

MEETING MINUTES

Vision

To prepare students for success as lifelong learners and responsible global citizens

Mission

To promote the academic, social and emotional growth of each student by fostering a safe, supportive and engaging learning environment



Scan the above QR Code with your phone to watch the meeting live on your phone.

2nd REVISED 1.12.2026

Attendance

Mrs. Deirdre P. Pierce, Board Chair
Ms. Allyson Gevertz, Vice Chair
Mr. Andrew B. Ziffer
Ms. Whitney McGinniss
Tiffany Hogan, Ph.D.
Mr. Dijjon DaCosta, Sr.
Mr. Awet Eyasu

Dr. Norman C. Sauce III, Interim Superintendent of Schools

A. CALL TO ORDER

The DeKalb County Board of Education held its Executive Session, Work Session, Community Input Session and Business Meeting on Monday, January 12, 2026, in the J. David Williamson Board Room, at the DeKalb County School District's Robert R. Freeman Administrative Instructional Complex, located at 1701 Mountain Industrial Boulevard, Stone Mountain, Georgia, 30083.

Mrs. Deirdre Pierce, Board Chair, convened the meeting at 11:34 am.

1. Roster

Mrs. Pierce, Board Chair, noted the following were in attendance: Ms. Allyson Gevertz, Mr. Andrew B. Ziffer, Ms. Whitney McGinniss, Tiffany Hogan, Ph.D., Mr. Dijjon DaCosta, Sr., Mr.

Awet Eyasu and Interim Superintendent of Schools. Dr. Norman C. Sauce III.

Also present was the General Counsel, Ms. Melanie Slaton and Executive Director of Board Operations, Ms. Carolyn LLOYD.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Mrs. Pierce led the pledge of allegiance.

B. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Mrs. Pierce requested to adopt the January 12, 2026, agenda with the following items moved to the consent agenda.

F.1.c. Affirmation of Board Policy, Descriptor Codes BH and BHA and Affirmation of Board Norms

F.1.d. Official Functions of the Board for Calendar Year 2026

F.2.a. Approval of Minutes

F.3.a.i. Granting of Georgia Power Easement to Improve and Secure Service Reliability at Rock Chapel Elementary School

F.3.b.i. Renewal 2 of 4 RFP 24-556 District Wide Moving Services ~ Atlanta Cargo Transportation Co. Atlanta Peach Movers, Beltmann Relocation Group, ALS Van Line Services Inc., The Armstrong Group

F.3.d.ii. ESPLOST VI Project: RFQu 25-752-011 Group 3 Security Vestibules Project Award Approval (F.H. Paschen S.N. Nielsen & Asso. LLC/dba F.H. Paschen Construction-Pre-Construction Phase Fee

F.6.a.i. Revision to DeKalb Parks and Recreation After School Snacks Agreement, from \$44,550 to \$70,470 ~ SY 22-26

F.6.a.ii. ESS Temporary Staffing Services Through TIPS RFP 230703

F.6.c. RFP-22-533 Real Estate Advisory Services Renewal Approval ~ Dudley Thomas Spade SPE, LLC dba DTSpade (from November 19, 2025 through November 18, 2026 ~ Renewal Year 4 of 4

F.9.a. Band Uniforms for Druid Hills High School, Lakeside High School & Lithonia High School

F.14.a.i. Donation Acceptance: Donation of \$12,199.8 from The Ed Reed Foundation to Chamblee High School

F.14.a.ii. Grant Acceptance: Grant for \$7193 from DeKalb Schools Educational Foundation, Inc. to Dunwoody Elementary School

F.14.a.iii. Donation Acceptance: Donation of \$20,000 from Kaiser Permanente Georgia for SEL/MindSet Student Support

F.14.a.iv. Donation Acceptance: Donation of \$250,000 from Intuit, Inc. Food Truck Program to Career Technical and Agricultural Education (CTAE)

F.15.a.i. Approval of the Parks, Chesin, & Walbert, P.C., Law Firm Agreement

With no objections, the agenda for the January 12, 2026, meeting was approved.

Voting:

Unanimously Approved

C. RECOGNITIONS

1. Introduction of Student Board Representative ~ Miss Charlaye Dennis, Miller Grove High School, 12th Grade

Dr. Norman C. Sauce III, Interim Superintendent of Schools, introduced the Student Board Representative, Miss Charlaye Dennis, Miller Grove High School, 12th Grade.

