



## Duval County Public Schools

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May 4, 2009, Special 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 SPECIAL MEETING OF THE DUVAL COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD with Mr. Ed Pratt-Dannals, Superintendent of Schools, Ms. Karen Chastain, Office of General Counsel, Ms. Cindy Laquidara, Chief Deputy General Counsel, Mr. Tommy Hazouri, Board Chairman, Ms. Brenda Priestly Jackson, Vice Chairman, and Board Members: Ms. Nancy Broner, Ms. Vicki Drake, Mr. W. C. Gentry and Mr. Stan Jordan, present. Ms. Betty Burney participated via conference phone.

Call Meeting to Order

[CALL MEETING TO ORDER](#)

Minutes:

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 2:08 p.m.

Comments From Audience

[COMMENTS FROM AUDIENCE](#)

Minutes:

Ms. Jane Zentko, a registered, licensed dietitian working for Aramark here in Duval. I joined this team about three years bringing 20 years of food service and nutrition experience. My first year, I was a Food Service Director. As a Food Service Director, I was able to go to the schools on a daily basis, visit them, learn your schools, talk with students, principals and teachers. My second and third year, I've been a Nutrition Manager. Since food and nutrition is such a passion of mine, I take personal pride in knowing that the menus we serve here in Duval are nutritionally sound and meet all the requirements of the USDA. I have also taken an active role in the SHAC Committee, the Wellness Committee and the Obesity Coalition. I've been attending all those meetings and taking the information back that they have given me to my team. That is how we develop and execute our menus that are acceptable to the health and wellness committees and how the students can appreciate them. Promoting health and wellness has always been a focus of Aramark, but this year, we have taken it to another level. We've expanded our Discovery Fruit and Vegetable Program into 20 schools. We've developed bi-monthly nutrition education lessons for the area managers to present in the schools. We have color-coded all of our elementary menus just to assist the students to healthier food choices. The Healthy Time Program teaches students that all foods can fit all of the time, most of the time and some of the time. We've also added nutrition information tidbits to all of our printed menus that also can go home to the parents to read and help their students learn about nutrition. While looking over the menus and the nutritional analysis that were included in the proposals for each of the organizations, all of the menus met the USDA dietary guidelines. However, if one would look closely and redo the analytical data and verify the accuracy of that data, it is apparent that Aramark's menus are in full compliance with the current USDA guidance on incorporating recommendations for the 2005 Dietary Guidelines for Americans. Aramark's menus exceeded the standards requested in the RFP. Also included in the Aramark proposal was a three-year plan to continue to improve the wellness of our menus so the students here are provided the menus and their food choices are going to even get healthier. In closing, I have been told by several of the SHAC members and the Obesity Coalition of the changes that they have seen, positive changes, in the past two years regarding the menu selection and also how we're approaching nutrition education. On behalf of Aramark and myself, we would like the opportunity to continue on the path providing healthy, nutritious meals to our students and teaching health to staff to live a healthier life.

Mr. Wiley Swanson, Jr. and I am and have been a resident of Jacksonville for the last 9 years and many of you remember me from 6 1/2 years as the Resident District Manager over Custodial Services and in my current role, 2 1/2 years as the Director of Community Relations and also Contract Compliance. I've been relatively quiet and now I have to speak. I've heard much said about the RFP process and alot said about the contract that's before you, but very little has been said about the relationship and the long-standing partnership that we've had for a long time. That relationship and partnership spans almost two decades. While the RFP did not say anything at all about relationships and doing things for the community, and I'm going to speak on behalf of the managers behind me because I think that they have the same passion that I have...since I've been here, guess what? These schools are our schools; these students

are our students; the families out there in the communities are our communities and we care a lot about that which is why and we will continue to support Duval County Public Schools initiatives here within the community. I wish I could talk about everything we have been doing; I can't...I only have a few minutes so let me talk a little about the highlights of it. Let me start with students...for the past 17 years, we have been giving scholarships away to students and there's 11 students in the magnet schools and we'll be doing it, again, in June; over \$180,000 to 180 students here within Duval County and we've added another scholarship in which this year we will give away a \$3,000 scholarship to a high school student. When you continue with the students, the Superintendent's Reading Club and we've had our 5th meeting, guess what? That program started in the cafeteria with a few students and a few families and right now, it's in Metropolitan Park with over 3,500 families and 3,500 students attending that event and we're there because we support education just like you do. We can look at advocates for our principals - every year, we make it a point to partner with the district to make sure that the holiday party for our principals is very special and we're going to continue to do that. Look at teachers - the Eddy Awards - we've been a long supporter of the Eddy Awards and many of you saw us there this past Thursday which is a magnificent event. When you talk about the Teacher Supply Depot...you've seen us there many times and we've made numerous donations and volunteer hours because of the fact that we do appreciate the teachers. When you look at the community, it's our community and we're a long-standing partner with United Way. We take the lead role on kicking off the campaign every single year and also, through the Second Harvest Food Bank. Over 13,000 pounds of food donated to needy families. You'll soon hear about a Back Pack Program we've started so bottom line, it's kind of awkward for me to say this because you've never heard me ask for anything at all, but we'd like to continue this long-standing partnership because it does make the difference. This, again, we consider this being our district, our schools and our students and that's my job. My job is to make sure we give something back to the community and that's what I'm going to do.

