

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

August 12, 2024

The DeKalb County Board of Education held its Executive Session, Work Session, Community Input Session and Business Meeting on Monday, August 12, 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 11:35 am and noted the following were in attendance; himself, 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 and Executive Director to the Board, Ms. Carolyn Lloyd.

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

**ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

Mr. DaCosta, Sr. noted for the record that 2 donations under the Division of Community Engagement & Innovative Partnerships were removed from the August 12, 2024 agenda.

Mr. DaCosta, Sr. called to adopt the agenda for the August 12, 2024 work session and business meeting.

Mrs. Turner made a motion to approve the agenda. Ms. Gevertz seconded the motion. With a vote of 6-0, the August 12, 2024, work session and business meeting agenda was approved.

Dr. Morley joined the meeting during the Student Recognition portion of the meeting.

**RECOGNITIONS**

**STUDENT BOARD REPRESENTATIVE** ~ No Student Representative This Month.

**RECOGNITIONS**

1. Student Recognition: 2024 Regeneron International Science and Engineering Fair Award Winner  
Presented by: Mrs. Anna Hill, Board Member, District 1
2. Student Recognition: 2024 National History Day National Competition at the University of Maryland  
Presented by: Ms. Whitney McGinniss, Board Member, District 2

**GROUP / EXTERNAL PRESENTATION** ~ No Presentation This Month

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

### **1. Superintendent’s Reports**

#### **a. Update on School Opening**

**Presented by Mr. Elijah Palmer, Chief of Staff, Chief of Staff Division**

#### **b. Foundation Report**

**Presented by: Mrs. Patricia Smith, Board Chair, DeKalb Schools Educational Foundation, Inc.**

### **2. Committee of the Whole Presentations ~ No Presentations This Month**

**Board Chair, Mr. Diijon DaCosta, Sr. took a moment to welcome and congratulate the newly elected board members, Mrs. Deirdre P. Pierce, Mr. Andrew Ziffer, Mr. Awet Eyasu and Dr. Tiffany Hogan. Mr. Eyasu was not present.**

## **REVIEW OF AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE AUGUST 12, 2024, BUSINESS MEETING**

### 02.01.

BOARD OF EDUCATION ~ No Agenda Item This Month

### 02.02.a

Mr. DaCosta, Sr. requested that the Board of Education approve the minutes of the following meetings: July 8, 2024 board meeting which includes the executive session, work session, community input session and business meeting, the July 11, 2024 virtual board b-policy review committee meeting, July 11, 2024 audit committee meeting, July 25, 2024 board b-policy review committee meeting, August 1, 2024 virtual board b-policy review committee meeting, and the August 8, 2024 audit committee meeting. Dr. Morley objected to this item. It would be voted on separately.

### 02.03.a.i.

Mr. Erick Hofstetter, Chief Operating Officer, Division of Operations, requested that the Board of Education approve an amendment to the existing easement with the City of Dunwoody to allow for the maintenance of utilities serving the City of Dunwoody property.

### 02.03.a.ii.

Mr. Erick Hofstetter, Chief Operating Officer, Division of Operations, requested that the Board of Education approve an easement to Georgia Power to allow for to upgrade electric distribution facilities to improve electric service reliability to the New Elementary School at Dresden.

### 02.03.a.iii.

Mr. Erick Hofstetter, Chief Operating Officer, Division of Operations, requested that the Board of Education authorize Dekalb County School District (“DCSD”) to use the Cooperative Agreement between Omnia Partners and Carahsoft Technology Corporation to purchase the two-year license for the **Inframappa** software and services. Inframappa database software will manage DCSD’s building information. The services provided will include field verification of

capital assets and scanning of all building documents for an amount not to exceed **\$251,612.90** for the initial contract period. Dr. Morley objected to this agenda item. It would be voted on separately.

02.03.b.

BUSINESS SERVICES ~ No Agenda Item This Month

02.03.c.i.

Mr. Erick Hofstetter, Chief Operating Officer, Division of Operations, requested that the Board of Education approve the purchase of gasoline and diesel fuel from **James River Solutions, LLC** as the primary supplier, **Sunoco, LP** as the secondary supplier, and **Boswell Oil Company** as the tertiary supplier through the North Georgia Fuel Cooperative ("NGFC") (**BL051-23**) in an amount not-to-exceed **\$8,100,000** for the dates September 1, 2024, through August 31, 2025.