2. Recognitions / Proclamations ~ Updated 1.12.2026

a. Proclamation: Honoring Former Board Member, Mrs. Frances Edwards ~ Updated 1.12.2026

Presented by: Mrs. Deirdre P. Pierce, Board Chair.

b. Recognition: DeKalb County School District PBIS Distinguished and Operational Schools

Presented by: Tiffany Hogan, Ph.D., Board Member, District 5.

c. Recognition: Austin Elementary School Boys and Girls Track Teams ~ Updated 1.12.2026

Presented by: Mr. Andrew B. Ziffer, Board Member, District 1.

d. Recognition: Shadow Rock Elementary School Boys Track Team ~ Updated 1.12.2026

Presented by: Mr. Dijon DaCosta, Sr., District 6.

e. Recognition: Rock Chapel Elementary School Girls Track Team ~ Updated 1.12.2026

Presented by: Mr. Dijon DaCosta, Sr., District 6.

f. Recognition: Marbut Elementary School Boys Track Team ~ Updated 1.12.2026

Presented by: Mr. Awet Eyasu, District 7.

3. Group/External Presentation(s) ~ No Group Presentation This Month

D. COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE and INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS REPORT

1. Committee of the Whole Presentations

a. Science of Reading and Literacy Instruction Overview ~ Updated 1.12.2026

Presented by: Dr. Penny Mosley, Interim Chief of Curriculum & Instruction, Division of Curriculum & Instruction,
J. Nicholas Philmon, Ph.D., State Literacy Coaching Coordinator, Georgia Department of Education, and
Dr. Lynn Angus Ramos, Director of Literacy, Division of Curriculum & Instruction.

b. Career and Technical Education Programming Overview ~ Updated 1.12.2026

Presented by: Dr. Penny Mosley, Interim Chief of Curriculum & Instruction, Division of Curriculum & Instruction,
Mrs. Doryiane Gunter, Director, Career, Technical and Agricultural Education (CTAE), Division of Curriculum & Instruction, and
Mr. Christopher Key, Executive Director, Student Advancement, Division of Wrap Around Services.

2. Interim Superintendent of Schools Report

a. Student Assignment Project ~ Updated 1.12.2026

Presented by: Ms. Sarita Smith, Executive Director of Student Assignment, Division of Access & Opportunity.

b. Strategic Plan Presentation ~ Goal Areas #1-6 ~ Updated 1.12.2026

Presented by: Mrs. Pamela McCloud, Director of Organizational Effectiveness, Chief of Staff Division, and
Dr. Rebecca Braaten, Director of Research & Data, Division of Accountability & Research.

E. ADJOURN TO AN EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 3:02 pm, Mrs. Pierce, Board Chair, called for a motion to adjourn the January 12, 2026, board meeting to an executive session for the purpose of discussion of permitted matters regarding land, legal, litigation, personnel and student appeals.

Motion made by: Mr. Awet Eyasu

Motion seconded by: Ms. Whitney McGinniss

Voting:

Unanimously Approved

1. ADJOURN THE EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 5:45 pm, Mrs. Deirdre P. Pierce, Board Chair, called for a motion to adjourn the January

12, 2026, executive session to convene the community input session.

Motion made by: Mr. Andrew Ziffer

Motion seconded by: Mr. Awet Eyasu

Voting:

Unanimously Approved

F. REVIEW OF AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE JANUARY 12, 2026 BUSINESS MEETING

1. BOARD OF EDUCATION

07.01.

a. Election of Chair and Vice Chair for the 2026 Calendar Year

07.01.a.

Mrs. Deirdre Pierce, Board Chair, opened the floor to accept nominations for the position of Board Chair and Vice Chair for 2026.

Election of Chair for 2026 calendar year:

Mr. Dijon DaCosta, Sr. nominated Tiffany Hogan, Ph.D. for the position of Board Chair. Tiffany Hogan, Ph.D. declined the nomination.

Mrs. Deirdre P. Pierce nominated Ms. Allyson Gevertz for the position of Board Chair for calendar year 2026.

Ms. Allyson Gevertz accepted the nomination.

Mr. Andrew B. Ziffer seconded the nomination.

Mrs. Pierce closed the nominations.

Vote for Board Chair: 4/2/1

Opposition by: Mr. DaCosta, Sr. and Hogan, Ph.D.

Abstention by: Mr. Eyasu

Motion passed, Ms. Gevertz voted Board Chair for 2026.

Election of Vice Chair for the 2026 calendar year:

Mr. Andrew B. Ziffer nominated Mr. Awet Eyasu for the position of Vice Chair.

Mr. DaCosta, Sr. seconded the nomination.

Mr. Eyasu accepted the nomination.

Mrs. Pierce closed the nominations.

Vote for Vice Chair: 6/0/1

Abstention by: Mr. Eyasu

Motion passed, Mr. Eyasu voted Vice Chair for calendar year 2026.

b. Approval of Board Norms and Protocols

07.01.b.

