

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

April 15, 2024

The DeKalb County Board of Education held its Executive Session, Work Session, Community Input Session and Business Meeting on Monday, April 15, 2024, 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 11:37 am and noted the following were in attendance; Mr. Dijon DaCosta, Sr., Mrs. Deirdre P. Pierce, Mrs. Anna Hill, Ms. Whitney McGinniss, Ms. Allyson Gevertz, Dr. Morley and Superintendent, Dr. Devon Q. Horton. Mrs. Vickie B. Turner joined the meeting virtually.

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

Mr. DaCosta, Sr. led the pledge of allegiance.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Mr. DaCosta, Sr. called to adopt the agenda for the April 15, 2024, work session and business meeting.

With an objection by Dr. Joyce Morley and a vote of 5/1, the April 15, 2024, work session and business meeting agenda was approved.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT and COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

1. Superintendent's Report – Gallup Presentation

Presented by: Dr. Devon Q. Horton, Superintendent

Presented by: Dr. Tekshia Ward-Smith, Administrator, Division of Human Resources

2. Committee of the Whole Presentation

a. Strategic Planning Update

Presented by: Ms. Aurora Lora, Insight Education Group

REVIEW OF AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE APRIL 15, 2024, BUSINESS MEETING

10.01.a.

Mr. DaCosta, Sr., requested that the Board of Education open the floor to nominate and elect a board member to the Board Policy Review Committee. Mr. DaCosta, Sr. nominated Ms. Allyson Gevertz. Ms. Gevertz accepted the nomination. With a vote of 5/1 – opposed by Dr. Morley, Ms. Gevertz was elected to the Board Policy Review Committee.

10.01.b

Mr. DaCosta, Sr., informed the Board of Education that he would appoint Mrs. Vickie B. Turner as the committee chair of the Board Policy Review Committee.

10.01.c

Mr. DaCosta, Sr., requested a motion that the Board of Education amend and extend the Term of Service on Board Policy BBC: Board Committees from 60 – 180 days. With a motion by Ms. McGinniss, second by Mrs. Hill, and a vote of 5/1 – opposed by Dr. Morley. The term of service of the special board committee was extended to 180 days.

10.02.a

Mr. DaCosta, Sr. requested that the Board of Education approve the minutes of the following meetings: March 11, 2024, board meeting which includes the executive session, work session, community input session and business meeting, and the April 11, 2024, audit committee meeting. Mrs. Hill requested that a handout which was not included in the original information packet and was discussed at the April 11, 2024, audit committee meeting be added to the documentation in Simbli. The addendum was added. Dr. Morley objected to this item being placed on the consent agenda. The item would be voted on separately.

10.03.a.i.

Mr. Erick Hofstetter, Chief Operating Officer, Division of Operations, requested that the Board of Education authorize the purchase of door and hardware security resources, including products and installation services from Door Resources, to enhance security. The total cost for products and installation services will not exceed **\$91,506.58**.

10.03.a.ii.

Mr. Erick Hofstetter, Chief Operating Officer, Division of Operations, requested that the Board of Education approve the extension of RFP 20-752-030R Asbestos and Lead Based Paint Abatement Services with **SACAL Environmental & Management Company** for an additional year through April 22, 2025.

10.03.a.iii.

Mr. Erick Hofstetter, Chief Operating Officer, Division of Operations, requested that the Board of Education approve the award of ITB 24-464 Catalog Discount Plumbing Supplies, Parts and Equipment to **Best Plumbing Specialties, Inc. and MSC Industrial Supply Co.** for an amount not to exceed \$200,000.

10.03.a.iv.

Mr. Erick Hofstetter, Chief Operating Officer, Division of Operations, requested that the Board of Education approve the award of ITB 24-467 Catalog Discount Lawn Equipment, Repair Parts, and Supplies to **Ag-Pro Conyers** in the amount not to exceed \$200,000.

10.03.a.v.

Mr. Erick Hofstetter, Chief Operating Officer, Division of Operations, requested that the Board of Education approve the award of ITB 24-468 Discount Audio Visual and Fire Safety Supplies to **Bluum USA, Inc., CCS Presentation Systems, and School Outfitters, LLC.** in the amount not to exceed \$200,000.

10.03.a.vi.

Mr. Erick Hofstetter, Chief Operating Officer, Division of Operations, requested that the Board of Education approve the award of ITB 24-469 Catalog Discount Glazing Supplies to **MSC Industrial Supply Co. and P & E Mirror and Glass, LLC** for an amount not to exceed \$200,000.

