

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

November 13, 2023

The DeKalb County Board of Education held its Executive Session, Work Session, Community Input Session and Business Meeting on Monday, November 13, 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 12:35 pm and noted the following were in attendance; Mrs. Deirdre P. Pierce, Mrs. Anna Hill, Mrs. Vickie B. Turner, Ms. Allyson Gevertz, Dr. Joyce Morley and Superintendent, Dr. Devon Q. Horton. Mr. Dijon DaCosta, Sr. and Ms. McGinniss attended the meeting virtually.

Also in attendance were General Counsel Attorney, Ms. Melanie Slaton, Mr. Aaron Webb and Ms. Carolyn Lloyd, Executive Director to the Board.

**ADJOURN TO AN EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Mr. DaCosta, Sr. called for a motion to adjourn November 13, 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 (7/0), the November 13, 2023, meeting adjourned to executive session at 12:40 pm.

**ADJOURN THE EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Vice Chair, Mrs. Deirdre P. Pierce presided over the meeting for the rest of the evening. Mrs. Pierce called to adjourn the November 13, 2023, executive session to convene the work session.

Mrs. Pierce noted there were no objections, the November 13, 2023, executive session adjourned to the work session at 3:54 pm.

Mrs. Pierce apologized for the lateness of the hour and informed the public that the meeting would pause to begin the community input session at 5:45 pm.

**ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

Mrs. Pierce requested to amend the November 13, 2023 work session and business meeting agenda to include a personnel recommendation from executive session. Mrs. Pierce requested a motion to amend and adopt the November 13, 2023 work session and business meeting agenda.

On a motion by Mrs. Hill, seconded by Mrs. Turner, the November 13, 2023, work session and a vote of 7/0 the amended business meeting agenda was approved.

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

1. **Superintendent’s Report ~ “MIRACLES” Update – 90 Day Plan**  
**Presented by: Dr. Devon Q. Horton, Superintendent**
  
2. **Committee of the Whole Presentations**
  - a. **Graduation Rates**  
**Presented by: Dr. Markisha Mitchell, Chief of Continuous Improvement (Accountability)**

**REVIEW OF AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NOVEMBER 13, 2023, BUSINESS MEETING**

05.01.

BOARD OF EDUCATION – No Report This Month

05.02.a.

Mrs. Pierce requested that the Board of Education approve the minutes of the following meetings: October 16, 2023, board meeting which includes the executive session, work session, community input session and business meeting, October 24, 2023 virtual board retreat, called meeting and executive session, and the November 8, 2023 audit committee meeting. Dr. Morley objected to the agenda item being placed on the consent agenda. This item was pulled to be voted on separately.

05.03.a.i

Mr. Byron Schueneman, Chief Financial Officer, Division of Finance, requested that the Board of Education accept the September 2023 Monthly Financial Report.

05.03.b.

Mr. Byron Schueneman, Chief Financial Officer, Division of Finance, requested that the Board of Education approve the renewal of **RFQ 22-534 to 22<sup>nd</sup> Century Technologies, Inc., Abacus Corporation, COGENT Infotech Corporation, Corporate Temps, Inc., Howroyd-Wright Employment Agencies, Inc. dba AppleOne Employment Services, Robert Half, Tryfacta, Inc., US Tech Solutions, Inc.** to provide temporary staffing services on an as-needed basis for the DCSD Finance Department for a period of one year effective from **December 17, 2023 through December 16, 2024** for an amount not to exceed **\$750,000**. This is the second renewal option of four. Dr. Morley objected to the agenda item being placed on the consent agenda. This item was pulled to be voted on separately.

05.03.c.

RISK ASSESSMENT – No Agenda Items This Month

05.04.a.

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

05.05.

LEADERSHIP & SCHOOLS - No Agenda Items This Month

05.06.a.

Ms. Stacy E. Stepney, Chief Academic Officer, Division of Curriculum & Instruction, requested that the Board of Education approve the purchase of band uniforms for Chamblee High School, Clarkston High School, Redan High School, and Stephenson High School in the amount not to exceed \$315,000.

Dr. Morley objected to the agenda item being placed on the consent agenda. This item was pulled to be voted on separately.

05.06.b.

