



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

Attendance

Voting Members

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

Non-Voting Members

Dr. Norman Sauce, Chief of Student Services
Carolyn Lloyd, Executive Director BOE

A. CALL TO ORDER

The DeKalb County Board of Education held its 2-Day Board Retreat and Executive Session, January 21- 22, 2026, at the Emory Conference Center located at 1615 Clairmont Road, Atlanta, Georgia 30329.

Ms. Allyson Gevertz, Board Chair, convened the 1st day of the board retreat and executive session at 9:05 a.m.

1. Roster

Ms. Allyson Gevertz, Board Chair, noted the following were in attendance: Mr. Awet Eyasu, Mr. Andrew B. Ziffer, Ms. Whitney McGinniss, Immediate Past Chair, Mrs. Deirdre P. Pierce, Tiffany Hogan, Ph.D., Mr. Dijjon DaCosta, Sr., and Interim Superintendent of Schools. Dr. Norman C. Sauce III.

Also in attendance was the Executive Director of Board Operations, Ms. Carolyn Lloyd.

B. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Ms. Allyson Gevertz, Board Chair, asked if there were any objections to adopting the agenda for the January 21-22, 2026, 2- day board retreat and executive session.

With no objections, the agenda was adopted.

Voting:

Unanimously Approved

C. WELCOME & OVERVIEW

Ms. Allyson Gevertz, Board Chair, welcomed everyone and provided an overview of what to expect on the 1st day of the 2-day board retreat.

D. TOPICS OF DISCUSSION ~ Day 1 ~ January 21, 2026

1. Mid-Year Formative Data Presentation ~ Updated 1.21.2026

Dr. Candace Alexander, Chief of Accountability & Research, Division of Accountability & Research, presented the mid-year formative data report.

2. Student Assignment Project (SAP) Updates ~ Updated 1.21.2026

Triscilla Weaver, Ph.D., Chief of Access & Opportunity, Division of Access & Opportunity, Ms. Sarita Smith, Executive Director of Student Assignment Project, Division of Access & Opportunity, and Mr. Tracy Richter, Vice President of Planning Services, Hoar Program Management, LLC. co-presented the student assignment project updates.

3. Interim Superintendent's Transition Plan and Vision Casting ~ Updated 1.21.2026

Dr. Norman C. Sauce III, Interim Superintendent of Schools, presented the Interim superintendent's transition plan and vision casting report.

4. Budget Development Process ~ Updated 1.21.2026

Mr. Byron Schueneman, Chief Financial Officer, Division of Finance, presented the budget development process.

5. Policy Review Process ~ Updated 1.21.2026

Mrs. Marissa Key, Executive Director of Legal Services, Division of Legal Services, presented the policy review process report.

E. ADJOURN TO AN EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 2:28 pm, Ms. Gevertz, Board Chair, requested a motion to adjourn day one of the January 21-January 22, 2026, 2-day board retreat to an executive session for the purpose of discussing permitted matters regarding land, legal, litigation, personnel and student appeals.

Motion made by: Mr. Awet Eyasu

Seconded by: Mrs. Deirdre P. Pierce

Vote: 7/0

The board came out of executive session to vote publicly on two action items and went back into executive session.

At 4:20 pm, Ms. Allyson Gevertz, Board Chair, requested a motion to adjourn back to executive session for the purpose of discussing permitted matters regarding land, legal, litigation, personnel and student appeals.

Motion made by: Mrs. Deirdre Pierce

Motion seconded by: Ms. Whitney McGinniss

Voting:

Unanimously Approved

1. ADJOURN THE EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 4:15 pm, Ms. Allyson Gevertz, Board Chair, requested a motion to adjourn the first executive session.

Motion made by: Ms. Whitney McGinniss

Seconded by: Mrs. Deirdre P. Pierce

Vote: 7/0

Ms. Allyson Gevertz, Board Chair, requested a motion to adjourn the second executive session and to recess day one of the January 21-January 22, 2026, 2-day board retreat.

Motion made by: Ms. Whitney McGinniss

Motion seconded by: Mrs. Deirdre Pierce

Voting:

Unanimously Approved

F. ACTION ITEM(S)

1. PERSONNEL RECOMMENDATION FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

Ms. Allyson Gevertz, Board Chair, requested that the Board of Education approve the hiring recommendation of Dr. Cherisse Campbell to the position of Chief of Community Engagement & Innovative Partnerships, Division of Community Engagement & Innovative Partnerships as discussed in executive session.

Motion made by: Mr. Awet Eyasu

Motion seconded by: Ms. Whitney McGinniss

Voting:

Ms. Allyson Gevertz - Yes

Mr. Awet Eyasu - Yes

Mr. Andrew Ziffer - Yes

Ms. Whitney McGinniss - Yes

Mrs. Deirdre Pierce - Abstain

Tiffany Hogan Ph.D. - No

Mr. Dijon DaCosta, Sr. - Abstain

Vote: 4/1/2

Opposition by: Tiffany Hogan, Ph.D.

Abstention by: Mrs. Deirdre P. Pierce and Mr. Dijon DaCosta, Sr.

2. Approve the Settlement of the Date Technology Litigation

Ms. Allyson Gevertz, Board Chair, requested that the Board of Education approve the settlement of the DATE Technology litigation as discussed in executive session.

Motion made by: Mrs. Deirdre Pierce

Motion seconded by: Ms. Whitney McGinniss

Voting:

Unanimously Approved

G. RECESS DAY 1 ~ BOARD RETREAT

Ms. Allyson Gevertz, Board Chair, recessed day one of the 2-day board retreat at 5:32 pm.

H. RECONVENE BOARD RETREAT ~ Day 2 ~ January 22, 2026

At 9:02 am, Ms. Allyson Gevertz, Board Chair, reconvened day two, January 22, 2026, of the January 21 - January 22, 2026, 2-day board retreat and executive session.

1. Roster

Ms. Allyson Gevertz, Board Chair, noted the following were in attendance: Mr. Andrew B. Ziffer, Ms. Whitney McGinniss, Immediate Past Chair, Mrs. Deirdre P. Pierce, Tiffany Hogan, Ph.D., Mr. Dijon DaCosta, Sr., and Interim Superintendent of Schools. Dr. Norman C. Sauce III.

At the beginning of the retreat, Vice Chair, Mr. Awet Eyasu was virtual. He attended the retreat in person at 9:50 am.

Also in attendance was the Executive Director of Board Operations, Ms. Carolyn LLOYD.

I. TOPICS OF DISCUSSION ~ Day 2 ~ January 22, 2026

1. Professional Development with Georgia Leadership Institute for School Improvement (GLISI)

Leslie Hazle Bussey, Ph.D., CEO, Executive Director, with the Georgia Leadership Institute for School Improvement (GLISI) facilitated the professional development of the DeKalb board members.

J. ADJOURN

Ms. Allyson Gevertz, Board Chair, called for a motion to adjourn the 2nd day of the January 21-January 22, 2026, 2-day board retreat and executive session.

Motion made by: Ms. Whitney McGinniss

Motion seconded by: Ms. Allyson Gevertz

Voting:

Unanimously Approved

APPROVED ON 2.9.2026