10.03.a.vii.

Mr. Erick Hofstetter, Chief Operating Officer, Division of Operations, requested that the Board of Education approve the award of ITB 24-510 Catalog Discount Locksmith Supplies to **MSC Industrial Supply Co., Southern Lock and Supply, Inc., Academy Lock & Key, Inc., Accredited Lock Supply, and DH Pace** in the amount not to exceed \$200,000.

10.03.a. viii.

Mr. Erick Hofstetter, Chief Operating Officer, Division of Operations, requested that the Board of Education approve an easement to Georgia Power to secure distribution and communication lines that service Bethune Middle School and the surrounding area.

10.03.a. ix.

Mr. Erick Hofstetter, Chief Operating Officer, Division of Operations, requested that the Board of Education approve the Omnia Partners contract number: 02-123 to replace HVAC equipment in accordance with the Omnia Partners HVAC Related Products through December 31, 2024, for an amount not to exceed **\$1,000,000**.

10.03.a.x.

Mr. Erick Hofstetter, Chief Operating Officer, Division of Operations, requested that the Board of Education approve the award of RFP 24-552 Gym Floor Maintenance, Repair, and Replacement Services to **FloorCare Specialists, Inc. dba Gameday Floors and Superior Court Systems By Floor Action**, the most responsive, responsible bidders in accordance with the Request for Proposal documents and contract obligations identified therein, for a not to exceed amount collectively of **\$2,000,000**.

10.03.a. xi.

Mr. Erick Hofstetter, Chief Operating Officer, Division of Operations, requested that the Board of Education approve the renewal of ITB 21-752-018 for roofing contractor services to **Core Roofing Systems, Inc., and Klein Contracting Corp.** on an as needed basis for minor roofing repair projects for various locations throughout the district. This request extends the agreement for **Core Roofing Systems, Inc., and Klein Contracting Corp.** an additional year through May 19, 2025, for an additional year not to exceed \$3,000,000.

10.03.a.xii.

Mr. Erick Hofstetter, Chief Operating Officer, Division of Operations, requested that the Board of Education authorize the District to approve the following contractors utilizing the Georgia statewide contract to provide services for repairs, alterations and minor construction projects: **Albion Scaccia Enterprises, LLC, (99999-SPD-S20200901-0001); Bayne Development Group, LLC, (99999-SPD-S20200901-00024); Brown & Root Industrial Services, LLC, (99999-SPD-S20160216-010);; Crown Retail Services (99999-SPD-**

S20200901-0004); F.H. Paschen, S.N. Nielsen & Associates (99999-SPD-S20200901-0007); HCR Construction, Inc., (99999-SPD-S20200901-0009); HITT Construction, Inc., (99999-SPD-S2020090100010); JOC Construction (99999-SPD-S20200901-00013); Lichty Commercial Construction, Inc., (99999-SPD-S20200901-00023); Osprey Management LLC, (99999-SPD-S20200901-00014); Paryani Construction (99999-SPD-S20200901-00020); Place Services, Inc., (99999-SPDS20200901-00016); Prime Contractors (99999-SPD-S20200901-00015); and Ward Humphrey Incorporated (99999-SPD-S20200901-00027) in accordance with the State of Georgia Indefinite Quantity Construction (EZIQC) statewide contract through June 30, 2025, for an amount not to exceed **\$15,000,000.**

10.03.a. xiii.

Mr. Erick Hofstetter, Chief Operating Officer, Division of Operations, requested that the Board of Education authorize the district to use the IBS Contract between DeKalb County School District and Replacement Parts Company (Grainger) for services in accordance with State of Georgia Contract SWC 99999-001-SPD0000181-0001. Ms. McGinniss and Dr. Morley objected to this item. It was pulled from the consent agenda and moved to May agenda.

10.03.a.xiv.

Mr. Erick Hofstetter, Chief Operating Officer, Division of Operations, requested that the Board of Education approve the ratification and contract extension of RFP 20-752-029 for Fire Safety Services to **Cliff's Fire Extinguisher Company, Inc.** for an additional year for an amount not to exceed **\$750,000**.

10.03.b.

BUSINESS SERVICES ~ No Agenda Item This Month

10.03.c.i.

Mr. Erick Hofstetter, Chief Operating Officer, Division of Operations, requested that the Board of Education approve the contract extension of ITB No. 22-541 for Liquid Propane Gas Delivery Service for the 2nd of 4 one (1)-year extension to **Ferrellgas** in the amount not to exceed **\$2,000,000 per year**.

