



## MEETING MINUTES

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### 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

REVISED 2.24.26

### Attendance

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#### 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. Dijon DaCosta, Sr., Board Member

#### Non-Voting Members

Dr. Norman Sauce, Interim Superintendent  
Carolyn Lloyd, Executive Director BOE

### A. CALL TO ORDER

The DeKalb County Board of Education held its 2-Day Board Retreat and Executive Session, February 24 - February 25, 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 February 24- February 25, 2026, 2-day board retreat and executive session at 9:08 a.m.

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

Vice Chair, Mr. Awet Eyasu and Mr. Dijon DaCosta, Sr. participated virtually.

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 February 24 –February 25, 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, provided a welcome and an overview of what to expect on the 1st day of the 2-day board retreat.

## **D. TOPICS OF DISCUSSION ~ Day 1 ~ February 24, 2026**

### **1. Student Assignment Project Discussion ~ Updated 2.24.2026**

Ms. Allyson Gevertz, Board Chair,  
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.,  
facilitated the discussion on the Student Assignment Project.

### **2. Human Resources Report ~ Best Practices**

Mrs. Tasha Davis-Mills, Chief Human Resource Officer, Division of Human Resources,  
presented the human resources best practices report.

### **3. Quad Team Presentation on Federally Identified Schools ~ Updated 2.25.2026**

Dr. Candace Alexander, Chief of Accountability & Research, Division of Accountability & Research,  
Champion Michelle Dillard, Chief of Schools, Division of Schools & Leadership,  
Dr. Kia Billingsley, Chief Academic Officer, Division of Teaching and Learning, and  
Mrs. Kiana King, Interim Chief of Student Services, Division of Student Services, presented updates on the federally identified schools.

### **4. SY27 Budget Development Update ~ Updated 2.24.26**

Mr. Byron Schueneman, Chief Financial Officer, Division of Finance, presented an update of the SY27 budget development.

### **5. Board Discussion on Acknowledgements & Inspirations**

Ms. Allyson Gevertz, Board Chair, led the discussion on acknowledgments and inspirations. The board decided to continue the discussion at the board retreat in April.

## **E. ADJOURN TO AN EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Ms. Allyson Gevertz, Board Chair, requested that the DeKalb County Board of Education adjourn day one of the February 24 - February 25, 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: Mrs. Deirdre Pierce

Motion seconded by: Ms. Whitney McGinniss

Voting:

Unanimously Approved

### **1. ADJOURN THE EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Ms. Allyson Gevertz, Board Chair, requested a motion to adjourn the February 24, 2026, executive session.

Motion made by: Ms. Whitney McGinniss

Motion seconded by: Mrs. Deirdre Pierce

Voting:

Unanimously Approved

## **F. ACTION ITEM(S)**

### **1. APPROVAL OF AN ITEM(S) FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION**

#### **a. PERSONNEL RECOMMENDATION FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Ms. Allyson Gevertz, Board Chair, requested a motion from the DeKalb County Board of Education to approve the hiring recommendation of Mr. Terrence O. Harvey, to the position of Executive Administrator of middle schools, in the Division of Schools & Leadership, as discussed in the executive session.

Motion made by: Mrs. Deirdre Pierce

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 - Yes

Tiffany Hogan Ph.D. - Abstain

Mr. Dijon DaCosta, Sr. - Yes

#### **b. APPROVAL OF AN ITEM FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Ms. Allyson Gevertz, Board Chair, requested a motion from the DeKalb County Board of

Education to accept the recommendation of the Ad Hoc Board Attorney Committee to select firm Denmark, Ashby and Matricardi, LLC., as Board Counsel for RFP 26-718, effective March 1, 2026, as discussed in executive session.

Motion made by: Mr. Andrew Ziffer

Motion seconded by: Tiffany Hogan Ph.D.

Voting:

Ms. Allyson Gevertz - Yes

Mr. Awet Eyasu - Yes

Mr. Andrew Ziffer - Yes

Ms. Whitney McGinniss - Abstain

Mrs. Deirdre Pierce - Yes

Tiffany Hogan Ph.D. - Yes

Mr. Dijon DaCosta, Sr. - Yes

## **G. RECESS DAY 1 ~ BOARD RETREAT**

Ms. Allyson Gevertz, Board Chair, requested that the DeKalb County Board of Education recess day one of the February 24-February 25, 2026, 2-day board retreat.

Motion made by: Ms. Whitney McGinniss

Motion seconded by: Mrs. Deirdre Pierce

Voting:

Unanimously Approved

## **H. RECONVENE BOARD RETREAT ~ Day 2 ~ February 25, 2026**

With no objections, Ms. Allyson Gevertz, Board Chair, reconvened day 2 of the February 24-February 25, 2026, 2-day board retreat at 9:15 am.

### **1. Roster**

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

Voting:

Ms. Allyson Gevertz - Yes

Mr. Awet Eyasu - Yes

Mr. Andrew Ziffer - Yes

Ms. Whitney McGinniss - Yes

Mrs. Deirdre Pierce - Yes

Tiffany Hogan Ph.D. - Yes

Mr. Dijon DaCosta, Sr. - Not Present

## **I. TOPICS OF DISCUSSION ~ Day 2 ~ February 25, 2026**

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

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

## **J. ADJOURN**

Ms. Allyson Gevertz, Board Chair, requested that the DeKalb County Board of Education adjourn the February 24 - February 25, 2026, 2-day board retreat and executive session.

Motion made by: Ms. Whitney McGinniss

Motion seconded by: Tiffany Hogan Ph.D.

Voting:

Ms. Allyson Gevertz - Yes

Mr. Awet Eyasu - Yes

Mr. Andrew Ziffer - Yes

Ms. Whitney McGinniss - Yes

Mrs. Deirdre Pierce - Yes

Tiffany Hogan Ph.D. - Yes

Mr. Dijon DaCosta, Sr. - Not Present

PENDING APPROVAL