Ms. Allyson Gevertz, Board Chair Elect, requested that the DeKalb Board of Education approve the updated version of the Board Norms and Protocols.

This item was voted on separately and then added to the consent agenda.

Vote Results:

Motion made by: Mr. Andrew Ziffer

Motion seconded by: Mrs. Deirdre Pierce

Voting:

Mr. Dijon DaCosta, Sr. - Yes

Ms. Allyson Gevertz - Yes

Mr. Awet Eyasu - Yes

Tiffany Hogan Ph.D. - Yes

Ms. Whitney McGinniss - No

Mrs. Deirdre Pierce - Yes

Mr. Andrew Ziffer - Yes

Vote 6/1

Opposition by: Ms. McGinniss

c. Affirmation of Board Policy, Descriptor Codes BH and BHA and Affirmation of Board Norms

07.01.c.

Pursuant to Board Policies BH (Board Member Code of Ethics) and BHA (Board Member Conflict of Interest), Ms. Allyson Gevertz, Board Chair Elect requested that the members of the Board of Education re-affirm their commitment to comply with Board Policy BH (Board Member Code of Ethics) and Board Policy BHA (Board Member Conflict of Interest). It is also requested that members of the Board of Education affirm to comply with Board Norms.

This item was unanimously approved to go on the consent agenda at the top of the meeting.

The board members re-affirmed their commitment to comply with Board Policy BH: Board of Ethics and Board Policy BHA: Board Member Conflict of Interest.

Voting:

Unanimously Approved

d. Official Functions of the Board for Calendar Year 2026

07.01.d.

The Board Chair requested that the Board of Education approve travel related to educational conferences, meetings and workshops that address issues, strategies and processes which will enable Board decisions to improve student achievement and

successful management practices within the District for the calendar year 2026.

Budgeted amounts for the educational conferences, meetings, workshops that address issues, strategies and process which enable Board decisions to improve student achievement and successful management practices within the district for calendar year 2026 are as follows:

- Travel (per board member) – \$8,000
- Professional development (per board member) – \$6,500

This item was unanimously approved to go on the consent agenda at the top of the meeting.

Voting:

Unanimously Approved

e. DeKalb County Recreation, Parks and Cultural Affairs Citizens Advisory Board Update

07.01.e.

Ms. Whitney McGinniss, Board Member, presented an update on the DeKalb County Recreation, Parks and Cultural Affairs Citizens Advisory Board.

2. INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

07.02.

a. Approval of Minutes

07.02.a.

Board Chair Elect, Ms. Allyson Gevertz, requested that the Board of Education approve the minutes of the following meeting: December 8, 2025, board meeting, which includes the executive session, work session, community input session and business meeting.

This item was unanimously approved to go on the consent agenda at the top of the meeting.

Voting:

Unanimously Approved

3. OPERATIONS

07.03.

a. Facilities Management

07.03.a.

i. Granting of Georgia Power Easement to Improve and Secure Service Reliability at Rock Chapel Elementary School

07.03.a.i.

Mr. Erick Hofstetter, Chief Operating Officer, Division of Operations requested that the Board of Education approve Georgia Power's easement requests at the Rock Chapel Elementary site to secure distribution and communication lines serving those sites and the surrounding area.

This item was unanimously approved to go on the consent agenda at the top of the meeting.

Voting:

Unanimously Approved

b. Business Services

07.03.b.

i. Renewal 2 of 4 RFP 24-556 District Wide Moving Services ~ Atlanta Cargo Transportation Co., Atlanta Peach Movers, Beltmann Relocation Group, ALS Van Line Services Inc., The Armstrong Group (Not to Exceed \$800,000) ~ Updated 1.9.2026

07.03.b.i.

Mr. Erick Hofstetter, Chief Operating Officer, Division of Operations, requested that the DeKalb County Board of Education ("the Board") approve contract renewal #2 of 4 for RFP 24-556 for District-Wide Moving services in the amount not to exceed \$800,000 to:

- Leslie Regis, Inc. dba Atlanta Cargo Transportation Co.
- Atlanta Peach Movers
- Beltmann Relocation Group
- ALS Van Line Services Inc.
- The Armstrong Group

This contract renewal extends the agreement from January 12, 2026, through January 11, 2027.

This item was unanimously approved to go on the consent agenda at the top of the meeting.

Voting:

Unanimously Approved

c. Fleet and Transportation Services ~ No Agenda Item This Month

07.03.c.