Ms. Stacy E. Stepney, Chief Academic Officer, Division of Curriculum & Instruction, requested that the Board of Education authorize the District purchase of musical instruments from the following vendors: **Adorama, Alamo Music Center, Amro Music Stores, Inc. Brook Mays Music and H and H Music Universal Melody Services, Delgado Guitars, Lone Star Percussion ZNK Partners, LLC, Midwest Musical Imports MSA Music, Inc., Music and Arts Guitar Center Stores, Inc., Penders Music Company Betroid Enterprises, Inc., SoundTree Korg USA, Steve Weiss Music, Sweet Pipes, Taylor Music, Inc., Terra Nova Violins LLC, The Bandwagon Music Store and Repair, The Tuba Exchange, Washington Music Sales Center, Inc.,** in accordance with the TIPS Contract No. 210302 through May 31, 2024 and **West Music Company**, in accordance with the Choice Partners Cooperative Agreement Contract No. 23/025SG-05 through May 16, 2024. Musical Instruments was an approved project in the SPLOST V vote on March 20, 2017, for an amount not to exceed \$10,000,000. This agenda item is a request to spend the balance of those funds.

Dr. Morley objected to the agenda item being placed on the consent agenda. This item was pulled to be voted on separately.

05.07.

EQUITY & STUDENT EMPOWERMENT - No Agenda Item This Month

05.08.

OFFICE OF CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT (ACCOUNTABILITY - No Agenda Item This Month

05.09.

INFORMATION & INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNOLOGY – No Agenda Items This Month

05.10.a.i.

Mr. Michael Harris, Manager, Grants & Partnerships, Division of Community Engagement & Innovative Partnerships, requested that the Board of Education accept donation of \$93,321.01 from Publix – Tools for Back – to- School Register campaign.

05.10.a. ii.

Mr. Michael Harris, Manager, Grants & Partnerships, Division of Community Engagement & Innovative Partnerships, requested that the Board of Education accept donation of \$5000 from the Byard Family Legacy Fund, Inc. to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. High School Athletics Department.

05.10.b.

Dr. Yolanda Williamson, Chief of Community Engagement & Innovative Partnerships, Division of Community Engagement & Innovative Partnerships, requested that the Board of Education approve the additional name(s) to the DeKalb Schools Foundation board member for the purpose of establishing the Foundation.

DeKalb Schools Foundation Board Member Slate

Mr. Munir I. Meghjani – Founder & Partner, Momentum Consulting

Dr. Morley objected to the agenda item being placed on the consent agenda. This item was pulled to be voted on separately.

05.11.a.

ATHLETICS – No Agenda Item This Month

05.11.b.i.

Mr. Erick Hofstetter, Chief Operating Officer, Division of Operations, requested that the Board of Education approve the application to the Georgia Department of Education for site approval of addition and/or modernization of Cross Keys High School.

Dr. Morley objected to the agenda item being placed on the consent agenda. This item was pulled to be voted on separately.

05.11.b. ii.

Mr. Erick Hofstetter, Chief Operating Officer, Division of Operations, requested that the Board of Education approve the award of RFP No. 24-752-001 to **F.H. Paschen, S.N. Nielsen & Associates, LLC**, 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 Chapel Hill Middle School, Stephenson Middle School, Druid Hills Middle School and Columbia Elementary School Roof, HVAC & Controls Replacement.

Dr. Morley objected to the agenda item being placed on the consent agenda. This item was pulled to be voted on separately.

05.11.b.iii.

Mr. Erick Hofstetter, Chief Operating Officer, Division of Operations, requested that the Board of Education approve the District to contract with **Canty Consulting Services** for an amount not to exceed **\$250,000** from **November 13, 2023 to November 12, 2024**. Dr. Morley objected to the agenda item being placed on the consent agenda. This item was pulled to be voted on separately.

05.11.c.

BUSINESS SERVICES – No Agenda Items This Month

05.11.d.

FLEET and TRANSPORTATION SERVICES – No Agenda Items This Month

05.11.e.

SCHOOL NUTRITION – No Agenda Items This Month

05.11.f.

E-SPLOST PROJECTS – No Agenda Items This Month

05.12.a.

Dr. Tekshia Ward-Smith, Administrator, Division of Human Resources, requested that the Board of Education approve the personnel recommendation from executive session.

Mrs. Pierce requested a motion to approve the personnel recommendation from executive session.

Motion by Mrs. Hill to approve the ratification of the employment contract discussed for Donald Dillard. Second by Ms. Gevertz.

