

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

September 9, 2024

The DeKalb County Board of Education held its Executive Session, Work Session, Community Input Session and Business Meeting on Monday, September 9, 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 11:32 am and noted the following were in attendance; himself, 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. called to adopt the agenda for the September 9, 2024 work session and business meeting.

Ms. Gevertz made a motion to approve the agenda. Ms. McGinniss seconded the motion. With a vote of 5-0, the September 9, 2024, work session and business meeting agenda was approved.

**RECOGNITIONS**

**STUDENT BOARD REPRESENTATIVE** ~ Miss Andrea James, Arabia Mountain, HS, 12<sup>th</sup> Grade.

Dr. Morley and Mrs. Pierce joined the meeting after Dr. Horton introduced the Student Board Representative, Miss. Andrea James.

**RECOGNITIONS** ~ No Recognition This Month

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

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

**1. Superintendent's Report**

- a. Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) Data**  
**Presented by: Dr. Candace Alexander, Chief of Accountability & Continuous Improvement, Division of Accountability & Continuous Improvement**

## 2. Committee of the Whole Presentation

### a. E-SPLOST IV/V Executive Summary Report Presented by: Plante Moran

#### **REVIEW OF AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE SEPTEMBER 9, 2024, BUSINESS MEETING**

##### 03.01.

BOARD OF EDUCATION ~ No Agenda Item This Month

##### 03.02.a

Mr. DaCosta, Sr. requested that the Board of Education approve the minutes of the following meetings: August 12, 2024 board meeting which includes the executive session, work session, community input session and business meeting, the August 20, 2024 virtual board b-policy review committee meeting, and the August 28, 2024 virtual board retreat and executive session.

Dr. Morley objected to this item. It would be voted on separately.

##### 03.03.a.i.

Mr. Antwyn Brown, Deputy Chief Operating Officer, Division of Operations, requested that the Board of Education approve an easement to Georgia Power to secure distribution and communication lines which service Panola Way Elementary School and surrounding area.

##### 03.03.b.i.

Mr. Antwyn Brown, Deputy Chief Operating Officer, Division of Operations, requested that the Board of Education approve the use of the National Public Seating Agreement issued through **The Interlocking Purchasing System (TIPS)** Contract No. 230301, for the purchase of cafeteria tables for a not to exceed amount of **\$3,000,000**.

**DCSD requests use of the cooperative agreement for one (1) year (9/9/2024- 8/31/2025) with the option to renew on an annual basis with Board of Education approval.**

Dr. Morley objected to this item. It would be voted on separately.

##### 03.03.c.i.

Mr. Antwyn Brown, Deputy Chief Operating Officer, Division of Operations, requested that the Board of Education approve the contract award of RFP #24-581 for Fleet Garage Doors Replacement to **King Overhead Door Systems, not to exceed \$680,000** the most responsive and responsible vendor whose proposal best meets the requirements set forth in the proposal documents and contract obligations identified herein.

##### 03.03.d.

SCHOOL NUTRITION ~ No Agenda Item This Month

03.03.e.i.

Mr. Antwyn Brown, Deputy Chief Operating Officer, Division of Operations, requested that the Board of Education approve contract renewal #2 for RFP No. 22-752-025 for Program Management Services to **ACERM – (AECOM Technical Services, Inc. (AECOM) and Corporate Environmental Risk Management (CERM))** in the amount not to exceed **\$3,089,040.05**.

Additionally, it is requested that the Board approve an increase of **\$980,832** to the contract renewal #2 amount to incorporate additional program staff requested by DeKalb County School District ("DCSD"). The cost for the additional staff will be based on rate tables approved as part of the original contract but modified to include the additional positions.

The total Not-to-Exceed amount for contract renewal#2 of the **ACERM Program Management Services Contract** is **\$4,069,872.05**.

Ms. McGinniss objected to this item. It would be voted on separately.

03.03.e. ii.

