

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

April 30 – May 1, 2025

The DeKalb County Board of Education held its 2-Day Board Retreat and Executive Session, April 30 – May 1, 2025, at the Courtyard Atlanta Decatur Downtown/Emory located at 130 Clairemont Avenue, Decatur, GA 30030.

Mrs. Deirdre P. Pierce, Chair, convened the meeting at 9:27 a.m. and noted the following were in attendance; Vice Chair, Ms. Allyson Gevertz, Mr. Andrew Ziffer, Ms. Whitney McGinniss, Mr. Dijon DaCosta, Sr., Mr. Awet Eyasu, and Dr. Devon Q. Horton, Superintendent. Tiffany Hogan, Ph.D. joined the meeting, in person, at 12:43 pm.

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

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Mrs. Pierce asked if there were any objections to adopt the agenda for the April 30 – May 1, 2025, 2-day board retreat and executive session.

With no objections, the agenda was approved.

BOARD RETREAT & EXECUTIVE SESSION ~ (DAY 1 ~ PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT ~ APRIL 30, 2025, ~ 9:00 AM)

1. WELCOME & RETREAT OBJECTIVES

By: Mrs. Deirdre P. Pierce, Board Chair

2. TOPICS OF DISCUSSION ~ Day 1

a. Board Governance & Effective Meetings

Presented by: Ms. Zenda Bowie, Consultant, Georgia School Board Association (GSBA)

b. Norms, Protocols & Best Practices in the Art of Leadership

Presented by: Dr. Donna Hinton, Senior Board Development Specialist, Georgia School Board Association (GSBA)

c. Board Office Procedures

Presented by: Ms. Carolyn Lloyd, Executive Director of Board Operations,
Ms. Tracy Pinson, Executive Assistant to the Board
Ms. Cheryl McEwan, Executive Specialist to the Board

RECESS BOARD RETREAT & EXECUTIVE SESSION ~ DAY 1

Mrs. Deirdre P. Pierce requested that the DeKalb County Board of Education recess Day 1, April 30, 2025, of the 2-day board retreat and executive session.

On a motion by Mr. Eyasu, second by Ms. McGinniss, and a vote of 6/0. Day 1 of the board retreat recessed at 4:25 pm.

CALLED TO ORDER ~ DAY 2 ~ BOARD RETREAT & EXECUTIVE SESSION ~ MAY 1, 2025, ~ 9:00 AM

Mrs. Deirdre P. Pierce, Chair, called the board retreat to order at 9:31 a.m. and noted the following were in attendance; Vice Chair, Ms. Allyson Gevertz, Mr. Andrew Ziffer, Ms. Whitney McGinniss, Mr. Awet Eyasu.

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

Mr. Diijon DaCosta, Sr., and Dr. Devon Q. Horton, Superintendent joined the meeting in person at 10:30 am.

Tiffany Hogan, Ph.D. joined the meeting in person at 12:30 pm.

RECONVENE BOARD RETREAT & EXECUTIVE SESSION ~ DAY 2

Mrs. Deirdre P. Pierce, Board Chair, called for a motion for 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 Mr. Eyasu and a vote of 5/0 the board retreat reconvened at 9:31 am.

1. TOPICS OF DISCUSSION – Day 2

a. Safety & Discipline Update

Presented by: Mr. Elijah Palmer, Chief of Staff, Chief of Staff Division,
Kishia K. Towns, Ph.D., Chief of Wrap Around Services, Division of Wrap Around Services

b. Foundation Update

Presented by: Dr. Yolanda Williamson, Chief of Community Engagement & Innovative Partnerships, Division of Community Engagement & Innovative Partnerships

c. Election of Audit Committee Advisory Members

Presented by: Mr. Joel Thibodeaux, Director of Internal Audits & Compliance, Chief of Staff Division

Mr. Joel Thibodeaux, Director of Internal Audits & Compliance, Chief of Staff Division, requested that the Board of Education elect no more than three (3) Community Advisors to the Audit Committee.

With a motion by Ms. Gevertz to accept 3 advisory members, second by Mr. Eyasu, opposition by Mr. DaCosta, Sr. and Tiffany Hogan, Ph.D. and with a vote of 5/2, the motion passed. Ms. Cathy Iconis, Ms. Tambria M. Peeples, and Mr. James B. Williams were elected as community advisors to the Audit Committee.

d. E-SPLOST VI Priorities

Presented by: Mr. Antwyn Brown, Deputy Chief Operating Officer, Division of Operations

e. FY26 Budget

Presented by: Mr. Byron Schueneman, Chief Financial Officer, Division of Finance

ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mrs. Pierce, called for a motion to adjourn May 1, 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 April 1, 2025, board retreat adjourned to Executive Session.

ADJOURN THE EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mrs. Pierce informed the public that the board would adjourn after executive session because they would not have any items to vote on.

ADJOURN

Mrs. Pierce, Board Chair requested that the DeKalb County Board of Education adjourn the April 30 – May 1, 2025, 2-Day Board Retreat & Executive session.

With no objections, Mrs. Pierce. noted that the 2-day board retreat adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

Secretary Ex-Officio

Chair