02.03.d.i.

Mr. Erick Hofstetter, Chief Operating Officer, Division of Operations, requested that the Board of Education approve the agreement between the DeKalb County School District ("DCSD") and **DeKalb County Government** to serve as the vendor for **SY24-25** After School Snack program. Mrs. Hill objected to this agenda item. It would be voted on separately.

02.03.e.i.

Mr. Erick Hofstetter, Chief Operating Officer, Division of Operations, requested that the Board of Education approve a budget reallocation in the amount of **\$2,091,200** from Program Contingency which will allow the proper funds to be allocated to the necessary project cost code for the capital improvement at Clarkston High School. Additionally, it is requested that the Board of Education approve the award of RFP No. 24-752-022 to **Centennial Contractors Enterprises, Inc.**, 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 Clarkston High School for the lump sum amount of **\$2,091,200**. Dr. Morley objected to this agenda item. It would be voted on separately. Dr. Morley objected to this agenda item. It would be voted on separately.

02.03.e. ii.

Mr. Erick Hofstetter, Chief Operating Officer, Division of Operations, requested that the Board of Education approve the award of RFQu No. 24-752-023 for Professional Architectural and Engineering Continuing Contract Services to **ECS Southeast, LLC, Goodwyn, Mills, and Cawood LLC, Matrix Engineering Group, Inc., Nova Engineering & Environmental, LLC, Oasis Consulting Services, S&ME, Inc. and United Consulting** the most responsive and responsible firms whose proposal best meets the requirements set forth in the Proposal Documents and contract obligations identified herein.

02.03.e.iii.

Mr. Erick Hofstetter, Chief Operating Officer, Division of Operations, requested that the Board of Education approve the award of RFQu No. 24-752-029 for construction management services for Group 1 Security Vestibules to **Lefko Development, Inc./dba Lefko Construction** 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 is 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. The Final GMP will be presented to the Board of Education for approval as indicated below:

The Final Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) will be presented in January 2025. Dr. Morley objected to this agenda item. It would be voted on separately.

02.03.e. iv.

Mr. Erick Hofstetter, Chief Operating Officer, Division of Operations, requested that the Board of Education approve the award of RFQu 24-752-030 for Architectural and Engineering Services for Group 2 Security Vestibules to **SSOE, Inc.**, the most responsive and responsible Offeror whose submittal is the most advantageous to the Board based on the evaluation factors, for the lump sum amount of **\$896,250**. Dr. Morley objected to this agenda item. It would be voted on separately. Dr. Morley objected to this agenda item. It would be voted on separately.

02.03.e.v.

Mr. Erick Hofstetter, Chief Operating Officer, Division of Operations, requested that the Board of Education approve an E-SPLOST V budget reallocation in the amount of **\$178,235.81** from Project Contingency, which will allow the proper funds to be allocated to the necessary project cost code for the Centennial Contractors Change Order No. 1 at Briar Vista Elementary School.

Additionally, it is requested that the Board of Education approve Change Order No. 1 to **Centennial Contractors Enterprises, Inc.** for a not-to-exceed amount of **\$178,235.81** for DeKalb County School District ("DCSD") requested items as outlined in the Change Order No. 1 documents. Dr. Morley objected to this agenda item. It would be voted on separately.

02.03.e.vi.

Mr. Erick Hofstetter, Chief Operating Officer, Division of Operations, requested that the Board of Education approve a budget reallocation from Program Contingency to the necessary project cost code (SP5FACCON.35435.PRECONST) in the amount of **\$160,883.96**. The reallocation will allow funds to be placed in the ESPLOST project budget to pay **Mobile Modular Management Corporation**, for the removal of the portable classroom units and the monthly lease payments. Dr. Morley objected to this agenda item. It would be voted on separately.

02.04.

INFORMATION & INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNOLOGY ~ No Agenda Item This Month

02.05.a.

Mr. Elijah Palmer, Chief of Staff, Chief of Staff Division requested that the Board of Education approve the professional services contract with Gartner, Inc. for the provision of flat-fee, subscription based advisory and consulting services to the Office of Internal Audits & Compliance for an amount not to exceed \$96,900. Dr. Morley objected to this agenda item. It would be voted on separately.

02.06.a.

