



MARY MARGARET OLIVER

REPRESENTATIVE, DISTRICT 84
150 EAST PONCE DE LEON AVENUE
SUITE 260
DECATUR, GEORGIA 30030
(404) 377-0485 (O)
EMAIL: mmo@mmolaw.com

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COVERDELL LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING
ROOM 604 -G
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30334
404-656-0272
404-463-2634 (fax)

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March 15, 2026

Dr. Carmen Sulton, Chair of School Board
Hanz Utz, Vice Chair of School Board
James Herndon, Board Member
Tracey Anderson, Board Member
Lorraine Irier, Board Member
Nia Batra, Student Representative
board@csdecaturnet.net

Dear Board Members,

We, the members of the Decatur Legislative Delegation to the Georgia General Assembly, support the goal of the City Schools of Decatur (“CSD”) to offer critical early learning opportunities designed to close the academic achievement gap and provide our most vulnerable families and children increased access to high-quality early learning opportunities. We recognize that to accomplish this goal, additional quality early childhood learning space is needed and we support adding a new facility to meet these needs.

However, we are increasingly concerned that the visible conflict among our elected leaders and our other community stakeholders is accelerating and painful for all of us. It does not serve the needs of children in the community nor the City of Decatur itself for such division to persist. Many community members have raised concerns with us, chief among them that the process to reach the decision to build the ECLC has not been open, transparent, and collaborative, specifically with respect to community stakeholder input on the cost, scope, and location of the proposed project.

Therefore, we would like to offer a solution and feel strongly that action must be taken to ease the dismaying community discord. We attach a bill for your consideration that would require a voter referendum to pass before the proposed ECLC could be constructed. We do not wish to file this legislation, but we are seeking a path forward to resolve this conflict for the benefit of all of our constituents and CSD. Our request is that you understand that this deepening angst is not productive and voluntarily call for a voter referendum. CSD should only move forward with the

project in its current form if it indeed has majority support. In other words, you would only move forward with a proposal for a new ECLC which is supported by the passage of a voter referendum. Please respond as soon as possible as to whether you are willing to call for a voter referendum on the current ECLC plans, so that we don't have to move forward with legislation. Thank you for your immediate attention and response.

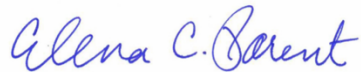
Sincerely,



Mary Margaret Oliver
Georgia House District 84



Omari Crawford
Georgia House District 89



Elena Parent
Georgia Senate District 44

cc: Decatur City Commission:

Tony Powers, Mayor Tony.Powers@decaturga.com

Lesa Fronk, Mayor Pro Tem lesa.mayer@decaturga.com

Mark Arnold, Commissioner mark.arnold@decaturga.com

George Dusenbury, Commissioner George.dusenbury@decaturga.com

Cheryl Kortemeier, Commissioner cheryl.kortemeier@decaturga.com

Gyimah Whitaker, CSD Superintendent gyimah.whitaker@csdecatur.net

Andrea Arnold, City of Decatur City Manager Andrea.Arnold@decaturga.com