No Agenda Item This Month

d. E-SPLOST Projects / Capital Improvement Projects

07.03.d.

i. E-SPLOST V Project 35835 ~ Champion Theme Middle School Major Building System

Replacement ~ Phase 1 of Second Guaranteed Maximum Price Approval (Not to Exceed \$651,605.34)

07.03.d.i.

Mr. Erick Hofstetter, Chief Operating Officer, Division of Operations requested that the Board of Education establish **Phase I of the 2nd Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) for \$651,605.34** for work included in Phase I of the E-SPLOST V Champion Theme Middle School project, pursuant to the terms of the existing Construction Manager at Risk (CM@R) contract with **Balfour Beatty**.

Ms. McGinniss objected to this item. It was removed from the consent agenda and was voted on separately as an Action Item.

Action Item vote results listed below:

Motion made by: Mr. Awet Eyasu

Motion seconded by: Mr. Dijon DaCosta, Sr.

Voting:

Unanimously Approved

ii. E-SPLOST VI Project: RFQu No. 25-752-011 Group 3 Security Vestibules Project Award Approval (F.H. Paschen S. N. Nielsen & Asso. LLC/dba F.H. Paschen Construction-Pre-Construction Phase Fee (Not to Exceed \$100,000))

07.03.d.ii.

Mr. Erick Hofstetter, Chief Operating Officer, Division of Operations requested that the DeKalb County Board of Education (“the Board”) approve the award of RFQu No. 24-752-039 for Construction Management Services (“CMAR”) for the Group 3 Security Vestibules to F.H. Paschen S. N. Nielsen & Assoc. LLC/dba F.H. Paschen.

Additionally, it requested that the Board approve a not-to-exceed amount of \$100,000, for the Pre-Construction Phase Fee associated with this contract. Additional packages will be presented to the Board for approval as indicated below:

- Final Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) will be presented March 2026.

This item was unanimously approved to go on the consent agenda at the top of the meeting.

Voting:

Unanimously Approved

iii. E-SPLOST VI ~ Wynbrooke Elementary School Security Vestibule & Gym HVAC-General Contractor Services (Not to Exceed \$608,500)

07.03.d.iii.

Mr. Erick Hofstetter, Chief Operating Officer, Division of Operations requested that the Board of Education award the contract to **Centennial Contractors Inc.** for GC Services for the Capital Improvement Project # 27736. Wynbrooke ES Security Vestibules and HVAC System.

This item was moved to the consent agenda.

4. INFORMATION AND INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNOLOGY ~ No Agenda Item This Month

07.04.

No Agenda Item This Month

5. CHIEF OF STAFF ~ No Agenda Item This Month

07.05.

No Agenda Item This Month

6. FINANCE

07.06.

a. School Nutrition Services

07.06.a.

i. Revision to DeKalb Parks and Recreation After School Snacks Agreement, from \$44,550 to \$70,470 ~ SY25-26 ~ Updated 1.8.2026

07.06.a.i.

Mr. Byron Schueneman, Chief Financial Officer, Division of Finance requested that the DeKalb County Board of Education ("the Board") approve the revision of the agreement between the DeKalb County School District and **DeKalb County Government, from \$44,550 to \$70,470 for SY25-26 After-School Snacks Program.**

This item was unanimously approved to go on the consent agenda at the top of the meeting.

Voting:

Unanimously Approved

ii. ESS Temporary Staffing Services Through TIPS RFP 230703 (Not to Exceed \$700,000) ~ Updated 1.9.2026

07.06.a.ii.

Mr. Byron Schueneman, Chief Financial Officer, Division of Finance requested that the Board approve School Nutrition Services (SNS) to utilize ESS temporary staffing services in an amount not to exceed **\$700,000** to support meal service operations from February 1 to June 30, 2026. Temporary staffing will provide qualified Food Service Assistants to ensure uninterrupted meal service, maintain regulatory compliance, and support safe and efficient kitchen operations across district schools. This strategic approach addresses ongoing staffing shortages, reduces operational strain on permanent employees, and offers the district flexibility for short-term, long-term, and same-day staffing needs. The initiative is projected to improve service reliability.

This item was unanimously approved to go on the consent agenda at the top of the meeting.

Voting:

Unanimously Approved

**b. Hall Booth Smith, P.C., Law Firm Retainer AMENDED TO MONTH TO MONTH ~
UPDATED 1.12.2026**

07.06.b.

Mr. Byron Schueneman, Chief Financial Officer, Division of Finance, requested that that the Board of Education (“Board”) approve the contract renewal of **Hall Booth Smith, P.C. (“Hall Booth”)** as General and SPLOST Counsel, through and including February 28, 2026, at the hourly rate of **\$250 for partners, \$225 for associates and \$150 for paralegals**, excluding necessary expenses and any necessary complex litigation, which will be determined and authorized by the Board Chair and Superintendent on a case-by-case basis.

