

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

September 25 - September 26, 2025

The DeKalb County Board of Education held its 2-Day Board Retreat and Executive Session, September 25 - September 26, 2025, at the Fernbank Science Center located at 156 Heaton Park Drive, Atlanta, Georgia 30307.

Mrs. Deirdre P. Pierce, Chair, convened the 1st day of the retreat at 12:02 p.m. and noted the following were in attendance; Vice Chair, Ms. Allyson Gevertz, Mr. Andrew B. Ziffer, Ms. Whitney McGinniss, Tiffany Hogan, Ph.D., Mr. Dijon DaCosta, Sr., and Superintendent, Dr. Devon Q. Horton.

Also in attendance was Ms. Carolyn Lloyd, Executive Director of Board Operations, Mrs. Marissa Key, Executive Director of Employee Relations, Ms. Melanie Slaton, General Counsel and Mr. Elijah Palmer, Chief of Staff.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

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

With no objections, the agenda was adopted.

BOARD RETREAT & EXECUTIVE SESSION ~ (DAY 1 ~ SEPTEMBER 25, 2025, ~ 12:00 PM)

1. WELCOME & OVERVIEW

By: Mrs. Deirdre P. Pierce, Board Chair

2. TOPICS OF DISCUSSION ~ Day 1

a. Superintendent Evaluation Follow-Up

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

b. 2025-2026 Legislative Priorities Discussion

Presented by: Mr. Thurbert Baker, Attorney General,
Mr. Edward Lindsey, Jr., Dentons

ADJOURN TO AN EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mrs. Deirdre P. Pierce requested a motion to adjourn September 25, 2025, board retreat to an executive session for the purpose of discussing permitted matters regarding land, legal, litigation, personnel and student appeals.

On a motion by Mr. Ziffer, second by Ms. Gevertz, and with a vote of (6/0), the September 25, 2025, board retreat adjourned to executive session.

ADJOURN THE EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mrs. Pierce called for a motion to adjourn the September 25, 2025, executive session and recess day one of the board retreat.

On a motion by Ms. Gevertz second by Hogan, Ph.D. and with a vote of (6/0), the September 25, 2025, executive session adjourned and recessed day one of the board retreat.

CALLED TO ORDER ~ DAY 2 ~ SEPTEMBER 25, 2025, ~ 9:00 AM

Mrs. Deirdre P. Pierce, Chair, called the 2nd day of the board retreat to order at 9:06 a.m. and noted the following were in attendance; Vice Chair, Ms. Allyson Gevertz, Mr. Andrew Ziffer, Tiffany Hogan, Ph.D., and Superintendent, Dr. Devon Q. Horton. Ms. Whitney McGinniss and Mr. Dijon DaCosta, Sr., attended the retreat virtually.

Also in attendance was Ms. Melanie Slaton, General Counsel Attorney, Ms. Carolyn Lloyd, Executive Director of Board Operations, and Mrs. Marissa Key, Executive Director of Employee Relations. Chief of Staff, Mr. Elijah Palmer joined the retreat, in person, at 10:30 am.

RECONVENE BOARD RETREAT & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT ~ DAY 2

With no objections from the DeKalb Board of Education, Mrs. Deirdre P. Pierce reconvened the second day of the September 25 – September 26, 2025, 2-day board retreat.

1. TOPICS OF DISCUSSION – Day 2

a. Development of Board Norms & Protocols

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

ADJOURN

Mrs. Pierce, Board Chair requested that the DeKalb County Board of Education adjourn the September 25 - September 26, 2025, 2-Day Board Retreat & Executive Session.

With no objections, the 2-day board retreat adjourned at 3:49 p.m.

Secretary Ex-Officio

Chair