Ms. Catherine Thorne, local Aramark District Manager and representing over 800 Aramark employees today and I have about maybe 45 here with me. I speak to you today from my heart as the leader of this group. I'm here to discuss the intentions of our proposal, the financial promise and our people. My team and I wrote the Aramark proposal. The proposal is our commitment to marketing, adult learning and program improvements. It presents Houston's ISD as our reference for operating a large volume central production plant and finally, it included a financial promise to you. The proposed plan is exciting for us because it allows us for the first time in four years to make investments. The sky is the limit when we can make investments for you. When the results were published, I read the notes from the evaluators and all the proposals, I listened to 3 hours of tape to find out what it was that we missed. I am still surprised at the outcome. Our experience exceeds the scope for operating your program. We included complete staffing plans to protect our employees from labor cuts. We're the only company with an actual team of K-12 experts. In the last several weeks, we have heard about the reliability of our finances and food quality. Because we understand your menu mix, we will get to the \$1.3 million dollars, honestly. It's not always easy to produce a meal on a \$1.50 but it's what we're asked to do and what we've been asked to do for almost 20 years. The price of change is immeasurable. Changing employee wages, hours and medical benefits creates chaos. Our proposal considers new programs, students and employees we so value. No other proposal protects the

finances and protects our people. A vendor that takes care of people and believes in their numbers doesn't forget to include that in a \$45 million dollar proposal. A proposal is nothing more than words if your partner hasn't lived every day gaining an understanding of what the promises mean to you. We get to the results by executing on our commitments and relying on our company's resources when we hit a speed bump. We will match strategy with reality, align people with goals and achieve the promised results, but nothing we do is more important than have a real team of K-12 experts. At the end of the day, we place our bets on our qualified people to get the job done, not on speculations. The intentions of our proposal, the financial promise and our people are real. As the person most proud of the Aramark proposal in this operation, I ask you to come visit with us any day at breakfast or lunch...we'd love to have you. Thank you.

Mr. John Hanner, Senior Vice President of Operations for Aramark K-12 Education. This past Friday night at 5:30, I received a phone call from Paul Soares asking for some help regarding information for discounts and rebates in our current contract and a couple of comments to make on that. The contract we currently have has provisions to allow reimbursements, discounts, rebates that are currently in the contract. So, what was taking place in final rule which forces the contracts out to bid, which I'm sure you're aware of, this contract already had those provisions in there. So, the second question is, "Can you provide some backup for 06-07; 07-08 for the past two years?" We got this call at 5:30 on Friday and got the email about 15 minutes later and myself and our CFO, Jeff Gilliam. We spent the weekend going through documentation and providing that documentation this morning to Paul Soares and Michelle Begley. I think Jeff has communicated with Paul and members of the team trying to get some fine line details. What that showed is over the term of the contract, we returned over \$6 million dollars in discounts and rebates with a tune of about \$1.6-\$1.7 per year and this year, you're on track in between \$1.5-\$1.6 between now and June 30th. So, I believe those questions are asked if there's concerns on being able to extend the current contract. If there would be some violation...do that around discounts and rebates. What I'm telling you is the contract had provisions to do it and we provided the backup and showed.... Thank you.

Mr. Dennis Maple, president of Aramark Education and I represent over 828 employees. I appreciate the opportunity today to really address a couple of issues. I think John and Catherine just talked very specifically about the existing contract and a little about the RFP that we have proposed. I think the thing that is most important to me and this isn't from the notes, this is really from what you're seeing, we have a very dedicated group of people who are genuinely interested and concerned about the welfare and success of this district. I watched last week when we were here, the deliberation and the thoughtfulness and the engagement of this Board as you're trying to work through a solicitation process which we've been very clear about. We believe that that process is inherently flawed. We think it's flawed because at the end of the day, it doesn't really give you the kind of certainty with regard to the financial performance of the program and so one of the questions that was asked during the course of last week's discussion which I know the administration has been working with us, trying to resolve for you is whether or not there are real alternatives. We believe that the USDA and the state will approve an extension of the existing contract. We think the extension of the current contract gives you an opportunity to continue

to ponder through the questions that obviously have come before this Board and the concerns that many of you have expressed over the last several weeks. We also think that it's important to know that under the terms of the existing agreement, we are returning in surplus value back to the district more than either of our competitors have proposed for next year, already. Now, clearly under the new proposed RFP process, we have significantly raised up that projected return to \$1.3 million dollars but even this year, we're projecting a return in the range of about \$500,000 under the existing contract which all of us have talked about before is not necessarily, a contract that is prevalent across the country. Again, I can tell you that after 19 years of supporting this district which is two decades, which is an extremely long period of time for anyone to think about a relationship, our team is greatly committed to this district and we're committed to your success. We just ask for the process that you're going through to be grounded in integrity and fairness and give us the opportunity to continue to serve you. Thank you very much.

Ms. Rebecca Brown, Aramark Manager and we're a family here. I'm concerned about my family, my staff members and what's going to happen to us. Are we going to lose our jobs, rate of pay, hours, what? What about us...the people that are out there every day with these kids who are the district? What about the kids and their choices? They have a choice like the Board is getting ready to make a choice....they have a choice as to what they want for lunch. I did a little research and one of the competitors...their menu today was Ravoli with beef and cheese, steamed corn, bread sticks, chilled peaches and a choice of milk. Compare our's...BP Mac, Popcorn chicken, sloppy Joe, peanut butter & jelly, potato stars, tender green beans, blueberry-apple sauce, raisins, cake, and milk. Those are darn good choices. Instead of just giving them something and moving them on down the assembly line. Let's think about the children. My family has already been impacted by all of the cuts. My grand-daughter, son-in-law and my daughter - we all bought a house together. One person who is going to be let go from Kirby-Smith is my son-in-law. That's one thing gone from out of our family already and what's going to happen to me? Somebody help me. I'm out there every day doing what I'm supposed to do. Help us and look out for us. Most importantly, do not take the choices away from the children. Thank you.

