



Duval County Public Schools

November 18, 2008, Organizational Meeting

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

ATTENDANCE AT THIS SPECIAL ORGANIZATION MEETING of the Duval County School Board with Mr. Ed Pratt-Dannals, Superintendent of Schools, Ms. Karen Chastain, Office of General Counsel, and all seven Board members, present.

Call Meeting to Order

[1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER](#)

Minutes: The Chairman called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. and welcomed everyone.

[2. APPROVAL OF THE NOVEMBER 18, 2008, AGENDA](#)

Minutes:

Motions:

- PASS

Vote Results

Motion: Nancy Broner

Second: Victoria Drake

Kristanna Barnes - Not Present

Martha Barrett - Not Present

Nancy Broner - Aye

Betty Burney - Aye

Victoria Drake - Aye

William Gentry - Aye

Thomas Hazouri - Aye

Stan Jordan - Aye

Brenda Priestly jackson - Aye

Invocation

[INVOCATION](#)

Minutes:

Reverend Kevin Pound
Mandarin Presbyterian Church

Pledge of Allegiance

[PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE](#)

Minutes:

Board Members'

[1. SWEARING IN CEREMONY](#)

Minutes:

District 1:
Mr. Stan Jordan was sworn in by Vicki Reynolds.

District 3:
Mr. W. C. Gentry was sworn in by Judge Susan Black

District 5:
Ms. Betty Burney was sworn in by Mr. Wendell Holmes

District 7:
Mr. Tommy Hazouri was sworn in by Reverend Kevin Pound.

Motions:

New Board Members will be sworn in at this point in the meeting: The Chairman may wish to introduce family members present at the Board Meeting for those Members being sworn in. District 1: Mr. Stan Jordan will be sworn in by Ms. Vicki Reynolds. District 3: Mr. W. C. Gentry will be sworn in by Judge Susan Black. District 5: Ms. Betty Burney will be sworn in by Mr. Wendell Holmes. District 7: Mr. Tommy Hazouri will be sworn in by Reverend Kevin Pound.

Vote Results

Motion:

Second:

Kristanna Barnes	- Not Present
Martha Barrett	- Not Present
Nancy Broner	-
Betty Burney	-
Victoria Drake	-
William Gentry	-
Thomas Hazouri	-
Stan Jordan	-
Brenda Priestly Jackson	-

[2. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN](#)

Minutes:

Chairman Betty Burney gave information on "Our Balance Sheet of Academic Achievement":

- * A child enrolling in our school system represent our Opening Balance
- * That child's graduation with a diploma is our Closing Balance
- * Our Prejudiced Views regarding a child's potential are our Liabilities
- * Our Creative Ideas and Motivating that child to Excellence are our Assets
- * Differentiated Instruction can represent our Current Asset
- * A High Quality Teacer in Every Classroom must be our Fixed Asset
- * Stimulating a child's Brain is our Fixed Deposit
- * Academic Achievement is our Capital
- * A child capable of competing in the Global & Technological Society is our Interest Earned
- * Providing equitable and adequate resources in a child's school is our greatest Investment
- * The Aim is to Tally the Balance Sheet of Education and Knowledge Accurately
- * The Goal is to win the "Quality Education for All" Accounts Award

Mr. Stan Jordan nominated Tommy Hazouri for Chairman for the 2008-2009. There were no other nominations.

Mr. Tommy Hazouri was unanimously elected as Chairman of the Board for 2008-2009.

[3. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN](#)

Minutes:

Ms. Nancy Broner nominated Ms. Brenda Priestly Jackson for Vice Chairman of the Board for the 2008-2009. There were no other nominations.

Ms. Brenda Priestly Jackson was unanimously elected Vice Chairman of the Board for 2008-2009.

[4. OATH OF OFFICE](#)

Minutes:

The following Oath of Office was administered by Reverend Kevin Pound to both the new Chairman, Tommy Hazouri and Vice Chairman, Brenda Priestly Jackson, individually:

"I, DO SOLEMNLY SWEAR (OR AFFIRM) that I will support, protect and defend the Constitution and Government of the United States of the State of Florida; that I am duly qualified to hold office under the Constitution of the State, and that I will well and faithfully perform the duties of Chairman/Vice-Chairman."

Chairman Tommy Hazouri made the following remarks:

"To my fellow Board members, thank you! To our Superintendent, his cabinet, staff and to all of our teachers, I wish to say that I look forward to working with you and that our Board is unwavering in its commitment to eliminate the achievement gap.

Change is indeed coming but it won't be at the expense of one child or one school. It will be as the result of hard work, community and business support and parental involvement. Our schools will be safe, discipline will rule and accountability will be the order of the day.

As we say "good-bye" to our former Board members Kris Barnes and Martha Barrett, we say "welcome" to their successors, W. C. Gentry and Stand Jordan. Our challenge to you is the same for each of us on this working Board. *If we are in for a penny, we are in for a pound*, as we work individually and collaboratively to set policy, conduct our business with transparency, and remain vigilant in our own professional development.

