

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

December 11, 2023

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

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 December 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. Hill, seconded by Mrs. Turner and with a vote of (6/0), the December 11, 2023, meeting adjourned to executive session at 12:40 pm.

ADJOURN THE EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. DaCosta, Sr. called to adjourn the December 11, 2023, executive session to convene the work session.

Mr. DaCosta, Sr. noted there were no objections, the December 11, 2023, executive session adjourned to the work session at 2:51 pm.

Mr. DaCosta, Sr. notified the public of an amendment to the requested action listed on agenda item E.6.a 2024 – 2026 School Calendars. The Board of Education will “consider” the calendars for the next two school years. No action will be taken at this meeting.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

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

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

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT and COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

- 1. Superintendent’s Report ~ “MIRACLES” Update
Presented by: Dr. Devon Q. Horton, Superintendent**

- 2. Committee of the Whole Presentations**
 - a. School Improvement Annual Report
Presented by Dr. Rebecca Braaten, Director of Research & Evaluation, Division of Continuous Improvement (Accountability)**

REVIEW OF AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE DECEMBER 11, 2023, BUSINESS MEETING

06.01.a.

Mr. DaCosta, Sr. requested that the Board of Education approve the official meeting schedule for February 2024 through January 2025.

06.02.a.

Mr. DaCosta, Sr. requested that the Board of Education approve the minutes of the following meeting: November 13, 2023, board meeting which includes the executive session, work session, community input session and business meeting.

06.03.a.i

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

06.03.b.

Mr. Byron Schueneman, Chief Financial Officer, Division of Finance, requested that the Board of Education approve the resolutions necessary to update administrative signatures for the district’s banking institutions.

06.03.c.

RISK ASSESSMENT – No Agenda Items This Month

06.04.a.

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

06.04.b.

Dr. Tekshia Ward-Smith, Administrator, Division of Human Resources, requested that the Board of Education approve the award recommendation for RFP 24-566 ~ Human Resource Professional Services (Not to exceed \$650,000) to IBEX IT Business Experts / H3C (Human Capital Consultants Consortium).

06.05.

SCHOOLS & LEADERSHIP - No Agenda Items This Month

06.06.a.

Ms. Stacy E. Stepney, Chief Academic Officer, Division of Curriculum & Instruction, requested that the Board of Education consider the calendars for the next two school years. This item establishes the school calendars for the District during the period of July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2026.

06.07.

EQUITY & STUDENT EMPOWERMENT - No Agenda Item This Month

06.08.

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

06.09.a.

Ms. Monika Davis, Chief of Informational & Instructional Technology, Division of Informational & Instructional Technology, requested that the Board of Education approve the contract renewal for RFP 22-475 Physical Security Services – Access Control, Intrusion Detection and Video Surveillance **to Convergent Technologies, LLC** in an amount not to exceed **\$750,000**. This is year 3 of the five-year agreement.

06.09.b.

Ms. Monika Davis, Chief of Informational & Instructional Technology, Division of Informational & Instructional Technology, requested that the Board of Education approve the purchase of technology advisory services from **Gartner, Inc.**, at a cost not to exceed \$108,360 utilizing Georgia State Contract GTA 9800-SS000.

06.10.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & INNOVATIVE PARTNERSHIPS ~ No Agenda Item This Month

06.10.a. DONATIONS ~ No Agenda Item This Month

06.11.a.i.

Mr. Erick Hofstetter, Chief Operating Officer, Division of Operations, requested that the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent to execute the **Hudl dba Agile Sports Technologies** ICA that exceeds \$50,000.00 with a total contract value not-to-exceed **\$114,000**.

06.11.b.

FACILITIES ~ No Agenda Items This Month

06.11.c.i.

Mr. Erick Hofstetter, Chief Operating Officer, Division of Operations, requested that the Board of Education approve the contract 24-556 for district wide moving services to Atlanta Cargo Transportation Co., Atlanta Peachtree Movers, Beltmann Relocation Group, AVS Lines Services Inc., The Armstrong Group, for a term through December 11, 2027, not to exceed amount of \$450,000.

