

EXECUTIVE SESSION, WORK SESSION, COMMUNITY INPUT SESSION &  
BUSINESS MEETING  
OF THE  
DEKALB COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

August 14, 2023

The DeKalb County Board of Education held its Executive Session, Work Session, Community Input Session and Business Meeting on Monday, August 14, 2023, in the J. David Williamson Board Room, at the DeKalb County School District's Robert R. Freeman Administrative Instructional Complex, 1701 Mountain Industrial Boulevard, Stone Mountain, Georgia.

Mr. Dijon DaCosta, Sr. convened the meeting at 12:32 pm and noted the following were in attendance; Mrs. Anna Hill, Mrs. Deirdre P. Pierce, Mrs. Whitney McGinniss, Mrs. Vickie B. Turner, Ms. Allyson Gevertz, and Dr. Devon Q. Horton, Superintendent.

Also in attendance were General Counsel Attorney, Ms. Melanie Slaton and Dr. Yolanda Williamson, Executive Administrator to the Board. Dr. Joyce Morley joined the meeting when the group adjourned to executive session.

**ADJOURN TO AN EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Mr. DaCosta, Sr. called for a motion to adjourn August 14, 2023, meeting to an executive session for the purpose of discussing permitted matters regarding litigation, land, legal, personnel, and student appeals.

On a motion by Mrs. Hill, seconded by Mrs. Turner and with a vote of (6\0), the August 14, 2023, meeting adjourned to executive session at 12:34 pm.

**ADJOURN THE EXECUTIVE SESSION**

There being no further business, Mr. DaCosta, Sr. adjourned the August 14, 2023, executive session and convene to the work session and business meeting.

Mr. DaCosta, Sr. noted there were no objections, the August 14, 2023, executive session adjourned at 2:47 pm.

**ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

Mr. DaCosta, Sr. requested to adopt the August 14, 2023, work session and business meeting agenda.

Mr. DaCosta, Sr. noted there were no objections, the August 14, 2023, work session and business meeting agenda was approved.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT and COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

- 1. Superintendent's Report – Reorganization, Operation Updates, School Opening Presentation**
- 2. Committee of the Whole – No Agenda Item This Month**

**REVIEW OF AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE AUGUST 14, 2023, BUSINESS MEETING**

02.01.

BOARD OF EDUCATION – No Report This Month

02.02.a.

Mr. DaCosta, Sr. requested that the Board of Education approve the minutes of the following meetings: July 10, 2023 board meeting which includes the executive session, work session, community input session and business meeting, July 17, 2023, board retreat, August 9, 2023 audit committee meeting.

02.03.a.i.

Mr. Byron Schueneman, Chief Financial Officer, Division of Finance, requested that the Board of Education accept the Tentative June 2023 Monthly Financial Reports.

02.03.b.

Mr. Byron Schueneman, Chief Financial Officer, Division of Finance, requested that the Board of Education authorize the fourth settlement funding payment in the amount of \$22.5 million in accordance with the agreement option under section 6(c) of the settlement agreement. The District is seeking approval to exercise the Board's installment payment option to occur no later than 30 days before the District's yearly funding payment is due, October 12, 2023. American Legal Claims, LLC is appointed as the Settlement Administrator.

02.03.c.

Mr. Byron Schueneman, Chief Financial Officer, Division of Finance, requested that the Board of Education approve the award recommendation for RFP 23-555, Financial Audit Services, to Mauldin & Jenkins, LLC. The pricing for year one is not to exceed \$20,000 for financial statement preparation services, \$175,000 for the financial statement and single federal program audits, and \$15,000 per additional federal programs.

02.03.d.

Mr. Byron Schueneman, Chief Financial Officer, Division of Finance, requested that the Board of Education approve the non-resident student annual tuition fee of \$4,758.51 for the 2023-2024 school year, as calculated using state provided formula.

02.03.e. – Risk Management - No Agenda Items This Month

02.04.a.

Dr. Tekshia Ward-Smith, Administrator, Division of Human Resources, requested that the Board of Education approve the August 2023 Human Resources Report.

02.04.b.

Dr. Tekshia Ward-Smith, Administrator, Division of Human Resources, requested that the Board of Education approve the Amendment No. 2 to the 403(b) 2% Employee Contribution Match Program for the DeKalb County, Georgia School District, including the 403(b) programs of Fidelity, EMPOWER, Corebridge and Voya.

