonville is a stakeholder for public education. If you pay taxes, you are a stakeholder and we want to hear from you about the vision of our district and where we need to go with this school district. Please try to attend. If you are unable to attend, it was mentioned earlier that you can go online to our website: www.duvalschools.org and take the survey and provide input there. Having that face-to-face conversation is always important and I hope you can attend.

Ms. Paula Wright thanked the Douglas Anderson School of the Arts and Loretto Elementary School students. I think that the talent that they demonstrate is indicative of what is available in all of our schools in Duval County.

As Board member Couch said, we are engaged in the Strategic Plan and in addition to the meeting on March 7, there is one at Andrew Jackson High School on March 12, 5:30-7:00 pm with a host of dates in between. So, please pick an opportunity to share with us because it's important that your voices are heard.

I'd like to thank the five finalists for Teacher of the Year and I think two are from

District 4 but who is counting??!! I look forward to having the honor of being in their presence - all five of them next week at the Eddy Awards, March 14 at 7:30 pm at the Times-Union Center for Performing Arts.

I'd like to thank all of the employees for a marvelous job and the willingness to continue to give, even in tough economic times, to the United Way with an increase of 4%. This shows the passion, love and commitment that all of our employees have for all of us as a community.

There was a program this week at Andrew Jackson High School called "Algebra Nation" and this is a program designed by the University of Florida Lastinger Center in conjunction with a group called "Study Edge". The purpose of Algebra Nation was to design a program by teachers for teachers so that students would have an online, 24 hour resource, opportunity to understand Algebra I. Our students, today, if taking Algebra I, must take the End of Course exam. One of the most important aspects of Algebra Nation is that we had an opportunity to see a ninth grader, Ariel Smith at Andrew Jackson, demonstrate to us a very complicated algebraic equation. So, my hat is off to Ms. Smith and I'd like to thank Dr. Don Pemberton who spearheaded the creation and implementation of Algebra Nation. With their partnership, the Lastinger Center and Andrew Jackson High School, used some of our students and teachers to create this program and they also went throughout the state and received feedback from teachers and students. In attendance was Florida's Commissioner of Education, Tony Bennett, Chairman of the Board of Education, Gary Chartrand and Mayor Alvin Brown. I'd like to thank them for their support.

I'd like to thank our Board in showing how we care about our children and we show that every time we serve as a School Board member in every action, in every step and in every deed. I want to thank every one of you for your support because it means so much to the students of not just Andrew Jackson, but all of our schools. Also, we give thanks to our educational leader in that building, Ms. Iranetta Wright, principal, Andrew Jackson High School.

Congratulations to the Jean Ribault Trojans for their ninth victory as State Championship for Girls Basketball Team. That's a record - they lead the state with their record. They were tied with a team with 8 victories, previously.

Education Summit - there was an opportunity last week, not just hear from Dr. Bill Cosby, but to hear from stakeholders and I would like to thank the mayor, his staff, the Superintendent for the countless hours it took to set the agenda so all of us good enjoy the information that was received.

I'd like to share with the audience about a program with the MBE (Minority Business Enterprise) Office in Duval County is spearheading. My hat goes off to Doug Ayars, his staff, and particularly, to Beth Tramel. Last year in hearing the amount of participation of minorities in terms of being certified in Duval County, I was a little concerned and wanted to do something about it. I met with former Superintendent Ed Pratt-Dannals and his staff and we came up with a process where we would go to the community and offer workshops so minority business owners could get certified. I contacted Wells Fargo and they allowed us to use their historic Springfield Community Center on the

corner of 6th and Main Street. I also want to thank Faith Danford as she's always so cheerful and helpful. We had the workshop and brought the people in. On March 19, there will be another meeting for those who were in attendance. This is the second meeting. The first one was to help market their business. On March 19, 2013, from 6:00-8:00 pm, the same people will meet, score, facilitate and help to understand how to sustain their business. A few of the topics will be Start Up Management, Business Strategies and Business Plans. I'd like to give thanks to Dr. Johnny Gaffney, City Council, District 7. He helped me tremendously pulling together people for the meeting - over 30 business owners attended who were willing and anxious to become a part of the process so they could become certifiable. That's what it is all about...partnerships in every way and as many ways as we can.