06.11.d.i.

Mr. Erick Hofstetter, Chief Operating Officer, Division of Operations, requested that the Board of Education approve the purchase and installation of eight (8) surface mounted drive-on vehicle lifts, from **Stertil-Koni Inc.**, utilizing the Sourcewell Contract No. RFP 013020 for an amount not to exceed **\$2,500,000**.

06.11.e.i.

Mr. Erick Hofstetter, Chief Operating Officer, Division of Operations, requested that the Board of Education ratify and approve the renewal of RFP 20-20, purchase of Sanitation Services and Materials to **Sanitech Systems, Inc.**, in the amount not to exceed **\$230,000** for **SY 23-24**. This request extends the agreement for **Sanitech Systems, Inc.** an additional year from November 5, 2023 through November 4, 2024.

06.11.f.i.

Mr. Erick Hofstetter, Chief Operating Officer, Division of Operations, requested that the Board of Education approve a budget reallocation in the amount of \$234,918.24 and approve the Lefko Construction Change Order No. 7 for Security Vestibule in the amount of \$234,918.24.

06.11.f.ii

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 the Globe Academy.

06.11.f.iii.

Mr. Erick Hofstetter, Chief Operating Officer, Division of Operations, requested that the Board of Education approve the award of RFQu No. 24-752-006 for construction management services for the Champion Theme School and Nancy Creek Facility Project to the **Balfour Beatty** the most responsive and responsible Offeror whose proposal is the most advantageous to the Board based on the evaluation factors set forth in the Request for Qualifications solicitation document.

In addition, it requested that the Board of Education approve a not-to-exceed amount of **\$100,000**, for the Pre-Construction Phase Fee associated with this contract agreement. Additional packages will be presented to the Board of Education for approval as indicated below:

- Site package will be presented in Winter 2023-2024
- Final Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) will be presented in Summer 2024.

Additional sub packages may be presented to the Board of Education for approval as needed.

06.12.a.

Dr. Tekshia Ward-Smith, Administrator, Division of Human Resources, requested that the Board of Education approve the hiring recommendation of Dr. Loukisha Walker as the new Executive Director of Student Mentorship in the Division of Equity and Inclusion from executive session.

06.12.b.

Dr. Tekshia Ward-Smith, Administrator, Division of Human Resources, requested that the Board of Education approve the hiring recommendation of Dr. CharSenda Covington as the new Director of Student Options in the Division of Equity and Inclusion from executive session.

06.12.c.

Dr. Tekshia Ward-Smith, Administrator, Division of Human Resources, requested that the Board of Education approve the hiring recommendation of Ms. Lauren Scott as the Deputy Chief of Finance in the Division of Finance from executive session.

06.12.d.

Dr. Tekshia Ward-Smith, Administrator, Division of Human Resources, requested that the Board of Education approve the hiring recommendation of Dr. Sean Tartt as the Deputy Chief Academic Officer for the Division of Curriculum and Instruction from executive session.

06.12.e.

Dr. Tekshia Ward-Smith, Administrator, Division of Human Resources, requested that the Board of Education approve the hiring recommendation of Mr. Kevin Phillips, Jr. for EIP Teacher, nephew of the Director of the Early Learning Center. In accordance with Board of Education Policy GAGD, Section G: Mandatory Disclosure by the Superintendent. In the Superintendent's monthly report to the Board, the Superintendent shall disclose the names of relatives of the current members of the Board of Education, of the current Superintendent, and of other current employees at the Director level or above, provided such relatives are to be recommended for employment in the District by the Superintendent or are being considered by the Superintendent for a promotion or a salary increase other than a State of Georgia raise, step increase, or across-the-board raise.

06.12.f.