Mr. Antwyn Brown, Deputy Chief Operating Officer, Division of Operations, requested that the Board of Education approve the award of RFQu No. 24-752-033 for **CM@Risk ("Construction Management Services")** for the Stoneview Elementary School HVAC System Replacement and Renovations project to **Skanska USA Building Inc.**

**Skanska USA Building Inc.** is selected as the most responsive and responsible Offeror whose proposal is the most advantageous based on the evaluation factors set forth in the Request for Qualifications (RFQu.) solicitation document.

Additionally, it is requested that the Board 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 for approval as indicated below:

- Early release package tentatively scheduled for presentation - Fall 2024
- Final Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) will be presented Winter 2024-2025.

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

Dr. Morley objected to this item. It would be voted on separately.

03.03.e.iii.

Mr. Antwyn Brown, Deputy Chief Operating Officer, Division of Operations, requested that the Board of Education approve a contract renewal for an Annual License for the use of the **Kahua Project Management Information System (PMIS)** software to **Kahua** for a not-to-exceed amount of **\$376,000**. This request is for the second of four (2 of 4) one-year contract renewals and will extend the contract with Kahua **from October 15, 2024, to October 14, 2025**.

Dr. Morley objected to this item. It would be voted on separately.

03.04.a.

Ms. Monika Davis, Chief Information Officer, Division of Information and Instructional Technology, requested that the Board of Education approve the purchase of professional services to provide staffing augmentation, maintenance, and monitoring services for network, data center, and cloud services with Blue Mantis for an amount not to exceed \$3,718,039.

Ms. McGinniss objected to this item. It would be voted on separately.

03.04.b.

Ms. Monika Davis, Chief Information Officer, Division of Information and Instructional Technology, requested that the Board of Education approve the purchase of internet connectivity options and associated infrastructure components from T-Mobile in an amount not to exceed \$360,000. The district will utilize the State of Georgia contract for T-Mobile.

03.04.c.

Ms. Monika Davis, Chief Information Officer, Division of Information and Instructional Technology, requested that the Board of Education approve the purchase of information and network security services and associated infrastructure components from Dell EMC, Layer3, Blue Ally, Vivacity Tech, and Microsoft at a cost not to exceed \$2,126,660.84.

Ms. McGinniss objected to this item. It would be voted on separately.

03.04.d.

Ms. Monika Davis, Chief Information Officer, Division of Information and Instructional Technology, requested that the Board of Education approve the purchase of laptop and desktop devices, installation, support services, and associated components from Virtucom, CDW-G, and Apple Inc. in an amount not to exceed **\$3,381,087.04**.

Ms. McGinniss objected to this item. It would be voted on separately.

03.05.a.

Mr. Elijah Palmer, Chief of Staff, Chief of Staff Division requested that the Board of Education approve the Annual HB147 Safe Schools Act Plan for SY 2024-2025.

Dr. Morley objected to this item. It would be voted on separately.

03.05.b.

Mr. Elijah Palmer, Chief of Staff, Chief of Staff Division requested that the Board of Education approve the contract for Leadership Transformation Training. This training will be provided and facilitated by the Initiative One Leadership Institute.

Dr. Morley objected to this item. It would be voted on separately.

03.05.c.

Mr. Elijah Palmer, Chief of Staff, Chief of Staff Division requested that the Board of Education approve the contract for RFP No. 24-594 for the Operations and IT Assessment **in an amount not to exceed \$264,900** to the Center for Effective School Operations (CESO), the most responsive and responsible vendor.

Dr. Morley objected to this item. It would be voted on separately.

03.06.a.

Mr. Byron Schueneman, Chief Financial Officer, Division of Finance, requested that the Board of Education accept the July 2024 Monthly Financial Report.

03.07.a.

Mrs. Tasha Davis Mills, Chief Human Resource Officer, Division of Human Resources, requested that the Board of Education approve the September 2024 Human Resources Report.

Dr. Morley objected to this item. It would be voted on separately.

03.08.

SCHOOLS & LEADERSHIP ~ No Agenda Item This Month

03.09.a.