Ms. Ashley Smith Juarez said you've heard quite a bit about the Strategic Plan vetting process that is going on. It is certainly a critical importance to this Board but also the entire district and the community that we hear from you so we would solicit your feedback if you are able to come to one of the community meetings or if you are able to go online or connect with us in some other way. Please reach out and do that. In that context, I have visited several of the schools' SAC (School Advisory Council) meetings to speak with them about the Strategic Plan. These are groups of volunteers who come together specifically to deeply invest in individual school sites School Improvement Plans. They are certainly a group that is vested and interested in what we are doing in our district's Strategic Plan and I have received a wealth of information from them as to what is ongoing in individual schools and how they are contributing to increase student achievement in their school which is the overall purpose of our Strategic Plan. I'd like to commend and thank those members of the SACs who have welcomed me who are there every month at those meetings and beyond and investing in their schools and to encourage others to become a part of the School Advisory Council. They are open meetings and they are essential as to how we work as a district.

Part of the vetting process is to solicit feedback. It's also to have stakeholders understand what is their piece of this work. We know we cannot do it alone, as a Board, and that we need those partnerships, those stakeholders to find where is their place in the plan and how can they put their shoulder to the wheel to work with us.

I want to thank the mayor's office for the Education Summit that recognized the need for parent and caregiver involvement and bringing light to that. The summit was informational and inspiring as some of the adults who spoke, as were the students who we were able to see delivering messages of leadership, delivering messages of determination and grit, delivering messages how their teachers and school support staff had helped them in their own educational pursuits. So, certainly it is important for us to recognize and remember that they are not only the reason that we do this work, but they have a lot of insight on how this work can and should be done. We appreciate the students who were involved in the Summit and who took the time and had the courage to stand up and talk about their own educational experiences and look forward to finalizing the plan and getting to the work. Thank you.

Ms. Cheryl Grymes asked Ms. Wright as she recognized the Jean Ribault Trojan Girls Basketball team, "If I'm correct, you, also played basketball?"

Ms. Wright said, "Yes, I did."

Ms. Grymes said, "...and coached at Ribault and did you win?"

Ms. Wright said, "Of course. I've coached at Northwestern four years and three years we were Conference Champions."

Ms. Grymes said she just wanted to be sure everyone out there knew that. The Education Summit has been mentioned and I, too, want to applaud the mayor and Superintendent for coming together in really providing the community an opportunity to listen to different ways they can get involved with the Parent Academy. It is such a great feeling in this community and the people are truly excited and ready to go to work. They need to know where they fit in so I commend you for all the hard work.

I was very impressed watching the Algebra Nation and appreciate the Lastinger Center and Delores and Alan Lastinger who had the dream and vision to set up this center to help education. They have done great work in Duval County.

The young man who was heading up Study Edge is only 30 years old and that is what we're seeing, today. We have a young Superintendent and we know that this next generation is stepping to the forefront and are becoming leaders in our city as well as the nation.

Core Values - one is innovation and I'd like to highlight Darnell Cookman Middle/High School/ Medical for participating in the Follett Challenge. It was a competition that recognized innovation and their application was submitted and chosen. They are one of two schools in Florida that are competing with schools around the world including South Korea and Singapore and they designed/created an ap for an iPad to analyze blood and blood splatter patterns. This particular analysis is very important to their work in forensic science and it's incredible that our students are doing this. Another Core Value is collaboration and I believe this particular project was a huge on their part and you use different skills such as library, science, math, art, technology which were all used in this project. This project was under the direction of Dr. Scott Sorrell who is a forensic science teacher and he's also our current Duval County Teacher of the Year. The Media Specialist whose title now is Technology and Research Coordinator is actually a former Duval County Teacher of the Year who supervised the work. I think it's important to think about the Media Specialist's role and how it is changing and how essential it is. I just wanted to applaud them for their work and I recognize this is a priority and we must make sure we have a Media Specialist in every one of our schools to assist as our students move into the future.

Mr. Jason Fischer said I want to thank Dr. Vitti for the hard work that he's done moving us along as quickly as possible and still getting feedback from the community. I also appreciate the staff's countless hours...emails at three o'clock in the morning.

Magnet School Grants - out of the six, four included stem components and as an engineer, I wanted to say how proud I am to see that as a focus in our programs moving forward. In particular, the Military Prep Academy that is on the list, to thank you for putting that out there.

Algebra Nation - what an amazing event this was. I'm very excited to see that this is a program that is open, free and can access it 24 hours a day. One teacher was talking about encouraging her students to help their parents as they were taking Algebra in college, to post the problems on there and obtain the parent help. It is an amazing dynamic program.