Ms. McGinniss objected to this item. It was removed from the consent agenda.

Mr. DaCosta, Sr. made a motion to amend this item to take out the date of the contract and leave it open-ended (month to month).

Seconded by Mrs. Pierce.

Vote: 4/2/1

Opposition by: Ms. Gevertz and McGinniss

Abstention by: Mr. Eyasu.

This amended item would be voted on as an Action Item.

Action Item vote results listed below:

Voting:

Mr. Dijon DaCosta, Sr. - Yes

Ms. Allyson Gevertz - No

Mr. Awet Eyasu - Abstain

Tiffany Hogan Ph.D. - Yes

Ms. Whitney McGinniss - No

Mrs. Deirdre Pierce - Yes

Mr. Andrew Ziffer - Yes

Vote 4/2/1

Opposition by: Ms. Gevertz and Ms. McGinniss

Abstention by: Mr. Eyasu

**c. RFP 22-533 Real Estate Advisory Services Renewal Approval ~ Dudley Thomas Spade
SPE, LLC dba DTSpade (from November 19, 2025 through November 18, 2026 ~ Renewal
Year 4 of 4 (Not to Exceed \$300,000)**

07.06.c.

Mr. Byron Schueneman, Chief Financial Officer, Division of Finance, requested that the

Board of Education approve the renewal of RFP 22-533 to Dudley Thomas Spade SPE, LLC dba DTSpade, on an as needed basis, to provide real estate advisory services for a period of one year effective from November 19, 2025 through November 18, 2026 for an amount not to exceed \$300,000.

This item was unanimously approved to go on the consent agenda at the top of the meeting.

Voting:

Unanimously Approved

d. Acceptance of the November 2025 Monthly Financial Report

07.06.d.

Mr. Byron Schueneman, Chief Financial Officer, Division of Finance requested that the Board of Education accept the November 2025 Monthly Financial Report.

This item was moved to the consent agenda.

7. HUMAN RESOURCES

07.07.

a. Approval of the Human Resources Monthly Report for January 2026 ~ Updated 1.8.2026

07.07.a.

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

This item was moved to the consent agenda.

8. SCHOOLS & LEADERSHIP - No Agenda Item This Month

07.08.

No Agenda Item This Month

9. CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION

07.09.

a. Band Uniforms for Druid Hills High School, Lakeside High School & Lithonia High School (Not to Exceed \$371,034)

07.09.a.

Dr. Penny Mosley, Interim Chief Academic Officer, Division of Curriculum & Instruction requested that the DeKalb County Board of Education approve the purchase of band uniforms for Druid Hills High School, Lakeside High School, and Lithonia High School for an amount not to exceed **\$371,034**.

This item was unanimously approved to go on the consent agenda at the top of the

meeting.

Voting:

Unanimously Approved

10. WRAP AROUND SERVICES ~ No Agenda Item This Month

07.10.

No Agenda Item This Month

11. STUDENT SERVICES ~ No Agenda Item This Month

07.11.

No Agenda Item This Month

12. ACCESS & OPPORTUNITY ~ No Agenda Item This Month

07.12.

No Agenda Item This Month

a. Athletics ~ No Agenda Item This Month

07.12.a.

Athletics ~ No Agenda Item This Month

13. ACCOUNTABILITY & RESEARCH ~ No Agenda Item This Month ~ Updated 1.12.2026

07.13.

No Agenda Item This Month

14. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & INNOVATIVE PARTNERSHIPS

07.14.

a. DONATIONS / GRANTS

07.14.a.

i. Donation Acceptance: Donation of \$12,199.68 from The Ed Reed Foundation to Chamblee High School

07.14.a.i.

Mrs. Jennifer Caracciolo, Interim Chief of Community Engagement & Innovative Partnerships, Division of Community Engagement & Innovative Partnerships requested that the Board of Education accept the Ed Reed Foundation equipment donation to Chamblee High School valued at \$12,199.68 for football equipment to train, improve the skills, and performance of its football players during practice.

This item was unanimously approved to go on the consent agenda at the top of the meeting.

Voting:
Unanimously Approved

ii. Grant Acceptance: Grant for \$7,193 from DeKalb Schools Educational Foundation, Inc. to Dunwoody Elementary School

07.14.a.ii.

Mrs. Jennifer Caracciolo, Interim Chief of Community Engagement & Innovative Partnerships, Division of Community Engagement & Innovative Partnerships requested that the Board accept the **DeKalb Schools Educational Foundation, Inc. Environmental Education** Grant for **\$7,193** to Dunwoody Elementary School for the purpose of a field trip to Dunwoody Nature Center during the 2025-26 school year.