02.05.a.

Ms. Stacy Stepney, Chief Academic Officer, Division of Curriculum & Instruction, requested that the Board of Education approve the MOA Renewal between the **Georgia Department of Education** and the **DeKalb County School District** on behalf of the **Georgia Learning Resources System** for an amount not to exceed **\$560,000.00**.

02.05.b.

Ms. Stacy Stepney, Chief Academic Officer, Division of Curriculum & Instruction, requested that the Board of Education approve the 2024 Carl Perkins V Improvement Grant Application in the amount of \$1,390,462 that provides funding to improve Career Technical and Agricultural Education (CTAE) programs throughout the DeKalb County School District.

02.05.c.

Ms. Stacy Stepney, Chief Academic Officer, Division of Curriculum & Instruction, requested that the Board of Education approve the purchase of instructional materials, supplies, and equipment from the identified vendors in an amount not to exceed **\$16,000,000**.

02.06.a.

Dr. Kishia Towns, Deputy Superintendent of Student Support and Intervention, Division of Equity and Student Empowerment requested that the Board of Education approve the Letter of Agreement between Communities in Schools of Atlanta, Inc., and the DeKalb County School District (DCSD), for an additional year for an amount not to exceed \$325,000.

02.07.

OFFICE OF CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY – No Agenda Items This Month

02.08.a.

Ms. Monika Davis, Chief Information Officer, Division of Information and Instructional Technology requested that the Board of Education approve the purchase of internet connectivity options and associated infrastructure components from T-Mobile in an amount not to exceed \$500,000. The district will utilize state of Georgia contract for T-Mobile.

02.08.b.

Ms. Monika Davis, Chief Information Officer, Division of Information and Instructional Technology requested that the Board of Education approve the extension of the Enterprise Resource Planning (“ERP”) system and project implementation services with Tyler Technologies in an amount not to exceed \$2,351,016.

02.09.

DIVISION OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND INNOVATIVE PARTNERSHIPS- No Agenda Items This Month

02.10.a.- ATHLETICS- No Agenda Items This Month

02.10.b.i.

Mr. Erick Hofstetter, Chief Operating Officer, Division of Operations, requested that the Board of Education approve the contract extension for ITB 21-752-020 for HVAC Water Treatment Services to **Superior Water Services, Inc.** for an additional year in the not to exceed amount of **\$200,000.**

02.10.b.ii.

Mr. Erick Hofstetter, Chief Operating Officer, Division of Operations, requested that the Board of Education approve the contract extension of Portable Air Condition (A/C) Bid 23-417 to **Sun Belt Rentals, Inc.** and **Spot Coolers, Inc.** for an additional year in the amount not to exceed **\$1,200,000.00.**

02.10.b.iii.

Mr. Erick Hofstetter, Chief Operating Officer, Division of Operations, requested that the Board of Education approve Controls Concepts, Inc., as a single source vendor for the installation of HVAC Instrumentation and Controls district wide in the amount not to exceed \$300,000.00. Any single purchases which exceed \$100,000.00 will be brought back to the Board of Education for approval in accordance with Board Policy DJE.

02.10.b.iv.

Mr. Erick Hofstetter, Chief Operating Officer, Division of Operations, requested that the Board of Education authorize the District to use the General Service Administration (GSA) Contract to purchase and install communications equipment replacements and upgrades from **Southwestern Communications, Inc.**, a sole authorized distributor of Rauland-Borg Corporation equipment in accordance with the **GSA Contract No. 47QTCA21D0098** in the amount not to exceed **\$300,000.00.**

Any single purchases which exceed \$100,000.00 will be brought back to the Board of Education for approval in accordance with Board Policy DJE.

approve the contract extension for ITB 21-752-020 for HVAC Water Treatment Services to **Superior Water Services, Inc.** for an additional year in the not to exceed amount of **\$200,000.**

02.10.b.v.

Mr. Erick Hofstetter, Chief Operating Officer, Division of Operations, requested that the Board of Education authorize the District to use Sourcewell Contract #042821 to purchase pest control services from **Orkin, LLC** in the amount not to exceed **\$750,000** through June 30, 2024.

02.10.c. BUSINESS SERVICES – No Agenda Items This Month

02.10.d

FLEET and TRANSPORTATION SERVICES – No Agenda Items This Month

02.10.e

SCHOOL NUTRITION SERVICES – No Agenda Items This Month

02.10.f.i.

