



Duval County Public Schools

May 15, 2013, DCSB-JPEF Joint Meeting

Mr. Fred "Fel" Lee, Chairman
Ms. Becki Couch, Vice-Chairman
Mr. Jacon Fischer
Ms. Cheryl Grymes
Dr. Constance S. Hall
Ms. Ashley Smith Juarez
Mr. Ms. Paula D. Wright
Dr. Nikolai Vitti, Superintendent

ATTENDANCE AT THIS JOINT MEETING OF THE DUVAL COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD AND JPEF: All Board Members were present. Dr. Nikolai Vitti, Superintendent, was also present.

Call Meeting To Order

[CALL MEETING TO ORDER](#)

Minutes:

The Chairman called the Joint Meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. The meeting was held at Sandalwood High School, in the Culinary Arts room.

Those present from the School Board:

- Mr. Fred "Fel" Lee, Board Chairman
- Ms. Becki Couch, Board Vice-Chairman
- Mr. Jason Fischer, Board Member
- Ms. Cheryl Grymes, Board Member
- Dr. Constance S. Hall, Board Member
- Ms. Ashley Smith Juarez, Board Member
- Ms. Paula D. Wright, Board Member
- Dr. Nikolai Vitti, Superintendent

Those present from the Jacksonville Public Education Foundation Board:

- Ms. Cindy Edelman, Chairman
- Mr. John Anderson, Member
- Mr. Jordan Baker, Member
- Mr. Gary Chartrand, Member
- Ms. Poppy Clements, Member
- Reverend Torin Dailey, Member
- Mr. Ronnie Ferguson, Member
- Dr. Shannon Perry, Member
- Mr. Kenneth Reddick, Member
- Mr. Matt Rapp, Member
- Ms. Pam Paul, JPEF Staff

School Board Chairman Lee and JPEF Chairman Edelman welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending today's meeting. Everyone then introduced themselves.

Items To Be Discussed

1. STUDENT PRESENTATIONS

Minutes:

Students made presentations regarding their course work to the Board in the following areas:

- Technology - Rebecca Floyd and Monica Rivera
- JROTC - Danielle Domingo and Tatiana Salcedo
- Early College - Lindsey Parkins and Kayla Bentz
- AVID - Tiffany Walter and Alexandria Alford
- Culinary Arts - Lindsay Hammond and Brandon Antonelli

2. TOUR SCHOOL

Minutes:

All present participated in a tour of Sandalwood High School, where the meeting was held.

Those present were asked to write down their observations from the tour and School

Board Member Juarez and JPEF Board Chairman Edelman read the responses:

- This is a spirited school. How will budget cuts impact AVID, Guidance Counselor reduction, and what is process for community to weigh in?
- Students here have a vision and plan for their future.
- Theme - Increasing the pool of college bound students. AVID --> Early College.
- ROTC & AVID - Great; love discipline of ROTC. Negative - dress code - teach kids to dress properly when presenting to Boards.
- Fantastic view of great educational endeavors that the general public never hears!
- The importance of discipline. A myriad of resources. Assertive and enthusiastic students.
- JROTC program.
- I have been impressed by the diversity of students and diversity of programs offered. It appears to be a very welcoming environment.
- Good to have smaller programs within a large high school.
- I am very impressed with ROTC and AVID. How can we sustain both of these programs? How can we increase opportunity?
- Strong sense of focus on established goals.
- Bright, articulate kids. Impressive programs - blown away by the programs.
- JROTC for the whole school.
- What limits expansion of AVID & JROTC?
- Exemplary pride radiated in the programs showcased. How do we duplicate in other schools with fidelity?
 - JROTC
 - AVID
 - Culinary
- From early College Presentation: Early College "is an opportunity to live a college life in high school."
- Held the greatest conversation with a sophomore in AVID. She was working on a group project researching colleges. I have NEVER heard a more informed teenager who knew exactly what she was looking for. Very impressive!