This item was unanimously approved to go on the consent agenda at the top of the meeting.

Voting:
Unanimously Approved

iii. Donation Acceptance: Donation of \$20,000 from Kaiser Permanente Georgia for SEL/MindSet Student Support

07.14.a.iii

Mrs. Jennifer Caracciolo, Interim Chief of Community Engagement & Innovative Partnerships, Division of Community Engagement & Innovative Partnerships requested that the DeKalb Board of Education accept the Kaiser Permanente Georgia Donation of \$20,000 for SEL/Mindset Student Support.

This item was unanimously approved to go on the consent agenda at the top of the meeting.

Voting:
Unanimously Approved

iv. Donation Acceptance: Donation of \$250,000 from Intuit, Inc. Food Truck Program to Career Technical and Agricultural Education (CTAE)

07.14.a.iv.

Mrs. Jennifer Caracciolo, Interim Chief of Community Engagement & Innovative Partnerships, Division of Community Engagement & Innovative Partnerships requested that the Board of Education accept the **\$250,000 donation from Intuit, Inc.** for their national Food Truck Program in support of the DeKalb County School District culinary programs at Arabia Mountain High School, Columbia High School, Cross Keys High School, Clarkston High School, Lakeside High School, McNair High School, Miller Grove High School, Redan High School, Southwest DeKalb High School, Stephenson High School, Tucker High School, and Warren Technical High School.

The Intuit Food Truck Program immerses students in the management and operation of a fully functioning food truck business, allowing them to build culinary, technical,

entrepreneurial, and durable skills—as well as financial literacy—in a real-world environment.

By providing students with hands-on learning experiences and authentic industry exposure, the Intuit Food Truck Program supports the development of the next generation of business owners, innovators, and entrepreneurs.

This item was unanimously approved to go on the consent agenda at the top of the meeting.

Voting:

Unanimously Approved

15. LEGAL SERVICES

07.15.

a. RISK MANAGEMENT

07.15.a.

i. Approval of the Parks, Chesin, & Walbert, P.C., Law Firm Agreement

07.15.a.i.

Mr. H. Eric Hilton, Chief Legal Officer, Division of Legal Services requested that the Board of Education (“Board”) approve the contract agreement with Parks Chesin & Walbert, P.C. (“Parks”) as Annexation Counsel, at the hourly rate of \$400 for A. Lee Parks, Jr., \$400 for M. Travis Foust, \$300 for Associate Attorneys and \$125 for Paralegals, excluding necessary expenses and any necessary complex litigation, which will be determined and authorized by the Board Chair and Superintendent on a case-by-case basis.

This item was unanimously approved to go on the consent agenda at the top of the meeting.

Voting:

Unanimously Approved

b. Dentons Lobbying Services Retainer **AMENDED** through **JUNE 30, 2026 (Not to Exceed \$72,000)**

07.15.b.

Mr. H. Eric Hilton, Chief Legal Officer, Division of Legal Services requested that the Board of Education (“Board”) approve the DeKalb County School District (“District”) to engage **Dentons for Professional Services** in an amount not to exceed **\$144,000** within the period from January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2026, at a rate of **no more than \$12,000 per month** for strategic support and lobbying services.

Mr. Eyasu objected to this item. It was removed from the consent agenda.

Mr. Ziffer made a motion to amend the term and amount of the contract to 6 months, through June 30, 2026, and not to exceed \$72,000.
Seconded by Ms. Gevertz, Board Chair.

Vote 4/1/2

Opposition by: Hogan, Ph.D.

Abstention by: Mr. DaCosta, Sr., and Mrs. Pierce.

Ms. McGinniss made a motion to table the item until it was discussed at the upcoming board retreat.

Seconded by Mr. Ziffer.

Mr. Ziffer withdrew his second to the motion.

Mr. Eyasu seconded the motion.

Vote 2/5

Opposition by: Hogan, Ph.D., Ms. Gevertz, DaCosta, Sr., Mrs. Pierce, and Mr. Ziffer.

The motion to table the item until the board retreat died.

Ms. McGinniss objected to the amended agenda item. It was removed from the consent agenda and was voted on separately.

Action Item Vote on the amended item

Motion made by: Mr. Andrew Ziffer

Motion seconded by: Mr. Diijon DaCosta, Sr.

