

**MINUTES**  
**DOUGLAS COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**WORK SESSION/REGULAR MEETING**  
**DECEMBER 7, 2020**

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The Douglas County Board of Education met in regular session at the administrative offices located at 9030 Highway 5, Douglasville, Georgia. Board Members present were: Ms. Tracy Rookard, Chair (Post 3); Ms. Michelle Simmons, Vice Chair (Post 4); Mr. Devettrion Caldwell, (Post 1); Mr. D.T. Jackson (Post 2); and Ms. Rita Fasina-Thomas (Post 5).

Staff members present were Mr. Trent North, Superintendent; Mrs. Melanie Manley, Assistant Superintendent of Student Achievement; Mr. Greg Denney, Chief Financial Officer; Dr. Michelle Ruble, Assistant Superintendent of General Administration; Ms. Pam Nail, Assistant Superintendent of Student Services; Mr. Kwame Carr, Assistant Superintendent of District Operations; Mrs. Nell Boggs, Executive Director of Communications; and Mrs. Melanie Nicholson, Secretary to the Superintendent.

#### MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

#### SETTING OF AGENDA

On motion by Mr. Caldwell, seconded by Mr. Jackson, unanimous approval was given to approve the agenda as written.

#### WORK SESSION AGENDA

A. Strategic Improvement Plan Update

Dr. Michelle Ruble provided an update on the school district Strategic Improvement Plan.

#### NEW BUSINESS

A. January 2021 Board Meeting Date

On motion by Mr. Jackson, seconded by Mr. Caldwell, unanimous approval was given to set the first board meeting in January as January 11, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

B. 2021 Legislative Priorities

On motion by Mr. Jackson, seconded by Mr. Caldwell, unanimous approval was given to approve the 2021 Legislative Priorities as presented.

**MINUTES**  
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---

BOARD AGENDA DISCUSSION & ACTION ITEMS

A. Minutes of Previous Meetings

1. Minutes of November 2, 2020 Work Session/Regular Board Meeting

On motion by Mr. Jackson, seconded by Mr. Caldwell, unanimous approval was given to approve the minutes of the November 2, 2020 Work Session/Regular Board Meeting as presented.

B. Finance

1. October 2020 Financial Report

On motion by Mr. Jackson, seconded by Mr. Caldwell, unanimous approval was given to approve the October 2020 Financial Report as presented.

C. Operations

1. Fairplay Middle School Storm Water Drain Replacement

On motion by Mr. Jackson, seconded by Ms. Fasina-Thomas, unanimous approval was given to approve the storm water drain replacement for Fairplay Middle School as presented.

2. Surplus of Various Items

On motion by Ms. Fasina-Thomas, seconded by Mr. Caldwell, unanimous approval was given to approve the surplus of items as presented.

D. School Nutrition

1. School Nutrition Surplus Items

On motion by Mr. Jackson, seconded by Mr. Caldwell, unanimous approval was given to approve the surplus of school nutrition items as presented.

E. Student Services

1. Brighten Academy Charter School Program Grant for Remote Learning

*MINUTES*  
*DOUGLAS COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION*  
*WORK SESSION/REGULAR MEETING*  
*DECEMBER 7, 2020*

---

On motion by Mr. Jackson, seconded by Mr. Caldwell, unanimous approval was given to approve the grant for remote learning for Brighten Academy as presented.

F. Personnel & Policy

1. Certified Personnel

On motion by Mr. Caldwell, seconded by Mr. Jackson, unanimous approval was given to approve the certified personnel as presented.

2. Classified Personnel

On motion by Mr. Jackson, seconded by Ms. Fasina-Thomas, unanimous approval was given to approve the classified personnel as presented.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Fasina-Thomas said with this being her last board meeting that she wanted to thank everyone for welcoming her, answering questions and patience over this past year. There couldn't be a better staff or a stronger work ethic than in this staff. Ms. Fasina-Thomas thanked the Board for giving her the opportunity to be on the Board. It has been a privilege and honor serving with this Board. Ms. Fasina-Thomas thanked the Board for their support.

Mr. Jackson said that a lot could be said about 2020, but regardless our school district has done an outstanding job. He wishes everyone a safe and Merry Christmas.

Mr. Caldwell said to Ms. Fasina-Thomas that this journey and year has been amazing. Ms. Fasina-Thomas has been a breath of fresh air and that we were able to accomplish a lot and he is forever grateful to her.

Ms. Simmons thanked everyone for all that they do for our students and staff. Her main concern is the mental and emotional capacity of everyone dealing with the pandemic. She wants everyone to take care of themselves and rest. She is looking forward to 2021. Ms. Simmons said thank you to Ms. Fasina-Thomas for the opportunity to work with her.

Ms. Rookard said that Ms. Fasina-Thomas has done an amazing job. We are grateful to you and we want you to continue to represent your area. You have been a breath of fresh air with your elegance and eloquence.

*MINUTES*  
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---

Ms. Rookard said that she is grateful to the staff for helping and supporting Mr. North through this unthinkable situation. Ms. Rookard thanked Mr. North for all that he does. He is willing to roll up his sleeves and help where it is needed. Ms. Rookard wants everyone to remain safe and have a great holiday.

Mr. North thanked the Board. COVID has been very political. This Board put students first. This Board trusted us to spend funds to do what was needed for students and staff. We are better off than 75% of school districts in the state. Thank you for allowing the choice of school based digital learning or face to face learning.

Mr. North thanked Ms. Fasina-Thomas for serving our district.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

On motion by Mr. Jackson, seconded by Mr. Caldwell, the Board voted to go into Executive Session.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:54 p.m.

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Trent North, Superintendent

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Tracy Rookard, Chair