



Duval County Public Schools

November 14, 2012, Organizational Meeting

Mr. Fred "Fel" Lee
Ms. Becki Couch
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 ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING OF THE DUVAL COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD with Dr. Nikolai Vitti, Superintendent of Schools, Ms. Karen Chastain, Chief Officer of Legal Services and all Board members, present.

Call Meeting to Order

[1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER](#)

Minutes: The Organizational meeting was called to order at 5:01 p.m.

Invocation

[INVOCATION](#)

Minutes: Pastor Ted Corley gave the Invocation.

Pledge of Allegiance

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Board Members'

1. SWEARING IN CEREMONY

Minutes:

That the four School Board Members-Elect be sworn in and take office effective November 20, 2012:

District 1:

Ms. Cheryl Grymes was sworn in by Mr. Matt Carlucci

District 3:

Ms. Ashley Smith Juarez was sworn in by Pastor Laurie Ann Knoespel

District 5:

Dr. Connie Hall was sworn in by Judge James Ruth

District 7:

Mr. Jason Fischer was sworn in by Judge A. C. Soud, Jr.

2. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Minutes:

Board Member Wright nominated Mr. Fred "Fel" Lee for Chairman with no other nominations. Mr. Lee was unanimously elected Chairman of the Board for the 2012-2013 year to be effective November 20, 2012.

Motions:

Board Member Wright nominated Mr. Fred "Fel" Lee for Chairman with no other nominations. Mr. Lee was unanimously elected Chairman of - PASS the Board for the 2012-2013 year to be effective November 20, 2013.

Vote Results

Motion: Paula Wright

Second: Cheryl Grymes

Rebecca Couch - Aye

Jason Fischer - Aye

Cheryl Grymes - Aye

Connie Hall - Aye

Ashley Juarez - Aye

Fred Lee - Aye

Paula Wright - Aye

3. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

Minutes:

Board Member Hall nominated Ms. Paula D. Wright for Vice Chairman and Board Member Grymes nominated Ms. Becki Couch for Chairman.

Ms. Couch was elected Vice Chairman of the Board for the 2012-2013 year to be effective November 20, 2012.

Motions:

That Ms. Paula D. Wright be Vice-Chairman of the Board for 2012-2013. - FAIL

Vote Results

Motion: Connie Hall

Second:

Rebecca Couch - Nay

Jason Fischer - Aye

Cheryl Grymes - Nay

Connie Hall - Aye

Ashley Juarez - Nay

Fred Lee	- Nay
Paula Wright	- Aye

Motions:

That Ms. Becki Couch be Vice-Chairman of the Board for 2012-2013. - PASS

Vote Results

Motion: Cheryl Grymes

Second:

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

4. OATH OF OFFICE

Minutes: The *Oath of Office* was administered to both Mr. Lee and Ms. Couch by Pastor Ted Corley to be effective November 20, 2012.

5. ESTABLISH TIME, PLACE, AND DATE OF REGULAR MEETINGS

Minutes: Ms. Couch recommended that the Duval County School Board conduct their regular meetings on the first Tuesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. in the Cline Auditorium, first floor of the Administration Building, 1701 Prudential Drive, Jacksonville, FL 32207 to be effective November 20, 2012.

Motions:

That the Duval County School Board conduct their regular meetings on the first Tuesday of each month at 6:00 p.m., in the first Floor Board Room of the - PASS

Administration Building, 1701 Prudential Drive.

Vote Results

Motion: Rebecca Couch

Second: Jason Fischer

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

For The Record

[FOR THE RECORD](#)

Minutes:

Ms. Couch said "thank you" to everyone who came out in support of the Board members, tonight, and that I'm looking forward to the future and in using Dr. Vitti's words, *"going from good to great"*. I think we're poised for that with this new leadership team for Duval County. I'm looking forward to it.

Ms. Wright said I want to thank everybody for not only coming out for this Organizational meeting but coming out and supporting us. These last two years have been quite tenuous and I'm looking forward to moving in a collaborative cooperative manner. I know how the four of you are feeling as I remember two years ago, my first Organizational meeting and the excitement after winning the election and to actually sit in this seat. I think that we, as a team, because we are a team, will do some marvelous things not just for our students, district and parents, but for our community. We have a new team and an exciting and engaging Superintendent and all I see for all of us in the future is "good and great". Thank you so very much.

Dr. Hall said to our Chairman, Superintendent and my fellow Board members and those of you out in the audience tonight, it is a pleasure for me to serve on the Duval County School Board for the next four years. I invite you to work with each of us as we move forward and build a school system of greatness. I stand on the shoulders of

many that have done wonderful work and as we move forward in unity, we will only work for the best interest of the students that we serve. I'm proud to be here, proud to represent Duval County Public Schools and most importantly, to make those decisions that will work for the best interest of the children that we serve. Thank you so much for being here and continue to join us on this journey. We need you. We represent you but we need your support and your active involvement. Thank you.