Voting:

Mr. Diijon DaCosta, Sr. - Yes

Ms. Allyson Gevertz - Yes

Mr. Awet Eyasu - Yes

Tiffany Hogan Ph.D. - No

Ms. Whitney McGinniss - No

Mrs. Deirdre Pierce - No

Mr. Andrew Ziffer - Yes

Action Item Vote 4/3

Opposition by: Hogan, Ph.D., Ms. McGinniss, and Mrs. Pierce

G. AMENDMENT TO THE BYLAWS & POLICIES ~ No Agenda Item This Month

No Agenda Item This Month

H. INFORMATION ITEMS

1. Capital Improvement & Facilities Update ~Updated 1.8.2026

Provided by: Mr. Erick Hofstetter, Chief Operating Officer, Division of Operations provided the Capital Improvement & Facilities update.

2. Class Wallet Mid-Year Usage Overview ~ Updated 1.6.2025

Provided by: Mr. Byron Schueneman, Chief Financial Officer, Division of Finance, provided an overview of the Class Wallet Mid-Year Usage.

I. CONVENE THE BUSINESS MEETING

Ms. Allyson Gevertz, Board Chair Elect, requested a motion to convene the January 12, 2026, business meeting.

Motion made by: Ms. Whitney McGinniss

Motion seconded by: Mrs. Deirdre Pierce

Voting:

Unanimously Approved

J. CONVENE THE COMMUNITY INPUT SESSION ~ 5:45pm ~ Updated 1.12.2026

The Community Input Session began at 5:46 pm.

*Speakers

1. Mitch Melan
2. Deborah Jones
3. Juana P. Alzaga
4. Adamari Arias
5. Alberto Feregrino

K. CONSENT AGENDA

Items listed here as 1-15 were added to the consent agenda at the top of the meeting.

1. F.1.c. Affirmation of Board Policy, Descriptor Codes BH and BHA and Affirmation of Board Norms
2. F.1.d. Official Functions of the Board for Calendar Year 2026
3. F.2.a. Approval of Minutes
4. F.3.a.i. Granting of Georgia Power Easement to Improve and Secure Service Reliability at Rock Chapel Elementary School
5. F.3.b.i. Renewal 2 of 4 RFP 24-556 District Wide Moving Services ~ Atlanta Cargo Transportation Co. Atlanta Peach Movers, Belmann Relocation Group, ALS Van Line Services Inc., The Armstrong Group
6. F.3.d.ii. ESPLOST VI Project: RFQu No. 25-752-011 ~ Group 3 Security Vestibules Project Award Approval (F.H. Pashen S. N. Nielsen & Associates LLC/dba F.H. Paschen Construction - Pre-Construction Phase Fee
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11. F.14.a.i. Donation Acceptance: Donation of \$12,199.8 from The Ed Reed Foundation to Chamblee High School
12. F.14.a.ii. Grant Acceptance: Grant for \$7193 from DeKalb Schools Educational Foundation, Inc. to Dunwoody Elementary School
13. F.14.a.iii. Donation Acceptance: Donation of \$20,000 from Kaiser Permanente Georgia for SEL/MindSet Student Support
14. F.14.a.iv. Donation Acceptance: Donation of \$250,000 from Intuit, Inc. Food Truck Program to Career Technical and Agricultural Education (CTAE)
15. F.15.a.i. Approval of the Parks, Chesin, & Walbert, P.C., Law Firm Agreement

Additional items listed here as 16-19 were added to the consent agenda after they were presented.

16. F.1.b. Approval of Board Norms and Protocols
17. F.3.d.iii. ESPLOST VI ~ Wynbrooke Elementary School Security Vestibule & Gym HVAC-General Contractor Services
18. F.6.d. Acceptance of the November 2025 Monthly Financial Report
19. F.7.a. Approval of the Human Resources Monthly Report for January 2026

Motion made by: Ms. Whitney McGinniss

Motion seconded by: Mr. Andrew Ziffer

Voting:

Unanimously Approved

L. ACTION ITEM(S)

1. PERSONNEL RECOMMENDATION FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

Ms. Allyson Gevertz, Board Chair Elect, requested that the Board of Education approve the hiring recommendation of Mr. Ennis Harvey to the position of Chief of Staff, in the Office of

the Superintendent as discussed in executive session.

Motion made by: Mrs. Deirdre Pierce

Motion seconded by: Mr. Dijon DaCosta, Sr.

Voting:

Unanimously Approved

2. PERSONNEL RECOMMENDATION FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

It is requested that the Board of Education approve the hiring recommendation of Ms. Kia Billingsley to the position of Chief Academic Officer, Division of Curriculum & Instruction as discussed in executive session.

Motion made by: Mrs. Deirdre Pierce

Motion seconded by: Mr. Dijon DaCosta, Sr.

Voting:

Unanimously Approved

3. PERSONNEL RECOMMENDATION FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

It is requested that the Board of Education approve the hiring recommendation of Dr. Matthew Alexander, Jr. to the position of Assistant Principal, Division of Schools & Leadership as discussed in executive session.

