

First Coast Tiger Bay Tracks



May 2019 The First Coast Tiger Bay Club, Inc. P.O. Box 2608, Jacksonville, FL 32203

Meet Duval School Superintendent Dr. Greene

May 17, 2019



With most Jacksonville elections resolved in March, we now turn to another contentious political issue: public education. To help us understand the often bizarre school board politics the **First Coast Tiger Bay Club** proudly presents **Dr. Diana Greene**, Superintendent of the Duval County School Board since last July.

For the past 20 years the School Board has been led by John Fryer, Joseph Wise, Ed Pratt-Dannals and Nikolai Vitti. Dr. Greene arrived in July of 2018 and faces plenty of challenges in managing the current 157 schools. The newest school was built 10 years ago and more than half are over 50 years old. The official estimate to replace and repair the aging public schools is \$1.95 billion, half of which is for new school construction. A Joint Committee was formed between the School Board and the City Council to address these funding issues. Don Nelson, assistant superintendent of operations, told the City Council "We are the only county in the state of Florida that doesn't collect impact fees or any kind of sales surtax." According to Teresa Stepzinski of the Florida *Times-Union*, "Impact fees or payment under a concurrency or a fair-share system can only go toward creating new schools. That money can't be used for maintenance of an existing facility, T.R. Hainline, chairman of the Joint Planning Committee, told the council and board." (see <https://www.jacksonville.com/news/20190326/jacksonville-city-council-school-board-discuss-need-to-replace-repair-duval-schools/>).

Dr. Greene has considerable experience in convincing voters to support increased education funding. When she was Manatee County School Superintendent voters approved not only the renewal of a 15-year half-cent sales tax to help fund school district capital needs but also a four-year, one-mill property tax increase to help support more competitive teacher and staff pay as well as adding a half-hour of instruction for students. These referenda added

more than \$60 million annually to the District budget. In the process the District substantially improved its academic rating by the state as well as its graduation rates.

But fiscal matters are only one dimension of the changes she helped bring to the Manatee School District. Her leadership style and confidence building approach altered public perceptions. She has been a teacher, assistant principal, principal, as well as worked in curriculum and staff development. These skills have helped her bring many initiatives to the Duval County School System. (For more on her biography, strategic plan and leadership team see: <https://dcps.duvalschools.org/domain/5270>).

We invite you to join us **May 17th** to participate in a dialogue with School Superintendent Dr. Greene as she presents her vision about the future of education in Jacksonville.

Even though City-wide elections only occur every four years, less than a quarter of registered voters participated in the March 19th elections for Mayor, Constitutional Officers (Sheriff, Property Appraiser, Tax Collector) and City Council. Since no candidate received a majority in five City Council races (two At-Large and three District races), the top two candidates in each will face each other on May 14th for a second run-off election. For first-round official election results see: <https://enr.electionsfl.org/DUV/Summary/2085/>

For an up-to-date list of **all 2019 Jacksonville election candidates (those who won, were defeated and still in the May 14 runoff)**: https://www.voterfocus.com/CampaignFinance/candidate_pr.php?c=Duval (includes campaign contributions but **not** candidate PACs)

2019 Tiger Bay Officers

George Mackoul, President
Dr. Stephen Baker, Vice President
Henry Cordes, Secretary
Marcia Turner, Treasurer

FIRST COAST TIGER BAY CLUB meets for lunch every month, except June, July and December, on the 3rd Friday at 11:30 at The River Club, 1 Independent Drive, 35th Floor. Cost for the event, which includes the wonderful buffet and parking, is \$28. 00

Reservations are required: Call (904) 404-5471 or E-Mail: fcctigerbay@gmail.com

April 2019 STRAW POLL RESULTS

(n=32)

Do you think local unitary elections are a good idea?

53% - Yes

34% - No

13% - Not Sure

Do you think regulations about short term rentals should be determined by the state or locally?

69% - State

19% - Locally

12% - Combination

Do you think Northeast Florida is adequately represented in Tallahassee?

56% - Yes

28% - No

16% - Not sure



April 12, 2019 First Coast Tiger Bay Club Meeting

A.G. Gancarski, Florida Politics

Nate Monroe, Florida Times-Union



April 12, 2019 First Coast Tiger Bay Club Meeting

Tom Collins presents Fang & Claw Award for best question to Jerry Holland

First Coast Tiger Bay will not meet in June and July so members can have a summer Break.

Our next meeting will be August 16, 2019

The First Coast Tiger Bay Club is a multi-partisan political forum that promotes free and open debate but does not support any candidates or issues.

Dr. Stephen Baker, Newsletter Editor

Henry Cordes, Publisher

**Reservations are REQUIRED. Please RSVP by
Tuesday May 14 2019
E-mail: fctigerbay@gmail.com or 904-404-5471**

The First Coast Tiger Bay Club is a multi-partisan political and civic forum designed to explore crucial issues of the day by interacting with outstanding speakers in an open format. The club is non-partisan, never supports particular candidates, nor take sides on issues.