10.03.c. ii.

Mr. Erick Hofstetter, Chief Operating Officer, Division of Operations, requested that the Board of Education ratify and approve the contract extension for **RFP 20-472, Charter Bus Services to Allstate Tours, American Coach Lines, Coast to Coast Tours, LLC, Friendship Tours, LLC, Harmon Brothers, Kelly Tours, Inc., Kingsmen Coach Lines, R&W Motorcoach, Inc., Samson Tours, Inc., Southeastern Stages, Inc., and We Care Charters** for one additional year through December 31, 2024. This recommendation is for the fourth of four (4) one-year contract renewal options.

10.03.c.iii.

Mr. Erick Hofstetter, Chief Operating Officer, Division of Operations, requested that the Board of Education approve the purchase of fifteen (15) support vehicles for the Transportation Department from **Wade Ford, Inc.** through Georgia Statewide Contract 99999-SPD-ES40199373-009S for an amount not to exceed **\$627,675.00**.

10.03.d.i.

Mr. Erick Hofstetter, Chief Operating Officer, Division of Operations, requested that the Board of Education approve the renewal of RFP 21-524R for the purchase of uniforms by **Cintas Corporation** for an amount not to exceed **\$258,940.00** for **SY 24-25**. This request extends the agreement with **Cintas Corporation** an additional year from July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025. This is the third of four (4) one-year (1-year) Contract Renewal options.

10.03.d. ii.

Mr. Erick Hofstetter, Chief Operating Officer, Division of Operations, requested that the Board of Education approve the extension of Bid 22-15, Frozen Temperature Control & Dry Food Products to **Gordon Food Service, Inc.** in the amount not to exceed **\$15,407,125** for **SY 24-25**. This extends the agreement with Gordon Food Service, Inc. an additional year, July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025.

10.03.d.iii.

Mr. Erick Hofstetter, Chief Operating Officer, Division of Operations, requested that the Board of Education approve the agreement between DeKalb County School District (School Nutrition Services) and **DeKalb County Government** to serve as the vendor for the 2024 summer feeding program. School Nutrition Services partners with community programs to ensure every student receives meals needed during the summer months.

10.03.e.

E-SPLOST Projects ~ No Agenda Items This Month

10.04.

INFORMATION & INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNOLOGY ~ No Agenda Item This Month

10.05.a.i

Mr. Byron Schueneman, Chief Financial Officer, Division of Finance, requested that the Board of Education accept the February 2024 Monthly Financial Report. Dr. Morley objected to this item. It would be pulled from the consent agenda and voted on separately.

10.05.b.

RISK ASSESSMENT ~ No Agenda Items This Month

10.06.a.

Dr. Tekshia Ward-Smith, Administrator, Division of Human Resources, requested that the Board of Education approve the 2024 Human Resources Report for April.

10.06.b.

Dr. Tekshia Ward-Smith, Administrator, Division of Human Resources, requested that the Board of Education approve the award recommendation for RFP 24-582R DeKalb Teacher Residency University Partner to Kennesaw State University not to exceed \$770,500. Dr. Morley and Ms. McGinniss both objected to this agenda item. It would be pulled from the consent agenda and voted on separately.

10.07.a.i.

Mrs. Michelle Dillard, Chief of Schools, Division of Schools & Leadership, requested that the Board of Education approve the first of four, one-year renewals for RFP 23-544 for ambulance services provided by Metro Ambulance Services dba American Medical Response in the amount not to exceed **\$250,000**. This agenda item seeks the Board of Education approval for the second one-year contract, with three remaining, one-year renewal options. Dr. Morley objected to this agenda item. It would be pulled from the consent agenda and voted on separately.

10.08.a.

Ms. Stacy Stepney, Chief Academic Officer, Division of Curriculum & Instruction, requested that the Board of Education approve the award for RFP 24-576 for the Teaching and Learning Curriculum Audit Services to **Insight Education Group** as the most responsive and responsible bidder to conduct a comprehensive curriculum audit in an amount not to exceed \$350,000.

10.09.

WRAP AROUND SERVICES ~ No Agenda Items This Month

10.10.a.

Dr. Norman Sauce, III, Chief of Student Services, Division of Student Services, requested that the Board of Education approve for Georgia State University (GSU) to receive **\$352,808** to support the recruitment, training, tuition, student health insurance, graduate research assistantships, professional association memberships, conference fees, and other school-related costs for newly incoming school psychology graduate students (5), practicum students (4), and interns (2) who will become school psychologists upon graduation and will work in DeKalb County School District. This cost represents year 2 of the 5-year School-Based Mental Health Services Grant that DeKalb County School District was awarded by the United States Department of Education, in conjunction with Georgia State University- to alleviate the financial burden of graduate school for school psychology students from underrepresented groups and/or living in communities served by our school district.