Ms. Gabrielle Sadowski said I'm glad to be here today and I work for Aramark. I moved here about five years ago. I wanted to work for the cafeteria out where I was living at and when doing some research through Aramark and talking with my sister who previously worked for Aramark, she stated how good the company was. After moving down here, I had an interview. I liked what the company was offering and I love working hands-on with the children. I moved my family down here and felt this was going to be the right decision for me. The thing I'm concerned about today is the employment, not just for myself, but also for my coworkers. What about the wages and benefits? We haven't heard what they're going to offer us if Aramark goes out. Budget cutting, teachers and shorter school hours make no sense to spend millions on a new contract when it makes most sense to keep the current contract in place. The current contract offers students a nutritional meal with fresh food on the menu. Having the Wellness Program at my school is a great way to introduce to our students healthy eating choices. We offer fresh fruit, fruit of the month and vegetables. The students have tried these items that they haven't had before and like them and come back and ask for another one. The children are our extended family as well as Aramark and I would like to continue working for Aramark and for you to give us that opportunity to

continue growing. Thank you.

Ms. Valonese Peterson, Food Services Manager for Kirby Smith Middle School. I've been employed with Aramark for almost 14 years. I believe I'm the only Aramark manager with that many years. I don't know the reason why this contract is so different from all other contracts. Most likely, it's all about money. These days, everything is about money. I can't talk about that because I don't know anything but I'm going to talk about what I know about and that's about job performance and feeding the children. I don't think Aramark would drill us so hard about job performance and feeding the children, all day, every day and making sure we have the tools we need to do the job and do a job well. It's all about job performance and feeding the children. We don't magically feed millions of children a day. Food don't magically appear in our kitchens. Aramark is not doing something that hasn't been done before, but it kept them here for 19 years. They had to be doing something you were pleased with. I'm not saying Aramark is perfect...nobody is. Now, you're thinking about letting them go. I heard a Duval Manager and I quote, "We're safe. Duval workers don't have to worry. Aramark needs to go." That was kind of troubling to me because I've worked with these ladies for almost 14 years. Why would you want me to lose my job? When you make up your mind and come to the decision, did you think about us? As Aramark workers, are we safe? We work under the Aramark name, but the work we do is for Duval County. I'm not here 14 years because Aramark is trying to find out if I can do the job. I'm here because 14 years ago, they realized I could do the job. It hasn't taken 19 years to come to the conclusion that Aramark is not doing their job. You could have figured that out during the first contract. It's got to be about money. That I can't talk about. Yes, my loyalty is with Aramark. Why shouldn't it be? I've been with them for 14 years and they've been loyal to me. My loyalty is also to Duval County. Aramark signs our paycheck but the work we do is for the children of Duval County. You can say Duval Managers and Aramark Managers, but we all do the same job. Duval only gets paid more for doing it.

Ms. Sirena Washington said I've been a Food Service Manager for 5 years. I attended the meeting last week and I have some concerns about the other companies. These companies have not stated what their intentions are for the food service workers. My first concern is our pay. Will we get our same pay? Will we work our same hours? What type of benefits will be offered and at what cost? Will we still have a job? At the last Board meeting, the recommended new company had the opportunity to address our concerns, however, they did not. So, again, there's no mention about the food service workers. Correct me if I'm wrong, we are the front line people that drive the business and our business is feeding the students. Since the food service workers and managers have not been a focus point in all of this, I'm asking you, the Board, to hear our voice and be our voices when casting your vote today. Thank you for your time and opportunity.

Ms. Karen Rieley with the Second Harvest Food Bank of North Florida. Aramark and Second Harvest Food Bank have had a long standing and successful relationship within the Jacksonville community. Since 2002, Aramark has provided more than 13,000 pounds of food to Second Harvest Food Bank. Products that have helped us feed more than 250,000 people who live below the federal poverty line in the 18 county area that

we serve. The importance of corporate partners like Aramark can not be understated. Without their support, it would not be possible for us to accomplish the work we do. The most important partnership between Aramark and Second Harvest, however, has developed in just the last six months with the launch of what we call the "Back Pack Program". Right now, it's a pilot program, a unique initiative that provides important, healthy food resources to children from low income families on weekends and over their school holiday breaks when they do not have access to their school's free and reduced meal program. Some of you may know that we run a program called "Kids Cafe" where deliver food to up to 60 after school sites throughout the community. The Back Pack part of this Kids Cafe program is pretty simple. The child picks up a back pack at school on Friday and takes it home for the weekend. Inside the back packs are nutritional snacks and meal items intended to help the child and his or her family have the necessary items to be properly nourished during the time away from school. The child returns the backpack the following Monday; it's refilled that week and the cycle repeats at the week's end. Aramark graciously volunteers with Second Harvest to help make the Back Pack Program a reality, providing more than 800 back packs, various snack items and in fact, their own employees have volunteered their time to pack the back packs each week. Currently, 500 children benefit from the Back Pack pilot program although Aramark has already talked about expanding the program next year and we're very excited about that. So, we highly value them. An important relationship with Aramark's has been established with our agency and we hope that will continue for years to come. Also, I'm representing the food bank on a coalition called, "The Childhood Obesity Coalition", part of Blue Cross Blue Shield's embrace of a healthy Florida initiative and I was very impressed to find that Aramark has a staff representative, the registered dietitian you heard from earlier, sitting on that. We know that childhood obesity is directly related to poor nutrition and it's much more prevalent in low income families. We need partners like Aramark working in our schools to help us solve this serious and rapidly growing problem. Children need nutritious food to learn and to excel academically and it also helps to reduce childhood diabetes that grows into adult diabetes and heart problems. Aramark is actually doing something to work with us to make a difference in the nutritional quality of the food and, therefore, the health of our children and their ability to learn and excel in our community. Thank you.