The past year, for the first time in our district's modern history, we have set into motion the blueprint for the future of our district with our Strategic Plan...a six-point, four year plan of action that is supported by both the Superintendent and the Board. It was adopted to fulfill our Core Beliefs and Commitments for all children who attend Duval County Public Schools. Our Data Dashboard, among other measurements will hold this district accountable and our Board to maintain the fidelity of the accountability.

Our mission is to follow through on these commitments and knowing there is much work to be done; that educating our children is a never ending process (story). It is indeed a work in progress.

This past year and even before, educational dollars from the state have become less and less, and this year, we continue to see cuts - \$70 million dollars and still falling. Sometime this week or next week, we expect to receive even deeper cuts from the legislature and governor. If we are concerned about Global Warming, we should be equally concerned about Education Warming as our educational dollars are on "thin ice".

As we have discussed and the accreditation committee has reaffirmed, we must look at our operational and academic programs with a sharp eye...looking carefully at those programs that are working and, perhaps, eliminate or consolidate those programs that are not.

I believe this Board and our district, in seeking more funding sources, must be more creative in working with both the public and private sectors to increase our resources. As we experience our real estate downturns, I hope we can continue to work with the city or a private entity to take us off this valuable waterfront property, but not at our expense or with dollars coming out of our empty pockets.

Additionally, I think it is imperative that our children and schools get their rightful share of the property taxes not currently being provided to us by the Jacksonville Electric Authority. I realize times are tough, but the bell tolls for all of us and the school district should no longer be treated as "poor cousins". We must, as public partners, find a long term solution to this unresolved issue by being creative and responsible to the taxpayers.

Partnerships are critical if we are to be efficient and effective in our quest for educational excellence. The Mayor's Jacksonville Journey initiatives are another road to assist in this quest. New Board member W. C. Gentry has been a stalwart in this initiative. The road is long, but the educational goals remain the same as we prepare our students for their rightful destiny to succeed.

Our legislative agenda should not be ignored. We can add even great strength to our lobbying efforts with new Board member Stan Jordan. I believe all of us on this Board agree that student achievement is our common denominator if our city is to provide opportunities for strong economic development, less crime and good paying jobs. Our very quality of life depends upon it. In my judgment, the power of a good education is the panacea for our success as a city, state and nation.

Nancy Broner, Betty Burney, Vicki Drake and Brenda Priestly Jackson have been strong, intelligent and thoughtful Board members. Now, while we certainly will miss Kris Barnes and Martha Barrett, with the addition of W. C. Gentry and Stan Jordan, the board will not need rebuilding. I know we will not miss a beat. While each of us represent different backgrounds and different learning experiences, we all have the same commitment to student achievement. We may have differences on some issues during the past four years but our success and strength as a Board have been due in large part because we have respect for each of those opinion and for one another.

It is my hope and expectation that this unity will continue and that this year will be one of great expectations. To paraphrase Charles Dickens from his "*A Tale of Two Cities*", "We have everything before us...or we have nothing before us."

I pledge to this Board and to our citizens that I will work with each of you to make this year a season of light and the spring of hope for all education."

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

Minutes:

Ms. Broner offered a motion to move the December 1, 2008 Regular Board meeting to December 8, 2008. Ms. Drake seconded the motion.

Ms. Broner offered a motion to maintain the regular monthly Board meetings to be held on the first Tuesday of each month at 6:00 p.m., in the 1st floor Board Room of the Administration Building, 1701 Prudential Drive, Jacksonville, FL 32207.

Motions:

1. That the Duval County School Board approve moving the December 1, 2008, Regular Board meeting to December 8, 2008, 6:00 pm, 1st Floor Board Room. - PASS

Vote Results

Motion: Nancy Broner

Second: Betty Burney

Kristanna Barnes	- Not Present
Martha Barrett	- Not Present
Nancy Broner	- Aye
Betty Burney	- Aye
Victoria Drake	- Aye
William Gentry	- Aye
Thomas Hazouri	- Aye
Stan Jordan	- Aye
Brenda Priestly Jackson	- Aye

Motions:

2. That the Duval County School Board discuss and establish the time, place, and date of Regular Meetings, in accordance with File: 2.26, Duval County School Board Policy Handbook. Note: A recommendation from a Board Member regarding the time, place, and date of Regular Meetings is in order at this time. - PASS

Vote Results

Motion: Nancy Broner

Second: Betty Burney

Kristanna Barnes	- Not Present
Martha Barrett	- Not Present
Nancy Broner	- Aye
Betty Burney	- Aye
Victoria Drake	- Aye
William Gentry	- Aye

Thomas Hazouri	- Aye
Stan Jordan	- Aye
Brenda Priestly jackson	- Aye

For The Record

[FOR THE RECORD](#)

Minutes: No items "For the Record".

Adjournment

[ADJOURNMENT](#)

Minutes:

The Special Organization meeting adjourned at 5:35 p.m

lsd

Superintendent

Chairman