Mr. Fischer said I appreciate the opportunity to serve on the School Board. It's a unique opportunity and for somebody who was born and raised in Jacksonville, to be able to shape part of our local government, is truly an honor. As our Governor is very fond of saying, "*Let's get to work.*"

Ms. Grymes said I'd like to thank my family and my supporters. We obviously knew what we were getting into when we started the campaign and certainly, through their willingness to let me serve. They know there's a sacrifice that goes along with it so I appreciate their support and I appreciate everyone who is here, tonight. I, too, am looking forward to this. It's been 12 years since I sat in this seat and I know many things have changed. I'm excited about the new team and I feel the community is poised and ready to help us take the school district to the level we all want it to be. I am very excited about working with our new leader and look forward to his leadership and congratulations to Fel Lee and Becki Couch who are our new leaders of the Board. As Dr. Hall said, I hope all of you follow and join us along the way. To Matt and Karen Carlucci, thank you very much for being here and to Matt, for swearing me into office.

Ms. Smith Juarez said I would echo the thanks of my fellow Board members to each of you for being here, tonight. To my family that is here and has been such a tremendous support, I will continue to need your support and I am so blessed to have all of you in my life and really appreciate all of you. And, to Laurie Ann Knoespel who came from North Carolina to be here just for me, it is touching and means a lot to me. I am very much looking forward to the work of improving our public education system and to continue listening to the voices of our students and the voices of parents and stakeholders in the community. Duval County Public Schools truly are our public schools. While we have been entrusted to represent the voices of each of those groups, it is important that we continue that dialog through this process and I look forward to that and to the unique voices to each of my fellow Board members which are all critically important to the work we will do as a Board, together. Thank you, again, for being here. It is an honor and privilege to serve Duval County.

Mr. Lee, as Chairman, I'll take a point of privilege and ask Dr. Vitti if he has a few remarks. This is officially your first Board meeting, even though we consider this a "special" meeting but I want to give you an opportunity to address the audience.

Dr. Vitti said "thank you" and congratulations to you to lead and Ms. Couch as Vice Chair and to all of the newly elected Board members. This is an exciting time in Jacksonville. You can feel the excitement in the air. We have a new Chair and a new Board; obviously it's necessary to recognize the outgoing Board with the foundational work that it did in creating a situation that we have something to build upon as we move into the future and also to the former Superintendent, Ed Pratt-Dannals, in a time in which there was a bit of chaos in the district and uncertainty. I think Mr. Pratt-Dannals leadership brought calm to the district and allowed it to create the foundation

that exists now for us to accelerate and as Ms. Couch said, *"go from good to great"* and to make this truly a model urban school district which I have no hesitation in saying that we will arrive to that point in the near future. I'm excited about the composition of the new Board. I think it represents the community in so many different ways. We have former teachers on the Board; we have former administrators; we have community activists; former Board members; it will be a great synergy and a collective effort - a team effort in taking this school district to the next level. So, I want to thank all of you for being willing to take on this charge of very difficult work but we will do it together. I also want to thank the City of Jacksonville for their hospitality and welcome over the past few days. It's not easy leaving a place you've been at for awhile. I've been here a couple of days now without my family but I have to say I've been truly, truly welcomed in a genuine way and I've often told my family back home, that the shoe certainly fits regarding the superintendency and the opportunity to lead this great district. Thank you.

Mr. Lee said it is absolutely an honor and privilege to each of my Board members to be the Chairman of the Board. I promise you to work tirelessly on your behalf and with you, collaboratively. This is a great team. Ms. Wright talks about it alot and it's true. We believe in that and I'm really look forward to tomorrow and the next few weeks as we start form the team and all that goes with it. So, thank you for this opportunity to serve each and every one of you. I want to say, first, to my wife, she's my rock and she knows it. She's always there and she doesn't like the limelight so I try not to put her there, too much. I'm very appreciative of her and thanks, Sweetie. My parents are also in the audience - thank you both for being here and your support for what we're trying to do and I'm very grateful. I want to say that I saw Betty Burney earlier - thanks for being a great mentor. I told you that the mentorship is not over yet so you don't get off so easy and I can actually talk with you, now which is great. I want to recognize one of our former Superintendent in the audience - General John Fryer - thank you for your service to our community. I saw one of our former Senators - Senator Stephen Wise - thank you, too, for your service to our community. Have I missed any other elected officials? Representative Mia Jones - thank you. She is serving her community not just as a representative but at the City of Jacksonville - she is wearing two hats and than you. I want to thank each of the staff, the teachers - everything you do each and every day - the Board clearly understand where you are at and we're here to support you and try to help you in any way we can. The pledge from this Board is *"we're going to get to work and work hard"*. So, thank you!

Adjournment

[ADJOURNMENT](#)

Minutes:

The Organizational meeting adjourned at 5:37 p.m.

Isd

Superintendent

Chairman