Ms. Melissa Mapp, cafeteria manager at Lone Star Elementary School, and I'm here mainly for the support of my ladies in my kitchen and I think I speak for a lot of managers that are seated here behind me. I was here last week at the last meeting and a lot of the vendors spoke but no one spoke about us. It's currently 800+ employees employed by Aramark and no one is concerned about what's going to happen to us. A lot of us are here because we like what we're doing. You have to have a passion for it. It's not like you just get a paycheck because we're here for the kids. I have ladies in my kitchen that have concerns about what's going to happen to their jobs. Some have been here longer than me, but once again, no one is speaking for us. We communicate with our supervisors and they communicate with us but they can't answer questions for other vendors. So, my issue is and my concern is why isn't anyone standing up to tell us what's going on with Chartwells, Sodexo? They were here last week and they spoke but no one mentioned anything about the employees, so my concern is, when you make a decision today, it's not to make Aramark look good but it's also what about us? What about the ones that come in every day and feed the kids? That's what we do...we do this every day. We have a life, too, and we have kids

to support and families to take care of. When you make your decision, just keep in mind what's going to happen to the 800+ employees that are currently employed with Aramark?

Ms. Denise Holmes, cafeteria manager for over five years and hopefully, six this coming year. Many workers talk to me alot. They call me and ask questions that they don't understand. Many of their questions were, "What are they going to do for the upcoming school year?" My answer to them was honestly, I didn't know. When I came to the last School Board meeting, Ms. Johnson asked the question about our jobs next year. It was still not stated as to what you guys were going to do as everybody else stated, but in the future...like myself, I didn't think my job was threatened, honestly, I didn't. So, for the next couple of times you guys have voted or changed management, I honestly thought I worked for the Duval County School Board and not Aramark...it was just a manager under it. So, you guys chose Aramark to manage it, but we ultimately work for you guys. So, I just asked that so in the upcoming and in the future and when you're voting and bidding, that you think about us and maybe you could have ask that question to the next people that come and do our bid. That way, they'll know what's going on. Thank you.

Ms. Eugenie Caroselli, Regional Vice President for Chartwells Schools Dining Service. Over the past six months, I've been personally involved in the proposal process. I've visited the schools, visited the Nutrition Center and have been a part of developing a program that will deliver excellent customer service and nutritious meals to all students regardless of their eligibility. Our program guarantees that the same quality and selections of foods are available to the last students in line equally to the first. My Operating Team, along with the Chartwells-Thompson's support group, are geared up and excited about implementing a great plan beginning with the priority task of hiring and training the current child nutrition staff. Chartwells-Thompson will offer employment to all current child nutrition employees. On behalf of Chartwells-Thompson, I give you our commitment to serving nutritious foods to all students, supporting nutrition education in the cafeteria and beyond, honoring our word that all current child nutrition staff will remain employed and, finally, as a partner in fostering a healthier community. Thank you.

Mr. Rodney Ruffin, good afternoon, I'm Vice President of the Business Development in Chartwells-Thompson. I'd like to make two points briefly to you, today. First, I'd ask you to recall the comments made last Monday by Ms. Guajardo of the PTA. She told you of the conscientious, pain-staking process that the Committee underwent in recommending Chartwells-Thompson. Reviewing hundreds of pages of proposals, sitting through hours of presentations, and working hard to arrive at the decision or recommendation on the provider who would provide the highest quality food service program to Duval County. A program which will provide healthy, nutritious food, nutrition education, take care of the food service employees and support local minority and women owned business enterprises. We hope that you would look favorably upon that recommendation. My second point is that we stand ready and look forward to negotiating a contract with the administration with oversight from the Board which will answer the concerns which you all have identified throughout this process. Thank you very much.



Mr. Sid Ansbacher with Gray Robinson for Chartwells-Thompson. I just want to clarify one thing for the record and read something into the record which you all received on April 21 and that is a letter from Aramark directed to you all regarding the existing contract and issues under the contract. It is signed by Dennis Maple as president and just to clarify very quickly, one thing that was discussed by you all as an option last time, was the possibility of extending the existing contract. I'd just like to read directly from the letter from Aramark regarding the contract that is being considered as a viable alternative to the RFP process where we would note, we won by almost 100 points over Aramark. The language is, "*While some have attempted to mis-state the current food fund challenges, the fact is for the past two years, the district and Aramark have operated under a contract type called a Maximum Allowable Contract. Neither we, Aramark, nor the district wanted such a contract type. However, two years ago, it was what was approved and administered by the state of Florida (that's the DOE). In retrospect, the complexity of the contract has been so intense that today, effective July 21, 2009, the state of Florida will not approve such a contract type for future periods. Even more telling, this contract type is so difficult to administer that only one state generally uses this contract as its main format in managing food management companies.*" The final page of the letter, which, again, you all received, individually, on the 21st states, in pertinent part, "...*The results of operating under this Maximum Allowable Contract over the past two years coupled with rising food costs and rising labor and benefit costs, have been the major culprits in the Food Fund Balance decline, not Aramark's performance. To suggest somehow that Aramark is the culprit with regard to the current Food Balance is simply unfair and untrue.*" I can't add to that....that is the language of the incumbent trying to tell you now that a feasible alternative is to continue under that contract. Thank you.