Dr. Tekshia Ward-Smith, Administrator, Division of Human Resources, requested that the Board of Education approve the hiring recommendation Ms. Shamika Gaines for the Face Advocate position, half-sister of the Director of Human Resources. In accordance with Board

of Education Policy GAGD, Section G: Mandatory Disclosure by the Superintendent. In the Superintendent's monthly report to the Board, the Superintendent shall disclose the names of relatives of the current members of the Board of Education, of the current Superintendent, and of other current employees at the Director level or above, provided such relatives are to be recommended for employment in the District by the Superintendent or are being considered by the Superintendent for a promotion or a salary increase other than a State of Georgia raise, step increase, or across-the-board raise.

06.12.g.

Dr. Tekshia Ward-Smith, Administrator, Division of Human Resources, requested that the Board of Education approve the hiring recommendation of Mr. Tony Weaver for the Technician I Logistics position, husband of the Area Superintendent for Horizon Schools. In accordance with Board of Education Policy GAGD, Section G: Mandatory Disclosure by the Superintendent. In the Superintendent's monthly report to the Board, the Superintendent shall disclose the names of relatives of the current members of the Board of Education, of the current Superintendent, and of other current employees at the Director level or above, provided such relatives are to be recommended for employment in the District by the Superintendent or are being considered by the Superintendent for a promotion or a salary increase other than a State of Georgia raise, step increase, or across-the-board raise *from executive session*.

06.13.

OFFICE OF AUDITS & COMPLIANCE – No Agenda Item This Month

F. AMENDMENT TO THE BYLAWS AND POLICIES ~ No Agenda Items This Month

The community input session began at 5:47 pm.

COMMUNITY INPUT SESSION AND BUSINESS MEETING

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

The following individuals addressed the Board:

1. Corey Frazier
2. Dr. Carolyn King-Stephens
3. Maude King
4. Nancy Kelly
5. Jessica McGruder
6. Ted Golden
7. Carla Weston-Brown
8. Avery Armour-Epps
9. Rachel May

10. Tess Cobb

11. Dr. Lakeia Shelton

Mr. DaCosta Sr. recognized visitor Rockdale County Board of Education member, Ms. Janie Jones.

Mr. DaCosta, Sr. requested to amend the agenda to include an emergency amendment that was discussed in executive session. He informed the public that the board will vote on the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) concerning the Trust for Public Land.

On a motion by Mrs. Hill, second by Ms. Gevertz, and a vote of 6/0, The Memorandum of Understanding concerning the Trust for Public Land would be voted on.

CONVENE THE BUSINESS MEETING

Mr. DaCosta, Sr. requested a motion to convene the December 11, 2023, business meeting. With a motion from Mrs. Pierce, second by Mrs. Turner, and a vote of 6/0, the business meeting convened.

STUDENT BOARD REPRESENTATIVE – Student Representative Miss Madison Roberts, Miller Grove High School, 12th Grade did not attend the meeting.

At 6:15 pm the meeting was paused due to a medical emergency. In the absence of the Board Chair, Mr. DaCosta, Sr, Vice-Chair, Mrs. Deirdre P. Pierce facilitated the rest of the meeting.

RECOGNITION(S)

Board member, Mrs. Anna Hill presented the recognition for Veteran Substitute Recognition Day.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mrs. Pierce called for a motion to approve the December 11, 2023, consent agenda items.

On a motion by Ms. McGinniss , second by Mrs. Hill and with a vote of (5/0) 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 item: Student Appeal #24-18.

On a motion by Ms. Gevertz, second by Mrs. Turner, and with a vote of 5-0.
The motion passed.

- b. Mrs. Pierce called for a motion to accept the actions, as discussed, in Executive Session for item: Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the Trust for Public Land.

On a motion by Mrs. Hill, second by Ms. Gevertz, and with a vote of 5-0.
The motion passed.

**J.2. APPROVAL OF AN AGENDA ITEM(S) PULLED FROM THE CONSENT
AGENDA – No items were pulled from the consent agenda.**

ADJOURN

Mrs. Pierce called for a motion to adjourn the December 11, 2023, work session and business meeting.

With no objections, and a vote of 5/0 the work session and business meeting adjourned at 6:45 pm.

Secretary Ex-Officio

Chair