

Pre-Search Conversation with Superintendent (Tuesday, March 29, 2016)

Generated by Miriam Testasecca on Thursday, April 28, 2016

Members present

Kelly Barrera, Tommy Allen, Patrick Canan, Bill Mignon, Bev Slough; also in attendance:

Dr. Joyner and Florida School Board Association (FSBA) Representatives – Andrea Messina, Bill Vogel and John Reichert, who conducted the interview.

Meeting called to order at 8:32 AM

A. Meeting Opening

1. Call to Order by School Board Chair
2. Roll Call

B. Opening Comments - Board and Superintendent None

1. Board Members and Superintendent Opening Comments

C.Pre-Search Conversation with Superintendent

Strategic Plan:

Dr. Joyner was asked how widely known are the Mission Statement, Vision and Strategic Plan.

Dr. Joyner responded that the Mission, Vision and Strategic Plan are widely known; they are our "rules for work." Mr. Canan added that all new employees received training on the Strategic Plan during their orientation. Dr. Joyner added that we cover what's important to us during orientation, including Character Counts!

Dr. Joyner was asked if this understanding of the Strategic Plan extends to the community and parents.

Dr. Joyner replied "yes, they get our values." The Strategic Plan surveys were very informative, they indicated to me that the community is very interested in the vision of our school district.

Mr. Mignon added that our focus groups, such as SAC and PTSO have been very helpful in reaching the community as well.

Top 5 Achievements:

Dr. Joyner was asked what he considers the top 5 achievements while being Superintendent.

Dr. Joyner responded:

- 1. Success of our students*
- 2. Passing of sales tax – helped us face need*
- 3. Addition of mental health and health services for our students*
- 4. Academic standards*
- 5. Fiscal responsibility – solid foundation*

Mrs. Slough added planning and Mrs. Barrera added career academies and the Arts.

Mrs. Slough also stated that all decisions are student-based. Mr. Canan stated that the community really stepped up to help by passing the sales tax.

Dr. Joyner was asked what needs to be addressed before he retires.

Dr. Joyner responded:

- 1. Continued discussions regarding capital funding*
- 2. Continued discussions regarding budget soundness*
- 3. Transition of culture (senior staff)*

Immediate – growth will continue

Mrs. Slough added that we need to have the right people in place for the growth.

Dr. Joyner was asked what needs to be addressed in the next 5 to 10 years.

Dr. Joyner responded:

Continue to focus on growth, operationally, and the speed of growth. (sales tax will help, but not solve the problem)

Mrs. Slough added that we must fight to preserve our culture, due to the changing size of the county.

Mr. Canan asked Dr. Joyner how long it took him to understand the school district and community.

Dr. Joyner responded that he had a sense of growth before he came to St. Johns County, and that he visited the schools and all areas of the community.

Dr. Joyner was asked what areas of focus need to continue.

Dr. Joyner responded that according to the Strategic Plan surveys, the following areas need to be the continued focus for the future:

- 1. College Readiness*
- 2. Graduation Rate*
- 3. Test scores*
- 4. Career and Technical Programs*
- 5. Focus on all children*
- 6. Individual Learning Paths*

Dr. Joyner was asked about the Board and Superintendent relationship.

Dr. Joyner responded that you need to understand who you work for, and communicate and work with the board. Relationships are part of our culture, and integrity starts at the top. Dr. Joyner also stated that the community has confidence in the school district, so community partnerships are important.

D. Public Comment

1. Mrs. Michelle Dillon, SJEA President, 1333 Old Dixie Hwy, St. Augustine, FL 32084

Mrs. Dillon thanked Dr. Joyner for meeting with her on a regular basis.

E. Closing Comments by the School Board and Superintendent

Mrs. Slough and Mrs. Barrera thanked Dr. Joyner for the open and honest discussion. Mr. Mignon and Mr. Allen stated that they enjoyed the session. Mr. Canan thanked FSBA for their assistance in the process of hiring the next Superintendent.

Adjournment: 9:59 AM