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TO: The Hon. Paula D Wright, Duval County Public Schools School Board Members
FROM: Trey Csar, President, Jacksonville Public Education Fund
DATE: June 7, 2017
RE: Summary and Recommendations for 2017 ONE by ONE Convention: Students at the Center of the Conversation

Since 2012, the Jacksonville Public Education Fund has partnered with DCPS and community stakeholders to gather community input about the greatest challenges facing our public schools and the biggest opportunities to affect positive change. In response to the desire from the communities we serve to have an opportunity to discuss the district's recent leadership transition as well as to celebrate the culmination of our year-long Student Voice work, we at the Jacksonville Public Education Fund held the ONE by ONE Convention: Students at the Center of the Conversation. At this year's Convention, education stakeholders (parents, students, school leaders and community members) came together to determine and discuss what priorities the next DCPS Superintendent should focus on.

Priorities identified by education stakeholders for the next superintendent include:

- Personally engage and communicate with the many education stakeholders with transparency and foster stakeholder relationships with intention. The stakeholders feel a lot of knowledge can be gained from listening, learning and sharing within and between stakeholder groups.
- Work to offer a variety of classes, activities and experiential learning opportunities. Stakeholders highlighted a desire for practical course offerings that reflected the skills and knowledge that would be needed to succeed in modern-day careers.
- The equitable distribution of resources and services. The conversation included capital infrastructure and the allocation of resources to certain schools, but also covered topics related to students who have special needs or need special accommodations.
- Prioritize the attraction and retention of high quality teachers by investing in our educators. Education stakeholders defined this investment as both salary and opportunities for professional development. Similar investments should be extended to school leaders so that they can have more autonomy and provision in the curriculum that could entice other educators to stay.
- Use marketing to change the negative perceptions associated with some of the schools in the district. There is a desire to shift the climate and culture of the schools from negative to positive. Education stakeholders identified tools and strategies that could help to create more favorable school culture and you can learn more [here](#).
- Prioritize action. Build capacity to help achieve the results we all want to see.
- Prioritize political engagement. Education stakeholders want the next superintendent to be proactively involved and to inform them.



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In addition to these seven priorities, education stakeholders also discussed the characteristics of an excellent superintendent. **Three characteristics of an excellent superintendent surfaced from the common themes:** (1) the ability to authentically listen to diverse stakeholders, especially students; (2) have a permanent and constant interaction with school-level personnel and incorporate their perspective in his or her decision-making; (3) be a transformational leader with a proven record of effectiveness.

Finally, education stakeholders discussed what they would like the next superintendent to know or learn about our community. **Participants would like the next superintendent to be aware of** the issue of teacher retention in our district as well as the importance of authentically engaging and listening to the diverse perspectives of all education stakeholders to drive decision-making. Most participants felt that the district is moving in the right direction. While some adjustments are needed, radical change with limited knowledge can set us back.

In the words of one ONE by ONE Convention Education Stakeholder: ***“Come in and see what [it] is like to be a student or teacher. Get a perspective. [The next superintendent] need[s] to come in or send representatives to see what is going on. See what it takes to work the program...”***

ONE by ONE started with an innovative art exhibit that lifted the faces and voices of students in Duval County Public Schools who faced great obstacles to getting their education. It has evolved into a platform through which education stakeholders from every part of Duval County can speak with ONE voice about their priorities for public education.

To read more anonymized responses from participants at this year’s ONE by ONE Convention or learn about past Conventions, visit onebyonejax.org.

Our hope is that the next superintendent will find this feedback useful as he or she works to continue the great progress we have seen as a result of Duval County Public Schools’ continuous commitment to ensuring our students and our city strive for excellence. We look forward to hearing your thoughts on this report and look forward to supporting efforts that continue building on this positive relationship between the school district and the community it serves.