Ms. Lauren Scott, Deputy Chief Financial Officer, Division of Finance, requested that the Board of Education accept the June 2024 Monthly Financial Report. Mrs. Hill objected to this agenda item. It would be voted on separately.

02.06.b.

Ms. Lauren Scott, Deputy Chief Financial Officer, Division of Finance, requested that the Board of Education approve the non-resident student annual tuition fee of **\$6,263.36 for the 2024-2025 school year**, as calculated using State provided formula in the attached spreadsheet.

02.06.c.

Ms. Lauren Scott, Deputy Chief Financial Officer, Division of Finance, requested that the Board of Education authorize the fifth of five-settlement funding payment in the amount of **\$22.5 million** in accordance with the provisions of the **Final Approval of the Settlement Agreement and Order. American Legal Claims, LLC** is appointed as the Settlement Administrator.

02.07.a.

Mrs. Tasha Davis Mills, Chief Human Resource Officer, Division of Human Resources, requested that the Board of Education approve the August 2024 Human Resources Report. Dr. Morley objected to this agenda item. It would be voted on separately.

02.08.

SCHOOLS & LEADERSHIP ~ No Agenda Item This Month

02.09.

CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION ~ No Agenda Item This Month

02.10.a

Dr. Kisha K. Towns, Chief of Wrap Around Services, Division of Wrap Around Services, requested that the Board of Education approve the Letter of Agreement between **College AIM, INC.**, and the DeKalb County School District (DCSD), for an additional year for an **amount not to exceed \$140,000**. The contract renewal is through June 30, 2025, and will be in accordance with the existing fee structure provided in the vendor's service agreement. This request supports Strategic Goal Area 1 Student Academic Success with Equity and Access. Dr. Morley objected to this agenda item. It would be voted on separately.

02.11.a.

Dr. Norman Sauce III, Chief of Student Services, Division of Student Services requested that the Board of Education approve the award for RFP 24-589 for the English Learners Program Evaluation and Master Planning to **RMC Research Corporation** as the most responsive and responsible bidder to perform a comprehensive program evaluation, and master development of the DCSD English Learners Department for an amount not to exceed **\$183,136.97**. Dr. Morley objected to this agenda item. It would be voted on separately.

02.11.b.

Dr. Norman Sauce III, Chief of Student Services, Division of Student Services requested that the Board of Education approve the purchase of supplemental instructional resources for the Division of Student Services in an amount not to exceed **\$4,000,000**. Ms. McGinniss objected to this agenda item. It would be voted on separately.

02.12.

EQUITY & INCLUSION ~ No Agenda Items This Month

02.12.a

ATHLETICS ~ No Agenda Item This Month

02.13.a.

Dr. Candace Alexander, Chief of Accountability & Continuous Improvement, Division of Accountability & Continuous Improvement, requested that the Board of Education approve the purchase of SAT Exams from **College Board** for the SY24-25 test administration in an **amount not to exceed \$375,000**.

The requested purchase is a testing expenditure that does not require bid per the District's Purchasing Board Policy (DJE). Ms. McGinniss objected to this agenda item. It would be voted on separately.

02.14.a.i.

Dr. Yolanda Williamson, Chief of Community Engagement & Innovative Partnerships, Division of Community Engagement & Innovative Partnerships, requested that the Board of Education accept the donation of **\$41,765.06** from the **Dunwoody Elementary School's Parent Teacher Organization** as a one-time donation per Board Policy DFK "Gifts and Bequests Guidelines".

02.15.a.i.

Mr. H. Eric Hilton, Chief of Legal Services, Division of Legal Services, requested that the Board of Education approve the renewal of the Insurance Producer Services for Property and Casualty Insurance Agreement with **Edgewood Partners Insurance Center d/b/a EPIC Insurance Brokers and Consultants ("Epic")** for an annual fee not to exceed **\$150,000**.

**AMENDMENT TO THE BYLAWS AND POLICIES**

F.1.

Ms. Noga Baruch, Legal Counsel, Hall Booth Smith, PC Attorneys at Law requested that the Board of Education suspend consideration of proposed revision of Board Policy GAEB: Sexual Harassment of Employees until the courts make their final decision on the Title IX regulation.

F.2.

Ms. Noga Baruch, Legal Counsel, Hall Booth Smith, PC Attorneys at Law requested that the Board of Education suspend consideration of proposed revision of Board Policy JCAC: Sexual Harassment of Students until the courts make their final decision on the Title IX regulation.

