

BOARD RETREAT & EXECUTIVE SESSION  
OF THE  
DEKALB COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

May 29, 2024

The DeKalb County Board of Education held its Board Retreat & Executive Session, May 29, 2024, at the Emory Conference Center Hotel at 1615 Clifton Road NE Atlanta, GA 30329.

Mr. Diijon DaCosta, Sr., Chair, convened the meeting at 9:10 a.m. and noted the following were also in attendance; Mrs. Vickie B. Turner, Mrs. Deirdre P. Pierce, Ms. Allyson Gevertz, Ms. Whitney McGinniss, and Superintendent, Dr. Devon Q. Horton. Dr. Joyce Morley joined the retreat virtually.

Also in attendance were General Counsel Attorney, Ms. Melanie Slaton and Executive Administrator to the Board, Ms. Carolyn Lloyd.

**ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

Mr. DaCosta, Sr. requested that the DeKalb County Board of Education adopt the May 29, 2024, Board Retreat & Executive Session agenda.

There being no objections, the agenda was approved.

**BOARD RETREAT & EXECUTIVE SESSION – MAY 29, 2024**

**1. Welcome & Overview**

By: Mr. Diijon DaCosta, Sr., Board Chair

**ADJOURN TO AN EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Mr. DaCosta, Sr. called for a motion to adjourn May 29, 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. Pierce, seconded by Mrs. Turner, and with a vote of (5/0), the May 29, 2024, meeting adjourned to executive session.

**ADJOURN THE EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Mrs. Pierce called to adjourn the May 29, 2024, executive session to adjourn the executive session and convene the board retreat.

On a motion by Ms. Gevertz, second by Mrs. Turner, the May 29, 2024, and with a vote of 4/0, executive session adjourned to convene the board retreat.

**STRATEGIC WAIVER SCHOOL SYSTEM (SWSS) CONTRACT RENEWAL**

Ms. Shakina Champion requested that the Board of Education approve the Strategic Waiver School System (SWSS) contract for submission to the Georgia Department of Education.

**ADOPTION OF THE DEKALB SCHOOLS EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION, INC.  
AMENDED NAME CHANGE**

Ms. Melanie Slaton requested that the Board of Education adopt the amended name for The DeKalb Schools Educational Foundation, Inc.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Mrs. Pierce called for a motion to approve the May 29, 2024, consent agenda items.

On a motion by Ms. Gevertz, second by Ms. McGinniss and with a vote of (4/0) the motion passed to approve the consent agenda.

**APPROVAL OF ITEMS FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION**

a. Agenda Item: Worker's Compensation Settlement as discussed in Executive Session

Motion by Mrs. Turner. Second by Ms. McGinniss  
All in favor – 4 Motion passed 4/0.

b. Agenda Item: \$25,000 Bond for Superintendent as discussed in Executive Session

Motion by Mrs. Turner. Second by Ms. Gevertz  
All in favor – 4 Motion passed 4/0.

**DISCUSSION TOPICS**

1. Ms. Aurora Lora, Facilitator, Insight Education Group led the Strategic Planning Board Work Session.
2. Dr. Horton, Superintendent, introduced the Chiefs of the Divisions to provide updates.
  - a. Chief Operating Officer, Mr. Erick Hofstetter provided a 10-minute update on the Division of Operations.
  - b. Chief Financial Officer, Mr. Byron Schueneman provided a 10-minute update on the Division of Finance.
  - c. Chief of Schools & Leadership, Champion Michelle Dillard provided a 10-minute update on the Division of Schools & Leadership.
  - d. Chief Information Officer, Ms. Monika Davis provided a 10-minute update on the Division of Information & Instructional Technology.

- e. Chief of Community Engagement & Innovative Partnerships, Dr. Yolanda Williamson provided a 10-minute update on the Division of Community Engagement & Innovative Partnerships.
- f. Chief Academic Officer, Ms. Stacy Stepney provided a 10-minute update on the Division of Curriculum & Instruction.
- g. Director of Employment Services, Dr. Angelica Collins and Ms. Karen Beadles provided a 10-minute update on the Division of Human Resources.
- h. Chief of Wrap Around Services, Dr. Kisha Towns provided a 10-minute update on the Division of Wrap Around Services.
- i. Chief of Accountability & Continuous Improvement, Dr. Markisha Mitchell provided a 10-minute update on the Division of Accountability & Continuous Improvement.
- j. Chief of Student Services, Dr. Norman Sauce provided a 10-minute update on the Division of Student Services.
- k. Chief of Staff, Mr. Elijah Palmer provided a 10-minute update on the Chief of Staff Division.

**ADJOURN**

Mrs. Pierce requested that the DeKalb County Board of Education adjourn the May 29, 2024, Board Retreat & Executive Session.

Mrs. Pierce noted there were no objections, the Board Retreat adjourned at 5:47 p.m.

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Secretary Ex-Officio

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Chair