10.11.

EQUITY & STUDENT EMPOWERMENT ~ No Agenda Items This Month

10.12.a.

Dr. Markisha Mitchell, Chief of Accountability & Continuous Improvement, Division of Accountability & Continuous Improvement, requested that the Board of Education approve the award and contract for computer program evaluation services to Level Data LLC in an amount not to exceed \$247,887. Dr. Morley objected to this agenda item. It would be pulled from the consent agenda and voted on separately.

10.13.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & INNOVATIVE PARTNERSHIPS ~ No Agenda Item This Month

10.14.a.

Mr. Joel B. Thibodeaux, Director Internal Audits & Compliance, Office of Audits and Compliance requested that the Board of Education consider and approve a change order and additional funds for RFP 23-543 Comprehensive Financial Audit of E-SPLOST IV and E-SPLOST V Spending to **Plante Moran** for an additional amount not to exceed **\$320,000**. Dr. Morley objected to this agenda item. It would be pulled from the consent agenda and voted on separately.

10.15.

LEGAL SERVICES ~ No Agenda Item This Month

AMENDMENT TO THE BYLAWS AND POLICIES

E.1.

Mr. Aaron Webb, Legal Counsel, Hall Booth Smith, PC. requested that the Board of Education amend Board Policy GBRI: Professional Personnel Personal Leaves and Absences and allow for public review, comment, and vote on the changes at the May 6, 2024, board meeting.

E.2.

Mr. Aaron Webb, Legal Counsel, Hall Booth Smith, PC. requested that the Board of Education approve the DeKalb Schools Foundation amended bylaws and allow for public review, comment, and vote on the changes at the May 6, 2024, board meeting.

STUDENT BOARD REPRESENTATIVE – Superintendent, Dr. Horton introduced Student Representatives, Mr. Khamari Jenkins, Columbia High School, 10th Grade.

RECOGNITIONS

- a. Proclamation: Exceptional Children’s Week ~ April 15 – 19, 2024
Presented by: Mrs. Anna Hill, Board Member, District 1
- b. Proclamation: School Library Month
Presented by: Ms. Allyson Gevertz, Board Member, District 4
- c. Recognition: Georgia Scholar Honorees
Presented by: Mrs. Deirdre P. Pierce, Vice Chair
- d. Recognition: 2024 REACH Georgia Scholarship Recipients
Presented by: Ms. Whitney McGinniss, Board Member, District 2

GROUP / EXTERNAL PRESENTATION

- a. Video Presentation of Outstanding Student Athletes
Presented by: Mr. Dijon DaCosta, Sr., Board Chair

ADJOURN TO AN EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. DaCosta, Sr. called for a motion to adjourn April 15, 2024, 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 Ms. Gevertz and with a vote of (6/0), the April 15, 2024, meeting adjourned to executive session.

ADJOURN THE EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. DaCosta, Sr. called to adjourn the April 15, 2024, executive session to convene the business meeting

On a motion by Mrs. Hill seconded by Ms. McGinniss and with a vote of (7/0), the April 15, 2024, executive session adjourned to the work session.

PERSONNEL RECOMMENDATIONS FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

G.2.a.

Dr. Tekshia Ward-Smith, Administrator, Division of Human Resources, requested that the Board of Education approve the hiring recommendation of Ms. Tasha Davis Mills to the position of Chief Human Resource Officer, in the Division of Human Resources. On a motion from Mrs. Pierce, seconded by Ms. Gevertz, and a vote of 6/1, abstention by Dr. Morley, the motion passes.

G.2.b.

Dr. Tekshia Ward-Smith, Administrator, Division of Human Resources, requested that the Board of Education approve the hiring recommendation of Dr. Thomas Glanton to the position of Area Superintendent of High Schools, in the Division of School Leadership. On a motion from Mrs. Turner, seconded by Ms. Gevertz, and a vote of 6/1, abstention by Dr. Morley, the motion passes.

CONVENE THE BUSINESS MEETING

Mr. DaCosta, Sr. requested to convene the April 15, 2024, business meeting. With no objections, the business meeting convened.