3. OBSERVATIONS AND RESPONSES

Minutes:

Those present made the following observations:

- Jordan Baker - Opposed to moving from success to significance
- Poppy Clements - Everyone is entitled to an education
- Gary Chartrand - Believes in developing human potential - need critical thinking for children and adults
- John Anderson - School is a building with tomorrow inside - these are all of our children
- Cheryl Grymes - Huge passion for education - concerned about education - need to make sure all children are successful

- Jason Fischer - Believes in values and principles of what made our country great
- Fel Lee - Can't be a School Board member without a passion for education
- Paula D. Wright - Was a teacher - as a Board member wants to bridge the opportunity gap
- Becki Couch - Teacher and parent - could not do without being passionate - rather than complain decided to get involved
- Kenneth Reddick - Went back to 1950's when in the Boy Scouts - being prepared, trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean, and reverent.
- Connie Hall - Developing success - it is in her bloodstream
- Shannon Perry - Wants to work to help students have opportunities
- Torin Dailey - Hate seeing people just survive - education helps prepare you to thrive
- Matt Rapp - Never look as good as when winning and bad as when losing - commends Board for hiring Nikolai Vitti and supporting him
- Cindy Edelman- grew up where service to others was expected
- Ashley Smith Juarez - Truly believes in capabilities of every individual - encourage creativity and whatever they are passionate about

Each person expressed their areas of interest:

- Jason Fischer - Jacksonville Military Academy
- Fel Lee - Reality
- Torin Dailey - Equal resources and equity
- Shannon Perry - Equal resources
- Connie Hall - High expectations
- Jordan Baker - Equity
- Nikolai Vitti - Unity
- Kenneth Reddick - Assertiveness
- Ronnie Ferguson - Hope
- Paula D. Wright - Continuity of programs
- Matt Rapp - Every kid - every school
- Becki Couch - Sustainability
- Pam Paul - Parent support
- John Anderson - Public education
- Cindy Edelman - Mutual Respect
- Cheryl Grymes - Importance of resources
- Ashley Smith Juarez - Social and emotional health

[4. STRATEGIC PLAN: REACHING OUR COLLECTIVE GOALS FOR DCPS](#)

Minutes:

Comments included the following:

- Cindy Edelman - Advancing common goals - would like to know how we can

work together

- Fel Lee - Opportunity to get people into the schools. There are misperceptions of what Board members do and how they work with the Superintendent. Referred to Strategic Plan as an example of how the Board and Superintendent work together.
- Cindy Edelman - Sees JPEF's role as informing and mobilizing the community; being advocates and listening; they understand they are not the School Board and are not elected.
- John Anderson - We won't accomplish anything without direction. Is there any area of distrust?
- Fel Lee - Don't know if trust is the right word - more like trying to figure out roles. What you said about your role is what we do too. The next election always floats in the back of our head. When the chips are down the public sees the Board and not always the Superintendent.
- Jason Fischer - High level of trust - need to build trust in the community.
- Cheryl Grymes - Dynamics of the Board - don't know each other and need conversations and need to get to know each other.
- Jordan Baker - Change agents or agents of change - School Board implements - JPEF influences
- Torin Dailey - When we talk about lines we could lose focus - need to stay focused on task at hand
- Becki Couch - Need to define our roles - views JPEF as voice of community, but they are one of many - need to hear all voices
- Gary Chartrand - Sees JPEF as an independent body that is an advocate for the school system. Change does not happen through a vision, but when we address the facts. He sees that as the role of JPEF - dealing with the facts and being an advocate for the school system. He believes that people distrust elected officials.
- Kenneth Reddick - Suggested that each person write down what they would like to see each other do and what they would not like to see each other do, then get back and discuss.
- Cindy Edelman - Sees JPEF as an advocate for high quality public education - that is their mission.
- Torin Dailey - Thinks we all want to work together and that there is not a turf war.
- Gary Chartrand - Talked about Miami and advocacy groups there. They went out for a bond issue that the School Board could not promote, and got it passed by an 80% margin.
- Nikolai Vitti - I do this because I believe public education is a great equalizer. Reality is trust issue - based on past and assumptions. We need to communicate.

5. NEXT STEPS AND TAKE AWAYS

Minutes:

The following items were take aways:

- Provide answers to questions raised today
- Get to know each other as people
- Understand each other's roles
- What would we like to see each other do and not do

Adjournment

[ADJOURNMENT](#)

Minutes:

The Chairman adjourned the Joint Meeting at 10:20 a.m.

BSC

We Agree on this

Superintendent

Chairman