Ms. Mary Ann Harvich, owner of First Coast Industrial Supply, here in Duval County. We've been in business for 25 years and in the early 2000's, Aramark had the janitorial contract here for Jacksonville. We were a local, disadvantage business. Aramark contacted us, they worked with us, they bought all of their janitorial supplies, but not only did they buy from us but they partnered with us. They helped us pick up two national lines and we grew our business more in those years that they were in the janitorial service then we have ever grown since. So, basically, what I'm asking is when you award a contract, if you would please award somebody who is dedicated in using small, local owned businesses. It was just a tremendous help for us. Thank you.

Mr. Glenn Frommer, I work for Empowerment of Florida, we're a nonprofit that helps peoples with disabilities find employment. We're funded by the Department of Education and Vocation and Rehabilitation. I just wanted to let everyone know something that is probably not known. Aramark has been one of our leading employers of people with disabilities. They have hired many students that graduated from the public schools with disabilities that...they've also worked with them...not just that they hired them, but when there's a problem, they seem to take care of it and it's their genuine commitment and it wasn't a commitment to let people know that they were doing it because most of you probably don't know this. I don't think I've ever had anyone that I've brought down for employment that they didn't hire and these individuals are very successful. Currently, I have individuals who are deaf, clients who have autism and alot of ESE graduates who are doing very well there and I know we use to place people with Aramark when they had the school contract for janitorial and

we don't place anyone in the contract right now, in janitorial. I really don't believe that anyone else is going to do the same commitment to hire people with disabilities as Aramark does based on the fact that they are the leading employer for us in the whole entire city, the whole county. I just want you to really consider that and it's mostly your students that are graduating and nationally, 75% of people with disabilities are unemployed and our clients are 100% employed and alot of it goes to Aramark which they have never looked for anything from anybody to tell anybody about this and they're currently in there right now working and I just hope that it will continue with Aramark because they deserve the credit for this. That's all I wanted to say.

Ms. Dana Fields-Johnson, I'm here as Director of Healthy Jacksonville and a representative of the Healthy Jacksonville Childhood Obesity Prevention Coalition and my statement is really about nutritional quality. Nutritional quality is critical and needs to be given higher importance in our RFP process. I was here last month representing the School Health Advisory Council and made a general statement about the fact that only 5% in the RFP process was given to nutritional quality and we had several members of our coalition who had written letters to the Board and to staff about that issue. So, I just wanted to restate the fact that as a community based health coalition, we would like to see more importance given to nutritional quality and we encourage, in the future, that you look to hold potential vendors more accountable for answering questions as to how they will work to address improving nutritional content and quality in the menus and that they work with us, as parents and as a community, to ensure they're offering good food to our students. What is available and offered to our children at every meal is critical. There are strong linkages between nutrition and academic performance. Children who have sufficient diets which include healthy foods, fresh fruits and vegetables are better able to learn and achieve. We work with the current food service provider but much more is needed by whoever you select as your food service vendor. More commitment to quality and accountability for what is offered in the food school menus, more to increase availability of fresh fruits and vegetables, more to limit the availability of a la carte items and our coalition feels very strongly about the issue of a la carte items. If there were one thing we thought the School Board could do to improve the health of children, one of those things would be, at the top of the list would be to decrease and limit the availability of a la carte items such as hamburgers, pizza, chicken tenders. That means limiting the choices but it also means limiting the number of days they are available to kids. We feel like more needs to be done in general to protect the health of children in Duval County. Our coalition has offered and has actually worked with school staff on school menu revisions and reviews and our coalition chairs are both Nemours Gastroenterologists at Nemours and offer their services to you, as the Board, and to the staff in terms of school menu improvements. We hope you will hold whoever is selected as accountable not just in keeping prices down and staying to budget but for what they offer to our children...hold them accountable for nutrition content and quality. Thank you.

Ms. Jeannie Theriault, thank you for allowing me to speak, I was the Wellness chair for R.V. Daniels and Susie Tolbert Elementary Schools for two years. Our schools had so many issues of poor quality and inconsistency for Breakfast in the Classroom program that I was invited to join your district's Wellness Committee in the spring of 2007. Some of our children eat their only two or three meals a day at school making healthy school meals a necessity, not a luxury. Current menus are fueling bad dietary habits

and disease. Regarding meeting federal guidelines - I would certainly hope that our food service providers are meeting the federal guidelines considering these guidelines have not been updated in 30 years. Furthermore, FDA guidelines do not take sugar into account. We've come to learn much in those 30 years about how nutrition affects our habits and health. I have two questions for you to consider in this RFP process. First, I would like to know who outside of Aramark and district's Wellness Committee personnel participated in the RFP process who had nutritional expertise, not knowledge? Second, I'd ask you...how do pancakes, French toast sticks and reduced sugar Frosted Flakes, a sugar which is in the top 15 of the unhealthiest cereals in the Consumer Report of 2008 - you have two cereals in the top 15 under the guise of reduced sugar, they are considered to be the worst cereals to feed children - how do these foods establish healthy eating habits for starting the day? I'd like to see all of us proactively address these issues now that contribute to obesity, diabetes and heart disease. I'd like to see all of us proactively...these diseases carry a heavy financial toll which are state and nation can ill afford, particularly right now, but the future is at stake, as well. I urge you...let's do a better job of looking after our future caretakers. I'd like to see us empower the First Coast of Florida to raise healthier children. Compete with California...be the healthy state and I ask for accountability from all of us from the district's Wellness Committee, from the food service provider, please let's return to my request of two years ago and allow the Obesity Coalition to actively review menus. I stopped attending meetings this year. We really made very little progress the last year and it was a waste of my time to continue going to district Wellness Committee meetings, so I found that I could use my time better. So, thank you very much.