Ms. Stacy E. Stepney, Chief Academic Officer, Division of Curriculum & Instruction, requested that the Board of Education approve the **2024 Carl Perkins V Improvement Grant** Application that provides funding to improve Career, Technical, and Agricultural Education (CTAE) programs throughout the DeKalb County School District

03.09.b.

Ms. Stacy E. Stepney, Chief Academic Officer, Division of Curriculum & Instruction, requested that the Board of Education authorize the District to secure transportation services from the approved carriers for all sixth and seventh grade students to participate in Junior Achievement of Georgia's programs focusing on financial literacy, career readiness, and entrepreneurship in an amount not to exceed **\$348,450**.

03.09.c.

Ms. Stacy E. Stepney, Chief Academic Officer, Division of Curriculum & Instruction, requested that the Board of Education authorize the District to secure transportation services from **Harmon Brothers Charter Service, Coast to Coast Tours, LLC, and Samson Tours, Inc** through May 29, 2025 in an amount not to exceed **\$300,000**.

03.09.d.

Ms. Stacy E. Stepney, Chief Academic Officer, Division of Curriculum & Instruction, requested that the Board of Education approve the purchase of previously adopted textbooks, supplemental resources, textbook management systems, and instructional materials, including print and digital resources, from the **Bedford Freeman and Worth, Capstone, Cengage, Clairmont Press, Follett, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, McGraw-Hill, Pasco, and Savvas**, in an amount not to exceed **\$4,593,530.39**.

03.09.e.

Ms. Stacy E. Stepney, Chief Academic Officer, Division of Curriculum & Instruction, requested that the Board of Education approve the DCSD PLC @ Work for principals, assistant principals, teachers, academic coaches, professional learning facilitators, leadership coaches, and district instructional support leaders from **Solution Tree, Inc.** Services Agreement in an amount not to exceed **\$218,660**.

Dr. Morley objected to this item. It would be voted on separately.

03.10.a

Dr. Kisha K. Towns, Chief of Wrap Around Services, Division of Wrap Around Services, requested that the Board of Education approve the agreement between Goodr, Inc grocery stores and the DeKalb County School District for an amount not to exceed \$960,000.

Dr. Morley objected to this item.

Dr. Horton requested that this item be tabled. It was removed from the agenda.

03.11.

STUDENT SERVICES ~ No Agenda Items This Month

03.12.a.i.

Dr. Triscilla Weaver, Chief Equity Officer, Division of Equity & Inclusion, requested that the Board of Education approve **an amendment to the spend limit** of previously approved RFQ 24-565 (Athletic Trainers for the Traditional High Schools in the DeKalb County School District by **Northside Hospital**) in an amount not to exceed **\$1,900,000.00**. With this amendment, the total spend limit for the RFQ will be increased by **\$700,000.00**.

This request is based upon a subsequent review of the bid amount and scope of work submitted during the RFQ process. During the review, it was determined that the original spend limit requested was insufficient to allow for full-time athletic trainers, trainer supervision/management oversight, supplies, staff development, and quality assurance at each of the traditional nineteen high schools for a period of one year.

Dr. Morley objected to this item. It would be voted on separately.

03.13.a.

Dr. Candace Alexander, Chief of Accountability & Continuous Improvement, Division of Accountability & Continuous Improvement, requested that the Board of Education approve the purchase of Advanced Placement Exams from **College Board** for the SY24-25 test administration in an amount not to exceed **\$530,000**.

The requested purchase is a testing expenditure that does not require bid per the District's Purchasing Board Policy (DJE).

03.13.b.

Dr. Candace Alexander, Chief of Accountability & Continuous Improvement, Division of Accountability & Continuous Improvement, requested that the Board of Education approve the purchase of take-home backpacks from **Scholastic, Inc.** for all Title I students (approximately 76,027) in the amount of **\$4,200,000**.

Dr. Morley objected to this item.

Dr. Horton requested that this item be tabled. It was removed from the agenda.

03.13.c.

Dr. Candace Alexander, Chief of Accountability & Continuous Improvement, Division of Accountability & Continuous Improvement, requested that the Board of Education approve the contract for the **Princeton Review SAT Test Prep Initiative** in an amount not to exceed \$378,000.00.

