

# Saint Johns County Civic Roundtable

## Minutes of Meeting

November 14, 2016

The meeting was called to order by President Rick Lofgren at 9:00am.

Secretary's Report - The minutes of the October 8<sup>th</sup> 2016 meeting were accepted

Treasurer's Report - A current balance of \$699.00 was reported

President Lofgren introduced Dr. Joseph Joyner St. Johns County Superintendent of schools noting the 40 years of service to our county including 14 years as Superintendent of Schools. Also it was noted that he serves on the board of directors of Flagler College and has received numerous awards including Florida Superintendent of the year. His wife of 40 years, Susan has had an equally long career as a third grade teacher in our school system. Dr. Joyner is one of two finalists for the Presidency of Flagler College.

## Dr. Joyner's Presentation

What distinguishes us as a school system?

Answer: A value system centered around trust.

- 1) What's best for the children.
- 2) Focus on the individual
- 3) Safety First – both physical and emotional
- 4) Sacrifice for our students – often one to one instruction for handicapped students.

Character – included in all job evaluations with emphasis on codes of conduct.

High expectations! Push them higher than they think they can accomplish.

Integrity – Tell the truth – sideline or ignore those that try to hurt people.(Hypercritical individuals that do not trust institutions)

Service- Get kids involved. For example in Senior Centers, Veteran Support , and Food Pantry.

The Saint Johns County Schools serve 38,000 students and consistently ranks number one in the

state. Hire good people – 38 Principals all smart and capable.

Dr. Joyner's recommended reading:

“Good to Great” by Jim Collins - Important quote:  
“Combine deep personal humility with intense professional will”

“Grit” by Angela Duckworth – Gave this book to all principals.

Trust – “Lack of trust will knock you of your game”. When a community abandons a public school system – it's over! They will go to private schools and charter schools.

Vision – All students should graduate with a plan. The graduates should be well rounded, show good leadership and character and care about people and the community.

Further thoughts by Dr. Joyner:

Do it right/be the best in academics, finance/ try to improve every department,

St Johns County graduation rate is 90.5% vs. 77% for the state of Florida.

There is a nurse in every school and social workers are available. Hurricane Matthew created 100 more homeless students requiring special assistance.

Athletics: 3 state championships

Career: 19 Career Academies

Facilities & Operations: The schools are kept in excellent condition in spite of some over 100 years old. New construction is quality with at least a 59 year life. Keep kids safe!

School system has a triple A Moody's rating. Sustained 2 million dollars in storm damage. Support from FEMA?

High expectations from teachers: "Teach hard or go somewhere else" Create an environment that supports good teaching and a sound relationship with the students.

In closing Dr. Joyner said we need good standards of achievement.

President Lofgren presented an engraved plaque from the St. Johns County Civic Association noting Joseph Joyner's outstanding service to our county and its citizens.

Roundtable discussion:

Robert Olson pointed out the withdrawal of the proposed Watermark Project.

Commissioner Jay Morris commented on the 300,000 cubic yards of waste from Matthew collected by county services and the likely movement of sand to Vilano.

Jane Whitmer introduced the digital billboard issue scheduled to be on the agenda of the December 1<sup>st</sup> Zoning board meeting.

John Pilecki – commented on excellent community spirit after the storm(Matthew)

The meeting concluded at 10:30am.

Respectfully submitted,

Dennis Froio, Secretary