Ms. Chris Guajardo, first, I was remiss in not thanking you all last week for allowing the PTA to be a part of the RFP process, so thank you for allowing that and allowing me to represent the parents of Duval County Schools students and I just wanted to let you know some of the things since last week, I've gotten a lot of feedback that a lot of parents are concerned about having nutritious food available at school for their children. This has been brought up to me when people have seen me out, even at the grocery store or WalMart or wherever, so this is a concern for our parents. There's also a concern about using a la carte items that was mentioned earlier for raising money and a lot of the a la carte items are not healthy choices. They seem to be the least nutritious items that are available. There's also been a concern raised by some of the parents that the children that were eating last during the lunches, did not have the same selection as the children eating first and so that's another concern parents have brought to me this week. Again, we appreciate the support of the present vendor, but this process was not about liking someone or not. In fact, we do work closely with Aramark and we do have members of Aramark that sit on the PTA Board, but this was about a process. A thorough review was done. We asked that you accept it and move forward. I was posed this question that if you were not going to accept the recommendation of the RFP committee, why did we even do it in the first place? So, I know there's a lot of valid questions that were raised last week and I do believe that we can address those in the final contract. I have had several dietitians that have volunteered their services to meet with whatever food service vendor we have to work on the menus for next year and ensure that the a la carte items are healthy choices for our children as well as the regular lunch menu items. So, again, thank you for your time and thank you for allowing me to be part of this process.

Ms. Brenda A. Jones, cafeteria manager at Oceanway Middle School. My concern is our children. These menus that were brought up earlier, they're not consistent. The way that they are submitted to us sometimes is hard for us to do our jobs. It may say one thing on the menu but the recipe says something totally different and we're trying to follow it to fix it for our kids; it's hard, especially if you don't have everything you need to work with. The products coming in from the production center are not consistent. I don't know if anyone of you have been out to the production center or visit any of the schools to see the product that has come in or not. I did bring some with me today if you would like to see it. One example is this Wellness Committee - why is it French fries and mashed potatoes on the menu every day for these kids? We can't stand there and say don't get one or the other. They can get both which is two starches plus all of the bread. Also, staffing is another issue where we have a little joke in my kitchen which is called the "new lady on the floor". I'm the new lady on the floor. When I'm so short staffed because for whatever the reason might be, I've got to get on the floor and become a worker, then my paperwork goes behind and I'm into overtime that I don't claim, trying to make sure that everything is up to par when they walk into the door. Because, if not, they threaten to write us up because our production records are not ready or the kitchen is not in order. That's a major concern or they cut staff so short that you have a skeleton crew, but then, during the summer, they'll hire someone to clean up the kitchen because you were down to 2-3 people the last two weeks of school. Another concern I got, employees that may be in the kitchen fighting amongst each other because of the difference in Aramark and the Duval situation or there's (inaudible) going on that's only geared to one party and not the other party. That causes a lot of issues. I've got menus here to back up everything. We got growing children that need a certain amount of food which is required by the state and on some of these menus, is very lacking. So, whoever you all decide to pick and they can just listen to some of us and see exactly what is going on in these kitchens and coming from the production center...to make it more consistent and more tasty for our children. Kids don't want to come in and eat because it don't have a taste to it. Thank you.

Reports

Approval of Agenda

[APPROVAL OF THE MAY 4, 2009, AGENDA](#)

Minutes:

Due to the fact that Board member Betty Burney was absent and requested to participate in the meeting via telephonically, Board member Broner made motion to allow Board member Burney to participate in the meeting; Board member Drake seconded the motion.

Vote: PASS

Motion: Broner

Second: Drake

Nancy Broner - Aye

Vicki Drake - Aye

W. C. Gentry - Aye

Tommy Hazouri - Aye

Stan Jordan - Aye

Brenda Priestly Jackson - Aye

Motions:

That the Duval County School Board approve the May 4, 2009, Agenda as submitted on May 1, 2009. - PASS

Vote Results

Motion: Nancy Broner

Second: Victoria Drake

Nancy Broner - Aye

Betty Burney - Not Present

Victoria Drake - Aye

William Gentry - Aye

Thomas Hazouri - Aye

Stan Jordan - Aye

Brenda Priestly Jackson - Aye

Motions:

Motion to allow Ms. Burney to participate in the Board meeting -

Vote Results

Motion:

Second:

Approval of Minutes

Approval of Consent Agenda

Consent Agenda

Operations - Purchasing and Logistics

### 1. FOOD SERVICE DEPARTMENT MANAGEMENT AND OPERATION

Attachment: [FOOD SERVICE COST EVALUATION POINTS.pdf](#)

Attachment: [XX-REV-031709COMPANY-COMPARISON-BD-COPY2.XLS.pdf](#)

Attachment: [FOOD SERVICES EVALUATION FINAL.pdf](#)

Minutes:

Ex Parte Communication, whether verbal or written, by any potential respondent or representative of any potential respondent to this RFP with Board members is strongly discouraged. However, the substance of any ex parte communication with any Board member regarding this solicitation shall be publicly disclosed and made a part of the record prior to, or during, the public meeting at which a vote is to be taken regarding the contract award. Such disclosure shall be made before final action is taken on this matter.

