

**MINUTES**  
**School Board Workshop**  
**March 1, 2011**

This workshop, called to order at 8:30 a.m. by Chairman Bill Fehling, was held at the St. Johns County School Board Administrative Center, 40 Orange Street, St. Augustine, Florida. Dr. Joyner called roll; all board members were present. Also in attendance was School Board Attorney Frank D. Upchurch, III, district staff and community members.

**Opening Comments**

Mr. Mignon commented that the Secretarial Leadership Conference was very well received, and Mr. Allen noted that 22 counties were represented there. Mrs. Wright stated she'll be reading Spanish books to Mill Creek students. Dr. Joyner announced that the American Youth Character Award nominations are due by March 4<sup>th</sup> and the form is on the website. The AYCA Banquet will be held on April 28<sup>th</sup> at the World Golf Village. Dr. Joyner also noted that our health centers are receiving a great deal of attention in the Florida legislature. An update on the I-95/SR 206 fire and its effect on Pedro Menendez High School student arrival time on FCAT testing day was discussed.

**Reading/Math FCAT Update**

Dr. Joyner talked about FCAT 2.0 testing and grading information. Mrs. Stewart explained that this year's Florida Writes proficiency score will be 4.0 with one scorer. She detailed changes to reading in grades 3-10, noting there will be multiple choice and common core standards. A discussion on question complexity followed. Examples of old and new sample items for 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade reading were examined. Mrs. Stewart noted our students will be well prepared.

**Race to the Top Update**

Dr. Joyner thanked Mrs. Stewart for her leadership on this grant. Mrs. Stewart presented updated information on disbursements, timelines and accountability.

**Budget Update**

Mr. Weiss presented updated information on the 2011-12 tentative budget. He noted that the Governor's FTE projection is higher at 928.60 than the district's projection of 759.39. Mr. Weiss then detailed the 3<sup>rd</sup> calculation and compared it to the Governor's FY 2011-12 proposal. This depicts a decrease of \$16.4M. A discussion on the variables of increased costs followed. Mrs. Slough remarked that kindergarten registration has been notably low for the first registration period for all elementary schools.

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### **Preliminary and Tentative Audit Findings**

Dr. Joyner stated this is a very good audit with no material findings; he is very proud of our finance team. Mr. Weiss introduced Ms. Clara Ewing and Ms. Yvonne Claiborne of McGladrey, our audit firm. He noted that state auditors arrived in July, 2010, and we've had between 1-5 auditors here since then. Mr. Weiss spoke on audit finding numbers 1, 5 and 6. Mr. Springfield spoke on audit finding numbers 2, 3 and 4. Mrs. Slough congratulated Mrs. Posey on her American Recovery and Reinvestment Act grant audits.

### **Self-Funded Medical Plan Actuary**

Mr. Jim Springfield reported we are required by law to perform these actuaries. It was suggested we raise premiums by 11%; we chose to increase by 2 ½% because these reports do not reflect health center savings.

### **Short Term Disability**

Mr. Springfield noted we are reviewing short term disability coverage. We currently have long term disability after 90 days and resignation. With board approval, we'd offer short-term disability with a cost of approximately \$23.00 per month for 60% of \$30,000. This would begin on the 11<sup>th</sup> day and run through 89<sup>th</sup> day once out of sick days. This would not cost the district any money and we'll receive a 5% reduction on long-term disability.

### **Sungard Update**

Mr. Bruce Patrou updated the board on the Sungard implementation timeline. He reviewed project phases and the application migration plan. He announced that time and leave reporting will "go live" on April 18, 2011 for salaried employees. Mr. Patrou noted the Sungard consultants continue to be knowledgeable and helpful.

### **Public Comments**

Mr. Fehling called for public comments and the following came forward:

1. Ms. Debby Etheredge, 92 Veranda Lane, Ponte Vedra, FL, spoke on developmental versus prescriptive education and announced a rally will be held on March 14<sup>th</sup> at the St. Augustine plaza.

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**Closing Comments**

Mrs. Slough announced FSBA's contest, "What's Super about Public Schools". She noted that high schools are invited to participate, and the first-, second-, and third-place ads will be shown at the Spring Conference. Dr. Joyner announced that the three principal positions—Ocean Palms Elementary School, Durbin Creek Elementary School and Otis A. Mason Elementary School—are now posted along with the Chief Financial Officer position. Dr. Joyner announced the High School Art Awards will be held Friday evening, March 4<sup>th</sup>. He also announced an Executive Session will be held in his office at 1:00 p.m. this afternoon.

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Superintendent

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Chairman

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Date Approved