

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

September 11, 2023

The DeKalb County Board of Education held its Executive Session, Work Session, Community Input Session and Business Meeting on Monday, September 11, 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 12:39 pm and noted the following were in attendance; Mr. Dijon DaCosta, Sr., Mrs. Deirdre P. Pierce, Ms. 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, Chief of Community Engagement and Innovative Partnerships. Mrs. Anna Hill and Dr. Joyce Morley joined the group in the executive session.

**ADJOURN TO AN EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Mr. DaCosta, Sr. called for a motion to adjourn September 11, 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. Pierce, seconded by Ms. McGinniss and with a vote of (5\0), the September 11, 2023, meeting adjourned to executive session at 12:42 pm.

**ADJOURN THE EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Mr. DaCosta, Sr. called for a motion to adjourn the September 11, 2023, executive session to convene the work session.

On a motion by Ms. Hill, seconded by Mrs. Turner and a vote of (7/0), the September 11, 2023, executive session adjourned to the work session at 3:05 pm.

**ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

Mr. DaCosta, Sr. requested to adopt the September 11, 2023, work session and business meeting agenda.

Mr. DaCosta, Sr. noted there were no objections, the September 11, 2023, work session and business meeting agenda was approved.

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

- 1. Superintendent's Report – Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) Website  
Presented by: Dr. Devon Q. Horton, Superintendent**

**2. Committee of the Whole – Milestone Testing Data Update**

**Presented by: Dr. Markisha Mitchell, Chief of Continuous Improvement (Accountability), Division of Continuous Improvement (Accountability)**

**Ms. Stacy Stepney, Chief Academic Officer, Division of Curriculum and Instruction**

**Kisha K. Towns, Ph.D., Deputy Superintendent of Student Support and Intervention, Division of Equity and Student Empowerment**

**REVIEW OF AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE SEPTEMBER 11, 2023, BUSINESS MEETING**

03.01.

BOARD OF EDUCATION – Local Board Governance Training Plan

Mr. DaCosta, Sr. requested the local Board members approve and submit their completed local board training plan to the State Board for approval.

03.02.a.

Mr. DaCosta, Sr. requested that the Board of Education approve the minutes of the following meetings: August 14, 2023, board meeting which includes the executive session, work session, community input session and business meeting, August 23, 2023 – August 24, 2023, 2-day board retreat.

03.03.a.

FINANCE - MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORTS – No Agenda Item This Month

03.03.b.

Mr. Byron Schueneman, Chief Financial Officer, Division of Finance, requested that the Board of Education approve the renewal of the contract with ADP for select post-payroll processing services under a Global Master Services Agreement.

03.03.c.

RISK MANAGEMENT - No Agenda Item This Month

03.04.a.

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

03.05.a

Mrs. Michelle Dillard, Chief of Schools, Division of Leadership & Schools, requested that the Board of Education approve the Rutherford Learning Group (President, Dr. Mike Rutherford) Professional Learning Services Agreement in the execution of the Assistant Principals and Principals' Academy at a cost not to exceed \$145,150. Dr. Morley objected to this item being placed on the consent agenda. This item will be voted on separately.

03.06.a.

Ms. Stacy Stepney, Chief Academic Officer, Division of Curriculum & Instruction, requested that the Board of Education approve the second year of the Lexia Learning two-year agreement to offer LETRS professional development as a teacher resource providing the fundamentals of reading instruction – phonological awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, comprehension, writing, and language. LETRS is a professional learning course that provides in-depth knowledge and tools that can be used with any reading curriculum program. Additionally, LETRS is a professional learning program rooted in the Science of Reading. Not to exceed \$397,100.00.

03.06.b.

Ms. Stacy Stepney, Chief Academic Officer, Division of Curriculum & Instruction, requested that the Board of Education authorize the district to secure transportation services from the approved carriers for all sixth and seventh grade students to participate in Junior Achievement of Georgia's programs focusing on financial literacy, career readiness, and entrepreneurship in an amount not to exceed \$300,000.00.

03.07.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 renewal of the Committee for Children Second Step SEL Digital Program license for an amount not to exceed \$206,811 for a one (1) year license.

03.08.a.

Dr. Markisha Mitchell, Chief of Office of Continuous Improvement (Accountability), Division of Continuous Improvement (Accountability) requested that the Board of Education approve the purchase of Advanced Placement Exams from College Board for the SY23-24 test administration in an amount not to exceed \$530,000.

03.08.b.