Do any Board members have any disclosures they need to make at this time?

Mr. Gentry said he received correspondence from everyone of the vendors; received phone calls from lawyers for Aramark; ran into the folks from Chartwells at dinner the other night; and basically, I've been contacted by everyone in some form or another.

Ms. Drake said she received the same things by mail that everybody has; I've received requests to meet with just about everybody but I have not met with anybody.

Mr. Jordan said I haven't met with anyone. I received all these barrage of documents from all of the players. I have talked to a couple of their agents but I've not met with anyone by design. My ears are out of breath from listening but I've not met with them.

Ms. Broner said I've received documents from all of them. I've received phone calls from all of them, I think. Are we supposed to declare dates? General conversations? I had a conversation with even at the awards last

week, with representatives, I believe from Aramark and sometime in the past month, I talked with a representative from Sodexo.

Ms. Priestly Jackson said I've received communications from all proposed individuals who respond to the RFP. I have had phone conversations with individuals from Aramark and I have not had any direct communication with anyone who responds to the RFP who's been directly involved.

Ms. Burney said "yes", I have received information from Aramark, Sodexo and from Chartwells, whatever material that came in the Board runs and emails.

Mr. Hazouri said he received the same correspondence from all three vendors. I had a couple three calls and a couple wanted to meet and I chose not to do that in difference to the RFP still being, even though it had been recommended to one particular vendor not to discuss that. A couple three phone calls, brief calls with the emails to be sent which they were and ran into one representative from Sodexo and had about a ten second conversation while I was at Panera's and that's it.

Speakers:

Mr. Stan Jordan, Board Member

Ms. Cindy Laquidara, Deputy General Counsel

Ms. Brenda Priestly Jackson, Vice Chairman

Mr. Tommy Hazouri, Board Chairman

Report by Superintendent:

The Chairman outlined some of the process that we had gone through over the last few days, the Board meeting of April 27, the letter to Linda Champion on April 29, the response that was both from USDA and also the Department of Education (DOE) on April 30 and then our response on Friday, May 1. There were four questions that they asked for clarification. The first three were fairly straight forward and easy documents. The fourth one was more challenging and read: "*Provide documentation at these discounts, rebates and credits that were provided to the school district over the life of the contract.*" The reason why they wanted to see these is because the current contract is what's called the Maximum Allowable Cost (MAC) and in order to do that, the district has to get information from the vendor. Our staff spent most of Friday and we had 5-6 people on this with Mr. Soares and Ms. Begley taking the lead and constantly talking with Ms. Begley in terms of the kind of information that would be necessary. Near the end of Friday, we had not yet been able to document two years, the 2006-07 and 2007-08 school years, whether in fact we had received some of the national volume discounts...two parts and on one of those parts, we were not able to determine...it could have come...be in one of two directions. It could have been a cash amount that was provided to the district so we weren't able to find it there and the other place, it could have been in a billing where we were given credit for it.

Now, before one of the questions some of the Board members had, "Why were we able to do this in 2005-06 and it was more challenging after that?" In 2005-06, as I understand it, the position the DOE was, they would take the vendors numbers, in terms of the cost, and do the computation on the MAC, accordingly. Somewhere in the 2006-07 and Ms. Begley is going to help me out with some of the details here in just a second, the DOE, largely because of the insistence of the USDA, determined that the districts had to have more information in order to establish that we were in fact receiving all of these that were due to the district...and, it's been somewhat of a challenge in terms of getting that information. There have been discussions often with the district, DOE and the vendor in terms of how much and what types of information are sufficient to verify this whether or not some of that information was proprietary information and, therefore, did not have to be shared. So, it's been a very complex environment since that time. It's one of the reasons why we got an audit exception and that DOE changed the level of documentation that was necessary above what had been expected before. It also is in part why the state is moved to more of a fixed contract arrangement as opposed to a MAC RFP type process because, as was mentioned earlier by one of the speakers, this is a very complexed and difficult area in terms of documentation and so forth.

We received some initial response, as was mentioned earlier, when we weren't able to find it at the end of Friday, contacted Aramark and asked what records they might have in case somehow, we had overlooked this and making sure that we were giving every opportunity to give the correct information to DOE and USDA for them to make a determination and the question they're trying to answer is, "*Would it be possible for the Board to extend the current contract for up to a year and still receive USDA funding?*" That was the question. I think the reason why they were asking the specific information on this because they wanted to find out if what was supposed to be happening was happening and so it's a critical question in terms of whether or not they would tell the Board "yes" or "no" on the question of whether or not the Board could extend. Having received some general information this morning from Aramark, we asked for more information as backup documentation. What is still in question is how specific that has to be particularly in terms of whether or not we have to get the records of the cost that the vendor bore in order to be able to make final determination on this. I gave to you another two questions that we provided to Cathy Reed who is with the DOE with the Food Services division to clarify what kind of information was necessary at this point. Some of that information has not been provided so, at this point, we do not have an answer on whether or not the Board can extend the current contract. Time is of the essence and I know one of the concerns the Board has is that the Board is being pushed on this and really hasn't had that many options, however, I do think that this week is the drop dead week for me to make a decision and it's my opinion that we should support the recommendation and move forward. However, if there's not enough support for that, I would say that we would need to get information from USDA that would indicate positively that we can extend the contract and if that was the



Board's pleasure, then I would strongly recommend that we do so for a full calendar year. The position that I would say would be dangerous would be one in which the Board would reject all responders and try to do a "hurry up" RFP, get that on the street, get a decision made, get a vendor in place be it the current or one of the other two, in time for August. You saw the timeline that was provided by Mr. Ganger and was heavily qualified with "if, if, if" and if anyone of those "if's" happened, it's my opinion if we could be in a position that would be chaotic and would not be functional and would not be effective as far as students. So, that's where we are. I did ask DOE, assuming we could get all the information that would be available to us forwarded to them, how long it might take to get a response. They thought it could be within a matter of a day or two. They understand our situation in terms of the timing and they're sensitive to that, so I think the real question is the kind of documentation that's provided whether or not it reaches a threshold that they find sufficient and after that, make a ruling on whether or not it's possible to extend.