Mr. Erick Hofstetter, Chief Operating Officer, Division of Operations, requested that the Board of Education approve Change Order No. 1 for Redan MS to **Construction Works, Inc.** for a not-to-exceed amount of **\$230,238.37** for DeKalb County School District requested HVAC controls, and for Material Escalations as outlined in the Change Order #1 documents.

02.10.f.ii

Mr. Erick Hofstetter, Chief Operation Officer, Division of Operation, requested that the Board of Education approve Change Order No. 1 for E.L. Miller ES to **Centennial Contractors Enterprises, Inc.** for a not-to-exceed amount of **\$240,291.42** for DeKalb County School District requested items and, and for Material Escalations as outlined in the Change Order #1 documents.

02.10.f.iii.

Mr. Erick Hofstetter, Chief Operation Officer, Division of Operation, requested that the Board of Education approve Change Order No. 1 for Salem MS to **Construction Works, Inc.** for a not-to-exceed amount of **\$230,238.37** for DeKalb County School District requested HVAC controls, and for Material Escalations as outlined in the Change Order #1 documents.

02.10.f.iv.

Mr. Erick Hofstetter, Chief Operation Officer, Division of Operation, requested that the Board of Education approve Change Order No. 1 for Fairington ES to **Construction Works, Inc.** for a not-to-exceed amount of **\$121,801.93** for DeKalb County School District requested HVAC controls, and for Material Escalations as outlined in the Change Order #1 documents.

02.10.f.v.

Mr. Erick Hofstetter, Chief Operating Officer, Division of Operations, requested that the Board of Education approve the award of RFQu 23-752-016 for Architectural and Engineering Services for Druid Hills High School Modernization to **MSSA-PBK**, the most responsive and responsible Offeror whose submittal is the most advantageous to the Board based on the evaluation factors, for the lump sum amount of **\$350,000**.

02.11.

DONATIONS – No Agenda Items This Month

02.12.a.

Dr. Tekshia Ward-Smith, Administrator, Division of Human Resources, requested that the Board of Education approve the hiring recommendation of Dr. Darnell Logan to the position of Director of Student Relations in the Division of Student Support Services.

02.12.b.

Dr. Tekshia Ward-Smith, Administrator, Division of Human Resources, requested that the Board of Education approve the hiring recommendation of Mr. Keith Singleton to the position of Director of Business Services in the Division of Facilities and Operations. Dr. Morley objected to this recommendation. This item was pulled from the consent agenda. The board would vote on this item separately.

02.12.c.

Dr. Tekshia Ward-Smith, Administrator, Division of Human Resources, requested that the Board of Education approve the hiring recommendation of Mrs. Ateshia Lester to the new position of Area Superintendent for Elementary Area 3 schools.

02.12.d.

Dr. Tekshia Ward-Smith, Administrator, Division of Human Resources, requested that the Board of Education approve the hiring recommendation of Dr. Markisha Mitchell to the new position of Chief of Continuous Improvement and Accountability. Dr. Morley objected to this recommendation. This item was pulled from the consent agenda. The board would vote on this item separately.

02.12.e.

Dr. Tekshia Ward-Smith, Administrator, Division of Human Resources, requested that the Board of Education approve the hiring recommendation of Mrs. Michelle Dillard to the new position of Chief of Schools. Dr. Morley objected to this recommendation. This item was pulled from the consent agenda. The board would vote on this item separately.

02.13.a.

OFFICE OF AUDITS AND COMPLIANCE - No Agenda Items This Month

**AMENDMENT TO THE BYLAWS AND POLICIES**

1. Ms. Melanie Slaton, General Counsel, Hall Booth Smith PC, Attorneys At Law, requested that the Board of Education approve the removal of board policy DJAA, Authorized Signatures, due to the fact that it is duplicative or outdated.
2. Ms. Melanie Slaton, General Counsel, Hall Booth Smith PC, Attorneys At Law, requested that the Board of Education approve the removal of board policy EEA, Free and Reduced Nutrition Programs, due to the fact that it is duplicative or outdated.
3. Ms. Melanie Slaton, General Counsel, Hall Booth Smith PC, Attorneys At Law, requested that the Board of Education hold and amend of board policy EGA, Staff Insurance Programs, due to the fact that it need additional revisions.