Mr. DaCosta called for a motion to remove F1. and F2. from the agenda.  
With a motion by Ms. Gevertz. Seconded by Mrs. Pierce. Motion passed with a vote of 7/0.  
Both policies were removed from the agenda.

F.3.

Ms. Noga Baruch, Legal Counsel, Hall Booth Smith, PC Attorneys at Law requested that the Board of Education postpone consideration of proposed amendments to Board Policy IFBG: Internet Acceptable Use and bring it back to the September board meeting as a first read.

F.4.

Ms. Noga Baruch, Legal Counsel, Hall Booth Smith, PC Attorneys at Law requested that the Board of Education accept amendments to Board Policy BBA: Board Officers. The board did not agree with all of the amendments. This policy would be tabled and brought back at a later meeting as a first read.

Mr. DaCosta called for a motion to remove F3. and F4. from the agenda.  
With a motion by Mrs. Turner. Seconded by Ms. Gevertz. Motion passed with a vote of 7/0.  
Both policies were removed from the agenda.

F.5.

Ms. Noga Baruch, Legal Counsel, Hall Booth Smith, PC Attorneys at Law requested that the Board of Education accept an amendment to Board Policy BBE: School Board Attorney as a first read to lay on the table for review and public comment.

F.6.

Mrs. Marissa Key, Executive Director of Legal Affairs, Division of Legal Services requested that the Board of Education accept a recommendation to delete Board Policy BBF: Advisory Committees for First Read. The proposed recommendation is to delete this policy and combine it with Board Policy BBC: Board Committees. This policy has been reviewed and analyzed by the Board Policy Committee. The Committee agrees on the recommendation. This policy would be a first read and will lay on the table for review and public comment.

F.7.

Mrs. Marissa Key, Executive Director of Legal Affairs, Division of Legal Services requested that the Board of Education accept an amendment to Board Policy BBC: Board Committees for First Read. The proposed revisions are requested to update the policy, to clarify the current language to include language from Board Policy BBF: Advisory Committees. This policy has been reviewed and analyzed by the Board Policy Committee. The Committee agrees on the recommended revisions. This policy would be a first read and will lay on the table for review and public comment.

F.8.

Ms. Noga Baruch, Legal Counsel, Hall Booth Smith, PC Attorneys at Law requested that the Board of Education amend Board Policy BBBE: Board Member Compensation and Expenses. This policy would be a first read and will lay on the table for review and public comment.

F.9.

Mrs. Marissa Key, Executive Director of Legal Services, Division of Legal Services requested that the Board of Education amend Board Policy GBRI: Professional Personnel Personal Leaves and Absences. This policy would be a first read and will lay on the table for review and public comment.

**ADJOURN TO AN EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Mr. DaCosta, Sr. called for a motion to adjourn August 12, 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 Mrs. Pierce and with a vote of (7/0), the August 12, 2024, meeting adjourned to executive session.

**ADJOURN THE EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Mr. DaCosta, Sr. called to adjourn the August 12, 2024, executive session to convene the business meeting.

On a motion by Ms. McGinniss, seconded by Mrs. Pierce and with a vote of (7/0), the August 12, 2024, executive session adjourned to the convene the business session.

**PERSONNEL RECOMMENDATIONS FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION** ~ No Personnel Recommendations This Month

The community input session began at 5:45 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. Deborah Jones
2. Daniel Sobczak
3. Violet Pelletier
4. Willie Pringle
5. Ricardo Francis – No Show

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Mr. DaCosta, Sr. called for a motion to approve the August 12, 2024, consent agenda items.

On a motion by Mrs. Pierce, seconded by Mrs. Hill and with a vote of 6/0 the motion passed to approve the consent agenda.

**ACTION ITEM(S)**

**K.1. APPROVAL OF AN ITEM(S) FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION** ~ There were no items from executive session.

**K.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. Pierce

Seconded by: Ms. Gevertz

All in favor: 6

Opposed by: Dr. Morley

Motion passed: 6 to 1.

- b. Agenda Item: E.3.a.iii. Approval of Purchase of a Two-Year License for the Use of Inframappa Software Solutions and Professional Services through Cooperative Agreement to Omnia Partners Contract No. 191902 .

Motion by: Ms. McGinniss

Seconded by: Ms. Gevertz

All in favor: 6

Abstention from: Dr. Morley

Motion passed: 6 to 1.