So, again, my recommendation would be to support this administration's recommendation and move forward within the negotiation process and take care of some of the concerns the Board has outlined. However, if there's not sufficient support for that, to extend the meeting in order to give staff, DOE, and USDA another day or two in order to come back and make a final decision, one way or the other. I am a little concerned having spoken to two or three members. I haven't tried to poll anybody. Whether or not it's going to be possible to get a time this week for the majority of the Board and obviously, this is a big decision and we want, if all possible, all seven members here. I do think it's a logistical problem if it's not tomorrow night when we're already set to meet and some members have said, it's not an ideal time to take this up again during a regular meeting. However, the pleasure of the Board, whatever the Board wants to do in terms of meeting. Obviously, we'll do that and continue to push to get an answer to get all the pertinent information to them so we can get a response from them, should it be the decision to defer.

Speakers:

Mr. Tommy Hazouri, Board Chairman  
Mr. W. C. Gentry, Board Member  
Ms. Michelle Begley, Internal Board Auditor  
Mr. Paul Soares, Chief Officer, Operations Support  
Ms. Brenda Priestly Jackson, Vice Chairman  
Mr. Ed Pratt-Dannals, Superintendent of Schools  
Mr. Doug Ayars, Chief Operating Officer  
Ms. Cindy Laquidara, Deputy Chief General Counsel  
Ms. Nancy Broner, Board Member  
Ms. Betty Burney, Board Member  
Mr. Stephen Bright, Executive Director, Business Services  
Mr. John Radcliffe, Director, Technical/Logistic Services  
Ms. Vicki Drake, Board Member  
Mr. Stan Jordan, Board Member  
Mr. John Hanner, Senior Vice President, Aramark

*NOTE: Recessed for a 15 minute break*

Speakers:

Mr. Tommy Hazouri, Board Chairman  
Ms. Betty Burney, Board Member  
Mr. W. C. Gentry, Board Member  
Ms. Vicki Drake, Board Member  
Mr. Paul Soares, Chief Officer, Operations Support  
Ms. Brenda Priestly Jackson, Vice Chairman  
Ms. Nancy Broner, Board Member  
Ms. Karen Chastain, Office of General Counsel  
Mr. Ed Pratt-Dannals, Superintendent of Schools  
Ms. Cindy Laquidara, Deputy Chief General Counsel  
Ms. Michelle Begley, Internal Board Auditor  
Mr. Stan Jordan, Board Member  
Mr. Steve Mallozzi, representing Aramark, General Counsel  
Mr. Stephen Bright, Executive Director, Business Services  
Mr. Doug Ayars, Chief Operating Officer  
Mr. Mike Perrone, Acting Chief Financial Officer

Mr. Jordan moved to recess this meeting and reconvene for information no later than May 12, 2009.

Mr. Gentry asked if it would be appropriate if our counsel or Ms. Chastain, to start communicating with Aramark regarding the necessary amendments that would be required to make this happen, assuming that we get approval from DOE to extend the contract so we don't get here, find out that we can extend the contract and then we have to go all even further because we still haven't had those discussions? Can we have some participatory discussions with Aramark?

Ms. Laquidara said there's certainly nothing wrong with doing that and that would prevent us from being in a position where we put all of our eggs in a basket and then I can't get the contract terms that you want.

Mr. Pratt-Dannals said that is the second part of the question that we clearly articulated to DOE and USDA. The first part was "Can we extend it...if so, are there any elements that would need to be modified and specifically in writing...what those would be including what I would anticipate as a marked up copy with words, if that was necessary?" We clearly asked that question...what we get back, I'm not sure...I don't think it's participatory in meeting, but what they give us back, I think is what we're going to be...

Mr. Ayars, "Just a comment, if we're going to proceed that way, I'd ask the Board and Superintendent to consider there's two other competitors. So, not knowing the outcome, we are working out of sequence with only one for a contingency basis. Just consider there's two others that we could benefit with the same kind of discussion regarding the business elements

before the Board makes a decision. Otherwise, we're not...we don't know the outcome, so we really don't know who we're going to be doing service with..."

Mr. Gentry said, "That's out of order and doesn't have to do with what we're doing here. We're dealing with an extension."

Mr. Hazouri said, "We're recessed."

Motions:

That the Duval County School Board award the Food Service Department Management and Operations contract to Compass Group USA, Inc., by and through its Chartwell's Division, and authorize the Superintendent and the Board Chairman to execute the contract upon completion of negotiations and form approval of the contract by the Office of General Counsel.

Vote Results

Motion: Victoria Drake

Second: Brenda Priestly Jackson

Discussion

For The Record

Adjournment

[ADJOURNMENT](#)

Minutes:

The meeting recessed at 6:55 p.m.

Isd

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Superintendent

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Chairman