Dr. Markisha Mitchell, Chief of Office of Continuous Improvement (Accountability), Division of Continuous Improvement (Accountability) requested that the Board of Education approve the award and contract for strategic planning services to **Insight Education Group** for the purpose of creating a robust strategic planning process that will lead to the development of a high-quality Strategic Plan for the DeKalb County School District. The process will include leading multiple community engagement sessions, analyzing data, engaging various teams utilized in the plan development, and providing support to division and schools to cascade the plan. The total contract award for the strategic planning services is not to exceed **\$111,000**. **Dr. Morley objected to this item being placed on the consent agenda. This item will be voted on separately.**

03.09.a.

Ms. Monika Davis, Chief Information Officer, Division of Information and Instructional Technology requested that the Board of Education approve the purchase of laptop and desktop devices, installation, support services, and associated components from Virtucom, CDW-G,

and Apple Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$9,920,000. Ms. McGinniss has requested that this item be removed from the consent agenda. This item will be voted on separately.

03.09.b.

Ms. Monika Davis, Chief Information Officer, Division of Information and Instructional Technology requested that the Board of Education approve the purchase of information and network security services and associated infrastructure components from Dell EMC, Blue Mantis, Layer 3, B2B Technologies, CDW-G, and Integrated Communications Network at a cost not to exceed \$2,372,080.

03.09. c.

Ms. Monika Davis, Chief Information Officer, Division of Information and Instructional Technology requested that the Board of Education extend RFP 18-16 Collaboration Presentation System to Virtucom, LLC to support the purchase of the interactive flat panels for a refresh project in an amount not to exceed \$11,026,590. This is a one-year extension.

03.10.a.

Dr. Yolanda Williamson, Chief of Community Engagement and Innovative Partnerships, Division of Community Engagement and Innovative Partnerships requested that the Board of Education approve the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) Subrecipient Agreement between the City of Stonecrest and DCSD for a donation in the amount of \$1.2 million to provide wrap around support and services for the students and staff in the 12 schools located in the City of Stonecrest during FY2024 school year.

03.11.a.i.

Mr. Erick Hofstetter, Chief Operating Officer, Division of Operations, requested that the Board of Education approve the award of Professional Architectural and Engineering Services for a District Wide Evaluation of High School Athletic Facilities to **CDH Partners**, for the lump sum amount of **\$136,500**.

03.11.b.i.

Mr. Erick Hofstetter, Chief Operating Officer, Division of Operations, requested that the Board of Education approve the lease of Evolv Weapons Detection for middle and high schools in an amount of \$1,586,832.55 to be paid for Year 2 of the Lease, not to exceed Year 2: \$1,586,832.55. Mrs. Turner motioned for this item be postponed until the next call meeting, Seconded by Ms. McGinniss. With a vote of 7/0, the item was tabled and would be discussed at the next called meeting.

03.11.b. ii.

Mr. Erick Hofstetter, Chief Operating Officer, Division of Operations, requested that the Board of Education approve the contract renewal for ITB 21-752-043 Pressure Washing Services to **A-Action Janitorial Services, Autaco Development, LLC and Tribond, LLC** for one additional year in the not to exceed amount of **\$2,000,000**.

03.11.b.iii.

Mr. Erick Hofstetter, Chief Operating Officer, Division of Operations, requested that the Board of Education approve the award of RFP No. 23-752-026 to **Evergreen Construction**, the most responsive and responsible offeror whose proposal is the most advantageous to the Board based on the evaluation factors, for general contractor services for Briarlake Elementary School, Early Learning Center, Montclair Elementary School, and Tucker Middle School for the lump sum amount of **\$31,921,000**.

03.11.b. iv.

Mr. Erick Hofstetter, Chief Operating Officer, Division of Operations, requested that the Board of Education ratify a five-year Facilities Lease **of the former Heritage School site by The GLOBE Academy Inc.** The term of the five-year lease will start on July 1, 2023, and expire on June 30, 2028.

03.11.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.

03.11.c.

BUSINESS SERVICES – No Agenda Items This Month

03.11.d.

FLEET and TRANSPORTATION SERVICES – No Agenda Items This Month

03.11.e.i.

Mr. Erick Hofstetter, Chief Operating Officer, Division of Operations, requested that the Board of Education approve the renewal of Bid 20-22, Ice Cream Products, to **Hershey Creamery Company**, in the amount not to exceed **\$297,781.00** for **SY 23-24**. This request extends the agreement for **Hershey Creamery Company** an additional year, October 1, 2023, through September 30, 2024.

