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**Jacksonville Civic Council Urges Community & New Member Inclusion in School Superintendent Search
Members Also Offer Assistance to School Board**

Jacksonville, Fla. – The Jacksonville Civic Council today called on the Duval County School Board to conduct a comprehensive, inclusive, Superintendent search process and allow newly-elected School Board members to help select the next Superintendent. The group also offered to provide assistance with the search, which represents a crucial step toward Jacksonville’s desired future.

“The quality of Duval County’s K-12 public education system is absolutely fundamental to our region’s economic vitality, directly impacting our workforce and business recruitment as well as local colleges and universities. It is also crucial to our quality of life, which depends upon a thriving economic engine to provide jobs and opportunity for local residents,” said the letter from Civic Council Chairman Ed Burr. “That means the choice of an executive to lead the system should be undertaken with the utmost care and stakeholder involvement.”

The Civic Council wrote a letter to Board Chairman Paula Wright, offering to assist in organizing a broad cross-section of community stakeholders to participate in search and selection process.

“Our members are keenly interested in the well-being of our city; and all concur that the hiring of a new Superintendent is one of the most important decisions to be made here in the near future,” said Burr. “We offer our service with no agenda other than to support the School Board in identifying and hiring the most highly-qualified candidate possible and continuing the progress we have seen in recent years.”

Burr said that the School Board and the new Superintendent must be aligned as they set priorities and work to implement important reform measures. He also stated the council’s belief that continuing to execute a unified vision for strategic education reform was key to the region’s future success, and encouraged the board to postpone final action on the search until after incoming members are seated in November 2018. Due to term limits, at least two members will be new to the School Board.

About the Jacksonville Civic Council

The mission of the Jacksonville Civic Council is to promote a fiscally responsible, economically vibrant, thriving community that offers opportunity for all its residents. Our members accomplish this mission by supporting a safe and healthy city, great schools, a dynamic economy featuring a varied base of growth industries, a high standard of operational excellence at all levels of government and an exceptional quality of life including a strong downtown and thriving arts, culture, recreation and sports institutions.