- c. Agenda Item: E.3.d.i. DeKalb Parks and Recreation SY24-25 After School Snack Agreement Approval.

Motion by: Mrs. Turner

Seconded by: Ms. Gevertz

All in favor: 4

Opposed by: Mrs. Hill and Ms. McGinniss

Abstention from: Dr. Morley

Motion passed: 4 to 2 to 1.

- d. Agenda Item: E.3.e.i. E-SPLOST V Project 24-752-022 for General Contractor Services Clarkston High School Capital Improvement Centennial Contractors Enterprises, Inc.

Motion by: Ms. Gevertz

Seconded by: Mrs. Turner

All in favor: 4

Opposed by: Mrs. Hill and Ms. McGinniss

Abstention from: Dr. Morley

Motion passed: 4 to 2 to 1.

- e. Agenda Item: E.3.e.iii. E-SPLOST VI Project RFQu No. 24-752-029 Group I Security Vestibules Project Award Approval (Lefko Development, Inc./dba Lefko Construction) Pre-Construction Phase Fee.

Motion by: Ms. McGinniss

Seconded by: Mrs. Turner

All in favor: 6

Abstention from: Dr. Morley

Motion passed: 6 to 1.

- f. Agenda Item: E.3.e.iv ESPLOST Project 24-752-030 Professional Architectural and Engineering Services for Group 2 Security Vestibules ~ SSOE, Inc.

Motion by: Mrs. Hill

Seconded by: Mrs. Turner

All in favor: 6

Abstention from: Dr. Morley

Motion passed: 6 to 1.

- g. Agenda Item: E.3.e.v. ESPLOST V Project: Briar Vista Elementary Change Order No. 1. DeKalb County School District Requested Items.

Motion by: Mrs. Hill

Seconded by: Mrs. Turner

All in favor: 6

Opposed by: Dr. Morley

Motion passed: 6 to 1.

- h. Agenda Item: E.3.e.vi. Modification to a Previously Approved Budget Reallocation for the Modular Classroom Installation at E.L. Miller Elementary.

Motion by: Mrs. Turner

Seconded by: Ms. Gevertz

All in favor: 4

Opposed by: Mrs. Hill and Ms. McGinniss

Abstention from: Dr. Morley

Motion passed: 4 to 2 to 1.

- i. Agenda Item: E.5.a. Gartner, Inc. Approval of Professional Services Agreement.

Motion by: Mrs. Pierce

Seconded by: Mrs. Turner

All in favor: 5

Opposed by: Ms. McGinniss and Dr. Morley

Motion passed: 5 to 2

- j. Agenda Item: E.6.a. Acceptance of the June 2024 Monthly Financial Report

Motion by: Mrs. Turner

Seconded by: Ms. Gevertz

All in favor: 5

Opposed by: Mrs. Hill

Abstention from: Dr. Morley

Motion passed: 5 to 1 to 1.

- k. Agenda Item: E.7.a. Approval of the Human Resources Monthly Report for August 2024

Motion by: Mrs. Hill

Seconded by: Mrs. Pierce

All in favor: 6

Abstention from: Dr. Morley

Motion passed: 6 to 1.

- l. Agenda Item: E.10.a. Renewal: College AIM, INC.

Motion by: Mrs. Turner

Seconded by: Mrs. Pierce

All in favor: 6

Abstention from: Dr. Morley

Motion passed: 6 to 1.

- m. Agenda Item: E.11.a. English Learners Program Evaluation and Master Planning.

Motion by: Ms. Gevertz

Seconded by: Mrs. Hill

All in favor: 6

Abstention from: Dr. Morley

Motion passed: 6 to 1.

n. Agenda Item: E.11.b. Division of Student Services-Instructional Resources.

Motion by: Ms. Gevertz

Seconded by: Mrs. Hill

All in favor: 7/0

Motion passed: 7 to 0.

o. Agenda Item: E.13.a. College Board SAT Exams

Motion by: Mrs. Pierce

Seconded by: Mrs. Hill

All in favor: 7

Motion passed: 7 to 0.

**ADJOURN**

Mr. DaCosta, Sr. asked if there were any objections to adjourn the August 12, 2024, work session and business meeting.

With no objections, the work session and business meeting adjourned at 8.12 pm.

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Secretary Ex-Officio

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Chair