03.11.f.i.

Mr. Erick Hofstetter, Chief Operating Officer, Division of Operations, requested that the Board of Education approve the contract extension for RFP No. 22-752-025 for Program Management Services to **AECOM Technical Services, Inc. (AECOM)** and **Corporate Environmental Risk Management (CERM)** for an additional year in the amount not to exceed **\$3,167,131.20**.

03.11.f.ii

Mr. Erick Hofstetter, Chief Operation Officer, Division of Operation, requested that the Board of Education approve two (2) E-SPLOST V budget reallocations for a total of **\$12,227,935 (Midvale Elementary School-\$5,440,435)** and **(DeKalb High School of Technology-South-\$6,787,500)**, from Program Contingency which will allow the proper funds

to be allocated to the necessary project cost code for the construction of Midvale Elementary School and DeKalb High School of Technology-South Major Building System project.

It is requested that the Board of Education approve the award of RFP No. 23-752-022 to **Evergreen Construction**, the most responsive and responsible offeror whose proposal is the most advantageous to the Board based on the evaluation factors, for general contractor services for Midvale Elementary School and DeKalb High School of Technology-South for the lump sum amount of **\$19,360,000**.

03.11.f.iii.

Mr. Erick Hofstetter, Chief Operation Officer, Division of Operation, requested that the Board of Education approve the extension for RFQu 21-752-033 for professional building envelope consulting services to **Raymond Engineering** on an as needed basis for an additional year, October 1, 2023, through September 30, 2024, for a not to exceed amount of **\$500,000**.

03.11.f. iv.

Mr. Erick Hofstetter, Chief Operating Officer, Division of Operations, requested that the Board of Education approve a resolution requesting the modification of the FY2020 and FY2021 Capital Outlay Applications and authorize staff to submit the resolutions to Georgia Department of Education.

03.11.f.v.

Mr. Erick Hofstetter, Chief Operating Officer, Division of Operations, requested that the Board of Education approve the Fiscal Year 2025 Capital Outlay Application to the Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE), totaling \$52,115,602.

03.12.

DONATIONS- No Agenda Item(s)This Month

03.13.a.

Dr. Tekshia Ward-Smith, Administrator, Division of Human Resources, requested that the Board of Education approve the hiring recommendation of Stephanie Brown-Bryant to the position of Director of Pre-K – 12. in the Division of Curriculum and Instruction. Dr. Morley objected to this personnel recommendation. This item was removed from the consent agenda and would be voted on separately.

03.13.b.

Dr. Tekshia Ward-Smith, Administrator, Division of Human Resources, requested that the Board of Education approve the hiring recommendation of Carolyn Lloyd to the position of Executive Director of Board Operations in the Board of Education Office. Dr. Morley objected to this personnel recommendation. This item was removed from the consent agenda and would be voted on separately.

03.13.c.

Dr. Tekshia Ward-Smith, Administrator, Division of Human Resources, requested that the Board of Education approve the hiring recommendation of Mr. Ennis Harvey to the position of Executive Administrator, in the Division of School Leadership. Dr. Morley objected to this personnel recommendation. This item was removed from the consent agenda and would be voted on separately.

03.13.d.

Dr. Tekshia Ward-Smith, Administrator, Division of Human Resources, requested that the Board of Education approve the hiring recommendation of Dr. Jesse Berger to the position of Executive Administrator, in the Division of School Leadership. Dr. Morley objected to this personnel recommendation. This item was removed from the consent agenda and would be voted on separately.

03.13.e.

Dr. Tekshia Ward-Smith, Administrator, Division of Human Resources, requested that the Board of Education approve the hiring recommendation of Dr. Frederico Rowe to the position of Executive Administrator, in the Division of School Leadership. Dr. Morley objected to this personnel recommendation. This item was removed from the consent agenda and would be voted on separately.

03.13.f.

Dr. Tekshia Ward-Smith, Administrator, Division of Human Resources, requested that the Board of Education approve the hiring recommendation of Ms. Cathy Goolsby to the position of Executive Administrator, in the Division of School Leadership. Dr. Morley objected to this personnel recommendation. This item was removed from the consent agenda and would be voted on separately.

03.13.g.

Dr. Tekshia Ward-Smith, Administrator, Division of Human Resources, requested that the Board of Education approve the hiring recommendation of Dr. Marchell Boston to the position of Executive Administrator, in the Division of School Leadership. Dr. Morley objected to this personnel recommendation. This item was removed from the consent agenda and would be voted on separately.