Relative Disclosure:

In accordance with BOE Policy, GAGD-Section G, Mandatory Disclosure by the Superintendent, Dr. Matthew Alexander, Jr. is the candidate recommended for the Assistant Principal position. He is the brother of the Chief of Accountability & Research, in the Division of Accountability & Research, the cousin of the Assistant Manager in the Child Nutrition Program, in the Division of Finance, and a School Resource Officer, in the Department of Public Safety.

Motion made by: Mrs. Deirdre Pierce

Motion seconded by: Mr. Dijon DaCosta, Sr.

Voting:

Unanimously Approved

4. APPROVAL OF AN ITEM(S) FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

Ms. Allyson Gevertz, Board Chair Elect, requested that the Board of Education approve the actions as discussed in executive session for Student Appeal #26-001.

Motion made by: Mr. Awet Eyasu

Motion seconded by: Mrs. Deirdre Pierce

Voting:

Unanimously Approved

5. APPROVAL OF AN ITEM(S) FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

Ms. Allyson Gevertz, Board Chair Elect, called for a motion to adopt the actions as discussed

in executive session for Student Appeal #26-002.

Motion made by: Mr. Awet Eyasu

Motion seconded by: Mrs. Deirdre Pierce

Voting:

Unanimously Approved

6. APPROVAL OF AN ITEM(S) FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

Ms. Allyson Gevertz, Board Chair Elect, requested that the Board of Education adopt the actions as discussed in executive session for Student Appeal #26-003.

Motion made by: Mr. Awet Eyasu

Motion seconded by: Mrs. Deirdre Pierce

Voting:

Unanimously Approved

7. APPROVAL OF AN ITEM(S) FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

Ms. Allyson Gevertz, Board Chair Elect, called for a motion to adopt the actions as discussed in executive session for Student Appeal #26-004.

Motion made by: Mr. Awet Eyasu

Motion seconded by: Mrs. Deirdre Pierce

Voting:

Unanimously Approved

8. APPROVAL OF AN ITEM(S) FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

Ms. Allyson Gevertz, Board Chair Elect, called for a motion to adopt the actions as discussed in executive session for Student Appeal #26-005.

Motion made by: Mr. Awet Eyasu

Motion seconded by: Mrs. Deirdre Pierce

Voting:

Unanimously Approved

9. APPROVAL OF AN ITEM(S) FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

Ms. Allyson Gevertz, Board Chair Elect, called for a motion to adopt the actions as discussed in executive session for Student Appeal #26-006.

Motion made by: Mr. Awet Eyasu

Motion seconded by: Mrs. Deirdre Pierce

Voting:

Unanimously Approved

10. APPROVAL OF AN ITEM(S) FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

Ms. Allyson Gevertz, Board Chair Elect, called for a motion to adopt the actions as discussed in executive session for Student Appeal #26-007.

Motion made by: Mr. Awet Eyasu
Motion seconded by: Mrs. Deirdre Pierce
Voting:
Unanimously Approved

11. APPROVAL OF AN ITEM(S) FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

Ms. Allyson Gevertz, Board Chair Elect, called for a motion to adopt the actions as discussed in executive session for Fair Dismissal Hearing #26-100.

Motion made by: Ms. Whitney McGinniss
Motion seconded by: Tiffany Hogan Ph.D.
Voting:
Unanimously Approved

12. APPROVAL OF AN ITEM(S) FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

Ms. Allyson Gevertz, Board Chair Elect, called for a motion to adopt the actions as discussed in executive session for Fair Dismissal Hearing #26-200.

Motion made by: Ms. Whitney McGinniss
Motion seconded by: Tiffany Hogan Ph.D.
Voting:
Unanimously Approved

13. APPROVAL OF AN AGENDA ITEM(S) PULLED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA

Ms. Allyson Gevertz called for individual motions to approve the following Action Items which were NOT placed on the consent agenda: Refer to the following agenda items for the Action Item vote results:

F.3.d.i. ESPLOST V Project 35835 ~ Champion Theme Middle School Major Building System Replacement ~ Phase 1 of Second Guaranteed Maximum Price Approval

F.6.b. AMENDED Hall Booth Smith P.C. Law Firm Retainer CONTRACT TERM AMENDED to Month to Month

F.15.b. AMENDED Dentons Lobbying Services Retainer TERM CHANGED through June 30, 2026

M. ADJOURN

With no objections, Ms. Allyson Gevertz, Board Chair Elect, adjourned the January 12, 2026, work session and business meeting at 8:06 pm. i g

Voting:
Unanimously Approved