Dr. Morley objected to the agenda item being placed on the consent agenda. This item was pulled to be voted on separately.

05.13.

OFFICE OF AUDITS & COMPLIANCE – No Agenda Item This Month

**F. AMENDMENT TO THE BYLAWS AND POLICIES**

1. Mr. Aaron Webb, Hall Booth & Smith Counsel, requested that the Board of Education accept amended Board Policy BBC, Part B.2. (Community Advisors) as **READY FOR ACTION** to be adopted at the November 13, 2023, board meeting.

Ms. Gevertz and Dr. Morley objected to the agenda item being placed on the consent agenda. This item was pulled to be voted on separately.

2. Mr. Aaron Webb, Hall Booth & Smith Counsel, requested that the Board of Education eliminate Board Policy EGA: Staff Insurance Programs because it is duplicative of Board Policy DJCB Salary Deductions.  
Dr. Morley objected to the agenda item being placed on the consent agenda. This item was pulled to be voted on separately.
3. Mr. Aaron Webb, Hall Booth & Smith Counsel, requested that the Board of Education eliminate Board Policy CGB Administrative Personnel Positions because it it duplicative of Board Policy CGD Administrative Personnel Hiring.  
Dr. Morley objected to the agenda item being placed on the consent agenda. This item was pulled to be voted on separately.
4. Mr. Aaron Webb, Hall Booth & Smith Counsel, requested that the Board of Education eliminate Board Policy JBC(3) Social Security Numbers and to amend Board Policy JBC School Admissions.  
Dr. Morley objected to the agenda item being placed on the consent agenda. This item was pulled to be voted on separately.

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The community input session began at 5:46 pm.

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

Mrs. Pierce. convened the Community Input Session and Mrs. Turner read the Guidelines for Public Comments.

The following individuals addressed the Board:

#### **1. Deborah Jones**

### **CONVENE THE BUSINESS MEETING**

Mrs. Pierce requested to convene the November 13, 2023, business meeting.

With no objections, the business meeting convened.

**STUDENT BOARD REPRESENTATIVE** – Superintendent, Dr. Horton introduced Student Representative Ms. Brianna Lin, Chamblee High School, 12<sup>th</sup> Grade.

### **RECOGNITION(S)**

- a. Proclamation: National School Psychology Week, November 6-10, 2023 was presented by board member, Ms. Gevertz.

- b. Proclamation: Apply to College Month was presented by board member, Mrs. Anna Hill.
- c. Proclamation: Family Engagement Month was presented by Vice-Chair, Mrs. Pierce.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

Mrs. Pierce called for a motion to approve the November 13, 2023, consent agenda items.

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

### **ACTION ITEM(S)**

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

- a. Mrs. Pierce called for a motion to accept the actions, as discussed, in Executive Session for Student Appeal # 24-13.

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

- b. Mrs. Pierce called for a motion to accept the actions, as discussed, in Executive Session for Student Appeal # 24-14.

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

- c. Mrs. Pierce called for a motion to accept the actions, as discussed, in Executive Session for Student Appeal # 24-15.

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

- d. Mrs. Pierce called for a motion to accept the actions, as discussed, in Executive Session for Student Appeal # 24-16.

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

- e. Mrs. Pierce called for a motion to accept the actions, as discussed, in Executive Session for Student Appeal # 24-17.

On a motion by Mrs. Hill, seconded by Mrs. Turner 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, Sr. called for a motion to approve the following Action Items which were NOT placed on the consent agenda.

a. Agenda Item: E.2.a. Approval of Minutes

Motion by Mrs. Turner Second by Ms. McGinniss  
All in favor 6 Opposed by Dr. Morley Motion passed 6 to 1.

b. Agenda Item: E.3.b. Renewal (2 of 4) for Temporary Staffing Services (RFQ 22-534) to 22nd Century Technologies, Inc., Abacus Corporation, COGENT Infotech Corporation, Corporate Temps, Inc., Howroyd-Wright Employment Agencies, Inc. dba AppleOne Employment Services, Robert Half, Tryfacta, Inc., US Tech Solutions, Inc. (Not to exceed \$750,000)

Motion by Mrs. Hill Second by Mr. DaCosta, Sr.  
All in favor 6 Opposed by Dr. Morley Motion passed 6 to 1.

c. Agenda Item: E.6.a. Purchase of Band Uniforms for High Schools (Not to exceed \$315,000)

