

2-DAY BOARD RETREAT AND EXECUTIVE SESSION
OF THE
DEKALB COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

February 25 – February 26, 2025

The DeKalb County Board of Education held its 2-Day Board Retreat and Executive Session, February 25 – February 26, 2025, at the Emory Conference Center located at 1615 Clifton Road N E, Atlanta, GA 30329.

Mrs. Deirdre P. Pierce, Chair, convened the meeting at 12:58 p.m. and noted the following were in attendance; Vice Chair, Ms. Allyson Gevertz, Mr. Andrew Ziffer, Ms. Whitney McGinniss, Tiffany Hogan, Ph.D., and Dr. Devon Q. Horton, Superintendent. Mr. Awet Eyasu attended the board retreat virtually and then joined the meeting in person. Immediate past chair, Mr. Dijon DaCosta, Sr., joined the meeting in person at 1:11 p.m.

Also in attendance was Ms. Carolyn Lloyd, Executive Director of Board Operations. General Counsel, Ms. Melanie Slaton, joined the meeting in person at 1:39 p.m.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Mrs. Pierce asked if there were any objections to adopt the agenda for the February 25 – February 26, 2025, 2-day board retreat and executive session.

With no objections, the agenda was approved.

BOARD RETREAT & EXECUTIVE SESSION ~ FEBRUARY 25, 2025 (DAY 1 – 12:30 PM)

1. WELCOME & RETREAT OBJECTIVES

By: Mrs. Deirdre P. Pierce, Board Chair.

2. TOPICS OF DISCUSSION – Day 1

a. Team Building Activities

Presented by: Ms. Julia Bernath, Board Development Specialist, Georgia School Board Association (GSBA)

b. Open Group Discussion

Presented by: Ms. Julia Bernath, Board Development Specialist, Georgia School Board Association (GSBA)

c. Professional Development

Presented by: Ms. Julia Bernath, Board Development Specialist, Georgia School Board Association (GSBA)

RECESS BOARD RETREAT & EXECUTIVE SESSION ~ DAY 1

Mrs. Deirdre P. Pierce requested that the DeKalb County Board of Education recess Day 1, February 25, 2025, of the 2-day board retreat and executive session. On a motion by Mr. DaCosta, Sr. second by Mr. Eyasu, and a vote of 7/0. Day 1 of the board retreat recessed at 4:57 PM.

BOARD RETREAT & EXECUTIVE SESSION ~ FEBRUARY 26, 2025 (DAY 2 – 9:00 AM)

Mrs. Deirdre P. Pierce, Chair, convened the meeting at 9:44 a.m. and noted the following were in attendance; Vice Chair, Ms. Allyson Gevertz, Mr. Andrew Ziffer, Ms. Whitney McGinniss, Tiffany Hogan, Ph.D., Mr. Dijon DaCosta, Sr., Mr. Awet Eyasu, and Dr. Devon Q. Horton, Superintendent.

Also in attendance were General Counsel Attorney, Ms. Melanie Slaton and Ms. Carolyn Lloyd, Executive Director of Board Operations.

RECONVENE BOARD RETREAT & EXECUTIVE SESSION ~ DAY 2

Mrs. Deirdre P. Pierce, Board Chair, called the DeKalb County Board of Education to reconvene the 2-day board retreat and executive session to order. On a motion by Ms. McGinniss, second by Ms. Gevertz, and a vote of 6/0 the board retreat reconvened at 9:44 a.m.

ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mrs. Pierce, called for a motion to adjourn February 26, 2025, Day 2 of the board retreat to an executive session for the purpose of discussing permitted matters regarding litigation, land, legal, personnel, and student appeals.

On a motion by Mr. DaCosta, Sr., second by Mr. Eyasu, and with a vote of (7/0), the February 26, 2025, board retreat adjourned to Executive Session.

ADJOURN THE EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mrs. Pierce, called for a motion to adjourn the February 26, 2025, Day 2 executive session

On a motion by Mr. Eyasu, second by Mr. Ziffer, and with a vote of (6/0), the February 26, 2025, board retreat adjourned to Executive Session.

1. TOPICS OF DISCUSSION – Day 2

a. Millage Rate Discussion

Presented by: Ms. Lauren Scott, Deputy Chief Financial Officer, Division of Finance

b. Prioritization of E-SPLOST Items

Mr. Erick Hofstetter, Chief Operating Officer, Division of Operations

c. B-Policy Discussion

Presented by: Ms. Whitney McGinniss, Committee Chair,
Mr. Dijon DaCosta, Sr., Committee Vice Chair

d. Informational Session

Presentation by: Dr. Devon Q. Horton, Superintendent,
Ms. Melanie Slaton, General Counsel, Hall Booth Smith, P.C. Attorneys at Law,

ADJOURN

Mrs. Pierce, Board Chair requested that the DeKalb County Board of Education adjourn the 2 day, February 25 – 26, 2025 Board Retreat.

On a motion by _____, second by _____, Mrs. Pierce. noted that the 2-day board retreat adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

Secretary Ex-Officio

Chair