Dr. Morley objected to this item. It would be voted on separately.

03.14.a.i.

Mrs. Jennifer Caracciolo, Deputy Chief Communications Officer, Division of Community Engagement & Innovative Partnerships, requested that the Board of Education accept a donation of **\$50,000** from **DeKalb County Commissioner Michelle Long Spears** for Margaret Harris Comprehensive School per Board Policy DFK, Gifts and Bequests. The funds will be used to purchase supplies, technology, equipment, services to support students and staff.

03.14.a.ii.

Mrs. Jennifer Caracciolo, Deputy Chief Communications Officer, Division of Community Engagement & Innovative Partnerships, requested that the Board of Education accept a donation from the Lambda Epsilon Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. in the amount of \$6,194.10 to cover the cost of outstanding meal balances.

03.14.b.

Mrs. Jennifer Caracciolo, Deputy Chief Communications Officer, Division of Community Engagement & Innovative Partnerships, requested that the Board of Education approve the rental lease with Georgia International Convention Center to host the Employee of the Year Gala in an amount not to exceed \$67,758.

03.15.

LEGAL SERVICES ~ No Agenda Items This Month

**AMENDMENT TO THE BYLAWS AND POLICIES** ~ No Agenda Item This Month

**ADJOURN TO AN EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Mr. DaCosta, Sr. called for a motion to adjourn September 9, 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. Turner and with a vote of (6/0), the September 9, 2024, meeting adjourned to executive session.

**ADJOURN THE EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Mr. DaCosta, Sr. called to adjourn the September 9, 2024, executive session to convene the business meeting.

On a motion by Mrs. Pierce, seconded by Mrs. Hill and with a vote of (7/0), the September 9, 2024, executive session adjourned to the convene the business session.

### **PERSONNEL RECOMMENDATIONS FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION**

- a. Mrs. Tasha Davis Mills requested that the Board of Education approve the hiring recommendation of Kristen Jones to the position of Substitute Teacher. Relative Disclosure: In accordance with BOE Policy, GAGD-Section G, Mandatory Disclosure by the Superintendent, Kristen Jones is a candidate recommended for Substitute Teacher. Ms. Kristen Jones is the daughter of Dr. Michelle Jones, Area Superintendent in the Division of School Leadership.
  
- b. Mrs. Tasha Davis Mills requested that the Board of Education approve the hiring recommendation of Kendalle Smith to the position of Assistant, Library Media. Relative Disclosure: In accordance with BOE Policy, GAGD-Section G, Mandatory Disclosure by the Superintendent, Kendalle Smith is a candidate recommended for Assistant, Library Media. Kendalle Smith is the daughter of Carla Smith, Executive Director of Vendor Service in the Finance Division.

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. Miriam Martin

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

Mr. DaCosta, Sr. called for a motion to approve the September 9, 2024, consent agenda items.

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

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

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

- a. Agenda Item: Personnel Recommendation of Kristen Jones for position of Substitute Teacher. Ms. K. Jones is the daughter of Dr. Michelle Jones, Area Superintendent in the Division of School Leadership.

Motion: Mrs. Pierce

Second: Mrs. Turner

All in favor: 7

Motion passed: 7 to 0.

- b. Agenda Item: Personnel Recommendation of Kendalle Smith for position of Library Media Assistant. Ms. K. Smith is the daughter of Ms. Carla Smith, Executive Director of Vendor Service in the Division of Finance

Motion: Mrs. Turner

Second: Ms. Gevertz

All in favor: 6

Opposed: Dr. Morley

Motion passed: 6 to 1.

**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: Mrs. Pierce

Second: Mrs. Hill

All in favor: 6

Abstained: Dr. Morley

Motion passed: 6 to 1.

- b. Agenda Item: E.3.b.i. Contract Cooperative Agreement The National Public Seating Agreement through The Interlocking Purchasing System (TIPS).

Motion: Ms. McGinniss

Second: Mrs. Turner

All in favor: 6

Oppose: Dr. Morley

Motion passed: 6 to 1.