03.14.a.

OFFICE OF AUDITS AND COMPLIANCE - No Agenda Items This Month

**F. 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 adopt the amended Board Policy DCL, Fund Balance the September 11, 2023 Board meeting. Dr. Morley objected to placing this item on the consent agenda. This item was removed and would be voted on separately.

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The community input session began 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. Lillian Bittaye
3. Yuritzi Macias
4. Monek Lima - virtual
5. Joe Williams – no show
6. Stacie Griffin – no show
7. Verdallia Turner – requested to be removed from the list
8. Dinka Gudar

**CONVENE THE BUSINESS MEETING**

Mr. DaCosta, Sr. requested to convene the September 11, 2023, business meeting.

With no objections, The business meeting convened.

**STUDENT BOARD REPRESENTATIVE** – Superintendent, Dr. Horton introduced Student Representative, Ms. Shaniah Moody, DeKalb Early College Academy, 12<sup>th</sup> Grade.

**RECOGNITION(S)** – Mrs. Vickie B. Turner read the recognition for Mr. Bob Mullen being named State Coach of the Year, SWD HS Track & Field.

**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 Atria vs DCSD Settlement Acceptance.

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

- b. Mr. DaCosta, Sr. called for a motion to accept the actions, as discussed, in Executive Session for Worker’s Comp Settlement regarding Ronald Hunt vs. DCSD.

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

The motion passed.

- c. Mr. DaCosta, Sr. called for a motion to accept the actions, as discussed, in Executive Session for Student Appeal # 24-10.

On a motion by Ms. McGinniss seconded by Ms. Gevertz and with a vote of 7-0.  
The motion passed.

- d. Mr. DaCosta, Sr. called for a motion to accept the actions, as discussed, in Executive Session for Student Appeal # 24-11.

On a motion by Mrs. Turner, seconded by Mrs. Hill, 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.

- a. ITEM. E.5.a Mike Rutherford Learning Group for Assistant Principals' and Principals' Academy (Not to exceed \$145,150)

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

- b. ITEM: E.8.b. RFP 24-508 Strategic Planning Management System (Not to exceed \$111,000)

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

- c. ITEM E.9.a. Technology Device Purchase Approval (Not to exceed \$9,920,000)

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

- d. ITEM E.13.a. Personnel Recommendation to approve the hiring recommendation of Stephanie Brown-Bryant to the position of Director of Pre-K-12 in the Division of Curriculum and Instruction.

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

The motion passed.

- e. ITEM E.13.b. Personnel Recommendation to approve the hiring recommendation of Carolyn Lloyd to the position of Executive Director, Board Operations in the Board of Education Office.

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

The motion passed.

- f. ITEM E.13.c. Personnel Recommendation to approve the hiring recommendation of Mr. Ennis Harvey to the position of Executive Administrator of Schools in the Division of School Leadership.

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

The motion passed.

- g. ITEM E.13.d. Personnel Recommendation to approve the hiring recommendation of Dr. Jesse Berger to the position of Executive Administrator of Schools in the Division of School Leadership.

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

The motion passed.

- h. ITEM E.13.e. Personnel Recommendation to approve the hiring recommendation of Dr. Frederico Rowe to the position of Executive Administrator of Schools in the Division of School Leadership.

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

The motion passed.

- i. ITEM E.13.f. Personnel Recommendation to approve the hiring recommendation of Ms. Cathy Goolsby to the position of Executive Administrator of Schools in the Division of School Leadership.

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

The motion passed.

- j. ITEM E.13.g. Personnel Recommendation to approve the hiring recommendation of Dr. Marchell Boston, Jr. to the position of Executive Administrator of Schools in the Division of School Leadership.

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

The motion passed.

- k. ITEM F.1 READY FOR ACTION Amendment to the Bylaws & Policies: Board Policy DCL: Fund Balance.

On a motion by Mrs. Pierce, seconded by Mrs. Hill, 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 September 11, 2023, consent agenda items.

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

Before Mr. DaCosta called for a motion to adjourn, he asked that we honor the victims and survivors of the 9/11 event by standing in a moment of silence.

### **ADJOURN**

Mr. DaCosta, Sr. called for a motion to adjourn the September 11, 2023, work session and business meeting.

Mr. DaCosta, Sr. noted there were no objections, the work session and business meeting adjourned at 9:01 pm.

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Secretary Ex-Officio

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Chair