4. Ms. Melanie Slaton, General Counsel, Hall Booth Smith PC, Attorneys At Law, requested that the Board of Education approve the removal of board policy GCD, Classified Personnel Hiring, due to the fact that it is duplicative or outdated.
5. Ms. Melanie Slaton, General Counsel, Hall Booth Smith PC, Attorneys At Law, requested that the Board of Education approve the removal of board policy GDD, Paraprofessional Hiring, due to the fact that it is duplicative or outdated.
6. Ms. Melanie Slaton, General Counsel, Hall Booth Smith PC, Attorneys At Law, requested that the Board of Education approve the removal of board policy IFBGA, Electronic Communications, due to the fact that it is duplicative or outdated.
7. Ms. Melanie Slaton, General Counsel, Hall Booth Smith PC, Attorneys At Law, requested that the Board of Education approve the removal of board policy IHEA, Make-Up Opportunities, due to the fact that it is duplicative or outdated.
8. Ms. Melanie Slaton, General Counsel, Hall Booth Smith PC, Attorneys At Law, requested that the Board of Education accept amended Board Policy DCL, Fund Balance as a First Read to lay on the table for stakeholder feedback and considered for adoption at the September 11, 2023 Board meeting.

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The meeting resumed at 5:46 pm.

### **COMMUNITY INPUT SESSION AND BUSINESS MEETING**

Mr. DaCosta, Sr. convened the Community Input Session and Mrs. Deirdre P. Pierce read the Guidelines for Public Comments.

The following individuals addressed the Board:

- 1. Deborah Jones**
- 2. Verdaillia Turner**
- 3. Robin McDonald – no show**
- 4. Edith Donaldson-Wheeler**
- 5. Willie Pringle – no show**
- 6. Daniel Sobczak**
- 7. Nancy Kelly**
- 8. Scherita Daniel**
- 9. Crystal Carroll**
- 10. Ava Sharma**
- 11. Lillian Bittaye**
- 12. Miriam Martin**

**CONVENE THE BUSINESS MEETING**

Mr. DaCosta, Sr. requested to convene the August 14, 2023, business meeting.

On a motion by Mrs. Hill, seconded by Mrs. Turner, and a vote of 7/0, the motion passed. The business meeting convened.

**STUDENT BOARD REPRESENTATIVE** – No Student Board Representative This Month

**RECOGNITION(S)** – No Recognitions This Month

**ACTION ITEM(S)**

**J.1. APPROVAL OF AN ITEM(S) FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION**

- a. Mr. DaCosta, Sr. called for a motion to accept the actions, as discussed, in Executive Session for Ramey vs DCSD Settlement.

On a motion by Mrs. Turner, seconded by Mrs. Pierce, and with a vote of 7-0.  
The motion passed.

**J.2. APPROVAL OF AN AGENDA ITEM(S) PULLED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA**

Mr. DaCosta called for a motion to approve the following Action Items which were NOT placed on the consent agenda.

ITEM 12.b. Personnel Recommendation to hire Mr. Keith Singleton to the position of Director of Business Services in the Division of Facilities and Operations.

On a motion by Mrs. Pierce, seconded by Mrs. Hill, and with a vote of (6\1 - Nay from Dr. Morley)  
The motion passed.

ITEM 12.d. Personnel Recommendation to hire Dr. Markisha Mitchell to the new position of Chief of Continuous Improvement and Accountability.

On a motion by Mrs. Hill, seconded by Mrs. Turner, and with a vote of (6\1- Nay from Dr. Morley)  
The motion passed.

ITEM 12.e. Personnel Recommendation to hire Mrs. Michelle Dillard to the new position of Chief of Schools.

On a motion by Mrs. Pierce, seconded by Mrs. Gevertz, and with a vote of (6\1 - Nay from Dr. Morley)

The motion passed.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Mr. DaCosta, Sr. called for a motion to approve the August 14, 2023, consent agenda items.

On a motion by Mrs. Hill, seconded by Ms. Gevertz and with a vote of (7/0) the motion passed to approve the consent agenda.

**ADJOURN**

Mr. DaCosta, Sr. called for a motion to adjourn the August 14, 2023, work session and business meeting.

Mr. DaCosta, Sr. noted there were no objections, the work session and business meeting adjourned at 6:53 pm.

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Secretary Ex-Officio

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Chair