The community input session began at 5:49 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. Decarlos O'neal
2. Ella Driscoll
3. Hank Stewart

4. Cittra Seid
5. Safia Yussuf
6. Carla Weston-Brown
7. Austin McDonald
8. Sarah Sansbury
9. Seth Gehle
10. Willie Pringle
11. Jeannette Gonzalez Fusia
12. Jessica Burns

CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. DaCosta, Sr. called for a motion to approve the April 15, 2024, 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.

ACTION ITEM(S)

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

a. Agenda Item: Student Appeal # 24-28 as discussed in executive session

Motion by Mrs. Turner. Second by Mrs. Pierce.

All in favor - 7. Motion passed 7/0.

b. Agenda Item: Student Appeal # 24-29 as discussed in executive session

Motion by Mrs. Turner. Second by Mrs. Hill.

All in favor – 7. Motion passed 7/0.

c. Agenda Item: Student Appeal # 24-30 as discussed in executive session

Motion by Ms. McGinniss. Second by Mrs. Hill

All in favor - 7. Motion passed 7/0.

d. Agenda Item: Student Appeal # 24-31 as discussed in executive session

Motion by Mrs. Turner. Second by Mrs. Pierce.

All in favor – 7. Motion passed 7/0.

- e. Agenda Item: Review of Findings in Personnel Hearing Appeal # 24-01 as discussed in executive session

Motion by Mrs. Turner. Second by Ms. McGinniss.

All in favor – 7. Motion passed 7/0.

- f. Agenda Item: Review of Findings in Personnel Hearing Appeal # 24-02 as discussed in executive session

Motion by Mrs. Hill. Second by Mrs. Turner.

All in favor – 7. Motion passed 7/0.

- g. Agenda Item: Settlement of Cheryl Watson Harris vs. DCSD as discussed in executive session

Motion by Ms. Gevertz. Second by Mrs. Pierce.

All in favor 6 – 1 opposed by Dr. Morley, Motion passed 6/1.

- h. Agenda Item: Settlement of Zakia Johnson vs. DCSD as discussed in executive session

Motion by Mrs. Hill. Second by Mrs. Turner.

All in favor - 7. Motion passed 7/0

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: D.2.a. Approval of Minutes

Motion by Mrs. Pierce. Second by Ms. Gevertz

All in favor 6 – 1 abstention by Dr. Morley, Motion passed 6/1.

- b. Agenda Item: D.3.a.v. ITB 24-468 Catalog Discount Audio Visual and Fire Safety Supplies Contract Award Approval (Not to exceed \$200,000).

Motion by Ma. Gevertz. Second by Mrs. Pierce

All in favor – 7/0. Motion passed.

- c. Agenda Item: D.3.a. xiii. Replacement Parts Company (Grainger) State of Georgia Maintenance, Repair, and Operation Contract No 99999-001-SPD000 0181-001

This item was removed and tabled to the May 6, 2024, BoE meeting.

d. Agenda Item: D.5.a.i Acceptance of the February 2024 Monthly Financial Report

Motion by Mrs. Hill. Second by Ms. Gevertz.

All in favor 6 – 1 abstention by Ms. McGinniss. Motion passed 6/1.

e. Agenda Item:D.6.b.RFP 24-582R DeKalb Teacher Residency University Partner for Early Childhood Education and Special Education (Not to exceed \$770,550)

Motion by Ms. Gevertz. Second by Mrs. Pierce.

All in favor 6 – 1 abstention by Dr. Morley. Motion passed 6/1.

f. Agenda Item:D.7. a. i Renewal for RFP 23-544 for Ambulance Services (Not to exceed \$250,000)

Motion by Mrs. Hill. Second by Ms. McGinniss.

All in favor 6 – 1 abstention by Dr. Morley. Motion passed 6/1.

g. Agenda Item:D.12. a RFP 24-568 Level Data LLC (Not to exceed \$247,887)

Motion by Mrs. Pierce. Second by Ms. McGinniss.

All in favor 6 – 1 opposed by Dr. Morley. Motion passed 6/1.

h. Agenda Item: D.14.a. Approval of Change Order Request to REP 23-543 Comprehensive Financial Audit of E-SPLOST IV and E-SPLOST V Spending (Not to exceed \$320,000)

Motion by Ms. Pierce. Second by Ms. Gevertz.

All in favor – 6 -1 opposed by Dr. Morley. Motion passed 6/1.

ADJOURN

Mr. DaCosta, Sr. asked if there were any objections to adjourn the April 15, 2024, work session and business meeting.

With no objections, the work session and business meeting adjourned at 9:20 pm.

Secretary Ex-Officio

Chair