Sticking with the stem theme, the Robotics Team that came here tonight from Loretto Elementary - I'm so proud of each one of those students. They are an elementary school competing in a robotics competition that is primarily middle school and for them to do so well, is really amazing.

Greenland Pines Elementary - since we last met, we had a Science and Math Night with a huge turnout of parents and students. Some of my colleagues from CSX even showed up and showed the students how to make "slime".

I want to thank the Mandarin Rotary for honoring Teachers of the Year, gift giving, breakfast and publicly celebrating them for their hard work. We have many great things ongoing in this district and we should all talk about them. I'm glad to share this.

Dr. Connie Hall said now that everyone said everything and that only says that we travel in packs and are at the same place at many times. I'd like to talk about the Education Summit and I want to commend our students that participated during Dr. Bill Cosby's visit. They were certainly a point of pride. Starting at First Coast going to Raines, our students from S.P. Livingston, then going to LaVilla, the drumline that night during the show - our students were superb and they are truly examples of the greatness and the great students that are throughout the district, as well. LaVilla's Jazz Band was just absolutely awesome and my favorite was, "*Mercy, Mercy, Mercy*" - awesome.

Algebra Nation - without repeating what's been said and I think that is something that we really have to take responsibility and get this out into the community to access this program, as well. I think we make Algebra difficult because we talk about it being difficult and it's just the mindset. We teach Algebra in kindergarten and as we continue to teach, Algebra expressions start in prekindergarten and as we build on that and use the terminology, one grade to the next, then it becomes common language and a common appearance to be able to accomplish it and not see it as a road block. The two teachers we saw at Jackson, their energy, their personality, their demeanor was just something that made it interesting and engaging for students, as well. I do want to commend those two teachers.

The district administrators that will be participating in Junior Achievement - I know some of you may have butterflies in your stomachs as you prepare to go into classrooms to engage in those lessons provided by Junior Achievement and we know that those lessons will be aligned to the Common Core Standards but you're going to do an awesome job. As you benefit students and help them facilitate their learning, you're going to gain so much from that, as well. As a former principal and working with Junior Achievement, awesome curriculum, you will be doing great things to help students learn and achieve, as well. So, look forward to it and we're proud that you

will participating...even some Board members are participating and great work ahead. This is going to bridge the understanding and bridge the support for teaching and learning and that's why we're here and that's what it's all about.

I'd like to congratulate our Superintendent as he goes forward and participates with panels and discussions because that is putting our district on the map. It is showing the great work that we're building upon to move forward. The great work that our students are achieving and will continue achieve and improve, as well. Thanks to everyone...we are a team....we're in this together and we have to do it together. Thank you.

Mr. Fel Lee said much as already been said and when it gets to the Chair, everything has been said. Thank you to Andrew Jackson High School, the entire staff, teachers and students - what a wonderful experience Monday was...and being an engineer, I was very excited.

Thank you to the mayor, his staff, the collaboration with our organization in really elevating education in Jacksonville. There's been a lot of energy over the last couple of days in the Summit and I'm looking forward to seeing some of the results and seeing what we can do next.

A shout out to Principal Jackie Cornelius for once again, Douglas Anderson School of the Arts' Extravaganza! It's phenomenal and every time I meet folks who go in having never attended before; they always have something extremely positive to say; they're shocked.

I'd like to highlight a couple of things that the public may not know what the Duval County Public Schools are doing: I recently visited the Marine Science Center in the Mayport area and almost all of our 5th grade classes in the entire district visit this school yearly and experience marine life. It's such a fun place to visit.

I recently visited the Duval Detention Center which hosts six teachers in this facility who have created a school within the Detention Center and they're serving 80-100 students who are currently detained in the justice system.

If you really want to receive a good "wake up" call, just visit one of our Exceptional Student Education Centers (as well as the Duval Detention Center) and then you'll realize you're really not having a bad day. I'm so grateful for Duval County Public Schools for the work that is ongoing every day to help the children in our community...it is truly a passion for those teachers, just as it is for all teachers, in our school system.

As Chairman, every once in awhile I should say this and I enjoy saying it and I truly mean it...all great leaders need encouragement and recognition even though they never do it for any of that and I just want to look at each of my Board members and tell you, again, I know how hard you work, I see it and your passion for what we're doing. I want to say "thank you"!

Adjournment

ADJOURNMENT

Minutes:

The meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Isd

Superintendent

Chairman