- c. Agenda Item: E.3.e.i. ESPLOST VI Contract Renewal ~ ACERM Program.

Motion by: Ms. Gevertz

Second: NONE

Motion DIED ~ Item not approved.

- d. Agenda Item: E.3.e. ii. ESPLOST V – Contract Award CM Risk -Stoneview ES.

Motion: Mrs. Turner

Second: Mrs. Pierce

All in favor: 4

Opposed: Mrs. Hill & Ms. McGinniss

Abstained: Dr. Morley

Motion passed: 4 to 2 to 1.

- e. Agenda Item: E.3.e.iii. Contract Renewal Annual License Use Kahua Software.

Motion: Mrs. Hill

Second: Mrs. Pierce

All in favor: 6

Abstained: Dr. Morley

Motion passed: 6 to 1.

- f. Agenda Item: E.4.a. Blue Mantis Professional Services.

Motion: Mrs. Pierce

Second: Mrs. Hill

All in favor: 7

Motion passed: 7 to 0.

g. Agenda Item: E.4.c. SecureIT Initiative.

Motion: Ms. McGinniss

Second: Mrs. Pierce

All in favor: 7

Motion passed: 7 to 0.

h. Agenda Item: E.4.d. Technology Device Purchase Approval.

Motion: Mrs. Hill

Second: Mrs. Turner

All in favor: 7

Motion passed: 7 to 0.

i. Agenda Item: E.5.a. HB 147 Safe Schools Act Plan.

Motion by: Mrs. Turner

Second: Ms. Gevertz

All in favor: 5

Opposed: Mrs. Hill

Abstained: Dr. Morley

Motion passed: 5 to 1 to 1.

j. Agenda Item: E.5.b. Initiative One Professional Learning for Senior Cabinet.

Motion: Mrs. Turner

Second: Ms. Gevertz

All in favor: 6

Opposed: Dr. Morley

Motion passed: 6 to 1.

k. Agenda Item: E.5.c. RFP 24-594 Operations and IT Division Assessment.

Motion: Mrs. Hill

Second: Mrs. Turner

All in favor: 6

Opposed: Dr. Morley

Motion passed: 6 to 1.

l. Agenda Item: E.7.a.Approval of the Human Resources Monthly Report for September.

Motion: Mrs. Hill

Second: Ms. McGinniss

All in favor: 5

Abstained: Dr. Morley & Mr. DaCosta, Sr.

Motion passed: 5 to 2.

m. Agenda Item: E.9.e. DCSD PLC @ Work and Coaching Academy– Solution Tree.

Motion by: Mrs. Turner

Seconded by: Mrs. Hill

All in favor: 5

Opposed: Dr. Morley

Abstained: Mr. DaCosta, Sr.

Motion passed: 5 to 1 to 1.

- n. Agenda Item: E.12.a. Amendment to Spend Limit for RFQ 24-565 Athletic Trainers for Traditional High Schools in DCSD by Northside Hospital.

Motion: Mrs. Hill

Second: Mrs. Pierce

All in favor: 5

Opposed: Dr. Morley & Ms. McGinniss

Motion passed: 5 to 2.

- o. Agenda Item: E.13.c. Princeton Review SAT Test Prep.

Motion: Mrs. Hill

Second: Ms. McGinniss

All in favor: 6

Opposed: Dr. Morley

Motion passed: 6 to 1.

Dr. Horton called for a moment of silence for the lives that were lost most recently in Georgia due to the senseless shooting.

Ms. McGinniss wanted to provide the public with an explanation on why the board policies were removed from the agenda. General Counsel, Ms. Slaton explained that the policies needed more time for consideration and assured the public that the policies were still in First Read in case someone wanted to submit comments.

### **ADJOURN**

Mr. DaCosta, Sr. asked if there were any objections to adjourn the September 9, 2024, work session and business meeting.

With a motion by Mrs. Turner. Second by Mrs. Pierce and a vote of 7/0, the work session and business meeting adjourned at 7:34 pm.

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Secretary Ex-Officio

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Chair