

MINUTES
DOUGLAS COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
JANUARY 19, 2021

The Douglas County Board of Education met in a regular session in the board room of the administrative office building at 9030 Highway 5. Ms. Tracy Rookard, Chair, (Post 3), called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Ms. Rookard asked for a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss personnel, or other matters as allowed under the Georgia Open Meetings Act. Board Members present were: Ms. Michelle Simmons, Vice Chair (Post 4); Mr. Devettrion Caldwell, (Post 1); Mr. D.T. Jackson, (Post 2) and Mr. Glenn Easterwood, (District 5).

Ms. Rookard reconvened the Board in open session at 7:00 p.m.

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

The PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG was led by Mr. North.

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

SETTING OF AGENDA: On motion by Mr. Jackson, seconded by Mr. Caldwell, unanimous approval was given to approve the agenda as presented.

BOARD RECOGNITION

A. Youth Leadership Douglas

Ms. Carley Lawson from the Douglas County Chamber of Commerce introduced students that participated in the Youth Leadership Douglas Program. Co-Chairs are Aaron Szarowicz with the City of Douglasville and Kimmy Yon with Youth Villages. Whitney Lester and Dr. Tawyna Bailey, work based learning coordinators at New Manchester and Douglas County High Schools, also assist with the program.

Youth Leadership Douglas is a program that was created in partnership between the Chamber and the Douglas County School System. By participating in the leadership program, high school juniors learn about local government agencies, businesses, and civic activities and also gain experience in social and business etiquette.

The students learn not only about our community and leadership, but also develop friendships and contacts in Douglasville. These students are exceptional in their schools, and they have

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also immersed themselves in the community through working with their mentors and performing community service.

For social distancing reasons, we are recognizing the fall 2020 Youth Leadership Douglas class over two meetings. The other half of the class will be recognized at the next Board of Education meeting. The following students from New Manchester High School and Alexander High School were recognized:

Members of the fall 2020 Youth Leadership Douglas class are:

From New Manchester High School:

Alena Daniel
 John Williams

From Alexander High School:

Gracie Chaves
 Lily Grogan
 Landon Leach
 Mallie Mastin
 Seth Mulkey
 Luke Nguyen
 Kyle Singer
 Taya Taylor

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Douglas County Board of Education Public Participation at Board Meetings

Policy: BCBI

In accord with its policy confirming the right and desirability of the public's expressing its point of view to the Board, delegations or individuals are welcome at all meetings, subject to the following regulations:

1. Matters relating to personnel, members of the Board, and other items which the law deems inappropriate for discussion must be submitted in writing and will be reviewed by the Board in Executive Session.
2. Matters concerning an individual school shall be discussed first with the principal of that school. If the problem cannot be resolved at the school, it shall then be brought to the Superintendent of Schools. If the problem cannot be resolved with the Superintendent of Schools, it may then be brought to the Board.

Citizens of the community have the expressed right and are encouraged to attend meetings of the Board to listen to and observe the deliberations of its members. The following regulations are adopted to preserve the orderly pursuit of business of the Board and to provide proper opportunities for legitimate and objective discussion and analysis of the issues presented. Board meetings are public meetings and not meetings of the public; however, any citizen may request the opportunity to communicate with the Board and be recognized to speak regarding appropriate issues. **Persons desiring to communicate**

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with the Board shall submit a written request to the Superintendent stating their name, home address, the topic about which they wish to speak and the group they represent, if applicable, no later than 4 o'clock on the Friday prior to the scheduled Board meeting. Please use the form provided for this purpose.

The Board vests in its chairperson or other presiding officer authority to determine whether it is in the interest of the Board to allow any individual or group to make an oral presentation before the Board. Persons who are granted the opportunity to speak will be recognized by the chairperson at the appropriate time during the meeting. Speakers will be limited to three minutes. If there are numerous requests to address the Board the chairperson may select representatives to speak on each side of the issue. The Board also vests in its chairperson or other presiding officer authority to terminate the remarks of any individual who does not adhere to the guidelines established by the Board.

Personal complaints of school employees should follow the Complaints and Grievances procedures established by the Board.

Individuals and/or groups who addressed the Board previously may be denied the opportunity to address the Board again on the same topic.

The Board will usually not respond to comments or questions posed by citizens during the Board meeting, but will take those comments and questions under advisement. When appropriate, the comments and questions shall be referred to the Superintendent for consideration and a later response. None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS/COMMITTEE REPORTS

NEW BUSINESS

A. Appointment of Sergeant at Arms

On motion by Mr. Caldwell, seconded by Ms. Simmons, Glenn Easterwood was elected as Sergeant at Arms.

CONSENT AGENDA

The Board receives the agenda approximately three to five days before their regular board meeting. The Board discusses items placed on the "Consent Agenda" at a previous meeting or in Executive Session as allowed under the Georgia Open Meetings Act. Before the Board voting session the Board may ask or answer any questions about items to be placed on the "Consent Agenda".

- A. Minutes of December 7, 2020 Work Session and Board Meeting
- B. Minutes of December 7, 2020 Executive Session
- C. November 2020 Financial Report
- D. Network Upgrade
- E. Chromebooks
- F. Certified Personnel

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G. Classified Personnel

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

INFORMATION ONLY

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Jackson said that last week employees over 65 were given the opportunity to take the vaccine. Mr. Jackson thanked the staff for doing an outstanding job.

Ms. Simmons thanked everyone who has worked diligently throughout COVID and she prays that everyone takes care of themselves mentally and physically.

Ms. Rookard thanked those for the work they are doing with children in these unprecedented times. It is truly appreciated. She hopes everyone has a good week.

Mr. North said that he appreciates the work that our staff is doing with COVID.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:16 p.m.

Trent North, Superintendent

Tracy Rookard, Chair