Motion by Ms. McGinniss Second by Mrs. Hill  
All in favor 6 Abstention by Dr. Morley Motion passed 6 to 1.

d. Agenda Item: E.6.b. Approval to Purchase Musical Instruments from TIPS Cooperative Agreement(Adorama, Alamo Music Center, Amro Music Stores, Inc. Brook Mays Music and H and H Music Universal Melody Services, Delgado Guitars, Midwest Musical Imports MSA Music, Inc., Music and Arts Guitar Center Stores, Inc., Penders Music Company Betrold Enterprises, Inc., SoundTree Korg USA, Steve Weiss Music, Sweet Pipes, Taylor Music, Inc., Terra Nova Violins LLC, The Bandwagon Music Store and Repair, The Tuba Exchange, Washington Music Sales Center, Inc.) and West Music through the Choice Partners Cooperative Agreement (Not to exceed \$3,673,587.93)

Motion by Mrs. Turner Second by Ms. Gevertz  
All in favor 6 Abstention by Dr. Morley Motion passed 6 to 1.

e. Agenda Item: E.10.b. Approval of DeKalb Schools Foundation Board Member ~ Additional Name(s)

Motion by Mrs. Hill Second by Ms. Gevertz  
All in favor 6 Opposed by Dr. Morley Motion passed 6 to 1.

- f. Agenda Item: E.11.b.i. Request to Georgia Department of Education for Site Approval for the addition and/or modernization to the existing facility at Cross Keys High School

Motion by Mrs. Hill Second by Mrs. Turner  
All in favor 6 Abstention by Dr. Morley Motion passed 6 to 1.

- g. Agenda Item: E.11.b.ii. RFP No. 24-752-001 for General Contractor Services for Chapel Hill MS, Stephenson MS, Druid Hills MS and Columbia ES Roof, HVAC & Controls Replacement to F.H. Paschen, S.N. Nielsen & Associates, LLC. (Not to exceed \$34,876,233)

Motion by Mrs. Turner Second by Ms. Gevertz  
All in favor 6 Abstention by Dr. Morley Motion passed 6 to 1.

- h. Agenda Item: E.11.b.iii. Approval to Contract with Canty Consulting Services from November 13, 2023 to November 12, 2024 (Not to exceed \$250,000)

Motion by Ms. Gevertz Second by Mrs. Hill  
All in favor 6 Abstention by Dr. Morley Motion passed 6 to 1.

- i. Agenda Item: E.12.a. PERSONNEL RECOMMENDATION FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion by Ms. Gevertz Second by Mrs. Hill  
All in favor 6 Opposed by Dr. Morley Motion passed 6 to 1.

- j. Agenda Item: F.1. READY FOR ACTION ~ Amendment to the Bylaws & Policies: Board Policy BBC: Board Committees, Part B. 2 (Community Advisors)

Motion by Mrs. Hill Second by Mr. DaCosta, Sr.  
All in favor 4 Opposed by Dr. Morley, Ms. Gevertz, and Ms. McGinniss Motion passed 4 to 3.

- k. Agenda Item: F.2. READY FOR ACTION ~ Amendment to the Bylaws & Policies: Board Policy EGA, Staff Insurance Programs

Motion by Mrs. Turner Second by Ms. Gevertz  
All in favor 5 Opposed by Dr. Morley and Ms. McGinniss Motion passed 5 to 2.

- l. Agenda Item: F.3. READY FOR ACTION ~ Amendment to the Bylaws & Policies: Elimination of Board Policy CGB, Administrative Personnel Positions

Motion by Mrs. Hill Second by Mrs. Turner

All in favor 6 Abstention by Dr. Morley Motion passed 6 to 1.

- m. Agenda Item:F.4. READY FOR ACTION ~ Amendment to the Bylaws & Policies: Elimination of Board Policy JBC(3) Social Security Numbers and Amendment to Board Policy JBC School Admissions

Motion by Ms. Gevertz Second by Mrs. Hill

All in favor 6 Abstention by Dr. Morley Motion passed 6 to 1.

**ADJOURN**

Mrs. Pierce called for a motion to adjourn the November 13, 2023, work session and business meeting.

Motion by Mrs. Turner, seconded by Mrs. Hill and a vote of 7/0 the work session and business meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm.

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Secretary Ex-Officio

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Chair