

MINUTES
DOUGLAS COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
WORK SESSION/REGULAR MEETING
NOVEMBER 2, 2020

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

BOARD RECOGNITION

A. Rotary Club of Douglas County

Two representatives from the Rotary Club of Douglas County, President Elect John Baker and Service Projects Chair Joe Williams, are here tonight to make an important presentation.

Good evening, Superintendent North, Madame Chair and Board members. Thank you for allowing the Rotary Club of Douglas County to be here tonight.

As we all know, the COVID-19 pandemic was a game changer for the world. Beginning March 16, the Douglas County School System moved to online learning for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year.

Douglas County is fortunate that the school system had the foresight and made the financial commitment last spring to order enough Chromebooks so that every student could check out a learning device for the 2020-2021 school year.

In August, schools began issuing Chromebooks to students so that they would be ready

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for online learning on the first day of school, August 17. Part of the One-to-One Technology initiative involved a commitment from parents and students to take care of the electronic devices and to pay a \$25 technology fee to cover minor repairs, replacement of batteries and other costs associated with electronic devices.

The Rotary Club of Douglas County knew that there would be families unable to pay the \$25 fee, and we wanted to help. Education is a focus of Rotary, and we know the importance of having the tools for students to learn.

Tonight I am happy to announce that the Rotary Club is donating \$10,000, which will cover the technology fees for 400 students. We are excited to support the One-to-One Technology initiative for the students in Douglas County.

WORK SESSION AGENDA

A. Winter Sports Update

Dr. Chris Small, Alexander High School; Ms. Nicole Watson, Chapel Hill High School; Mr. Andre Weaver, Douglas County High School; Mr. Travis Joshua, Lithia Springs High School; and Ms. Tekmekia Gilchrist, New Manchester High School, provided an update on winter sports.

B. Financial Literacy for High School

Mrs. Melanie Manley, Assistant Superintendent of Student Achievement, provided information on the financial literacy curriculum for high school.

C. DCSS Literacy Bus

Dr. Karen Stoutmire, Executive Director of Federal Programs, provided an update on the proposed literacy bus for the district.

BOARD AGENDA DISCUSSION & ACTION ITEMS

A. Minutes of Previous Meetings

1. Minutes of October 5, 2020 Executive Session

On motion by Mr. Jackson, seconded by Ms. Fasina-Thomas, unanimous approval was given to approve the minutes of the October 5, 2020 Executive Session as

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presented.

2. Minutes of October 5, 2020 Work Session

On motion by Mr. Jackson, seconded by Mr. Caldwell, unanimous approval was given to approve the minutes of the October 5, 2020 Work Session as presented.

3. Minutes of October 19, 2020 Executive Session

On motion by Mr. Jackson, seconded by Ms. Simmons, unanimous approval was given to approve the minutes of the October 19, 2020 Executive Session as presented.

4. Minutes of October 19, 2020 Board Meeting

On motion by Mr. Jackson, seconded by Mr. Caldwell, unanimous approval was given to approve the minutes of the October 19, 2020 Board Meeting as presented.

B. Student Achievement & Leadership

C. Special Education

1. 1:1 Nursing Contract with Advanced Care Partners

On motion by Ms. Simmons, seconded by Mr. Jackson, unanimous approval was given to approve the contract with Advanced Care Partners for 1:1 nursing as presented.

D. Finance

1. July 2020 Financial Report

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

2. August 2020 Financial Report

On motion by Ms. Fasina-Thomas, seconded by Mr. Jackson, unanimous approval was given to approve the August 2020 Financial Report as presented.

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3. September 2020 Financial Report

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

E. Operations

1. Purchase of Two Special Education Buses

On motion by Mr. Jackson, seconded by Mr. Caldwell, unanimous approval was given to approve the purchase of two special education buses as presented.

F. Technology

G. School Nutrition

H. Student Services

1. FY2021 Facilities Grant for Brighten Academy

On motion by Ms. Simmons, seconded by Mr. Caldwell, unanimous approval was given to approve FY2021 Facilities Grant for Brighten Academy as presented.

2. DCSS Literacy Bus Customization

On motion by Mr. Jackson, seconded by Ms. Fasina-Thomas, unanimous approval was given to approve the DCSS Literacy Bus Customization as presented.

I. General Administration

K. Personnel & Policy

1. Certified Personnel

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

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2. Classified Personnel

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

INFORMATION ONLY

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Jackson said that this would be the last board meeting before Thanksgiving and he wishes everyone a happy and safe holiday.

Mr. Caldwell said that the presentations were outstanding and that he appreciates all of the hard work that went into them.

Ms. Simmons echoed Mr. Caldwell and it is evident that there is an intentional effort to work with our children.

Ms. Rookard said that you don't know what people go through on a daily basis and this is the season for compassion. We have a tremendous team in Douglas County. She implores everyone to be safe and have a happy holiday.

Mr. North thanked the Board for their support. Our team is a model for the state. Our ultimate goal is for our students to return for face to face learning and everyone to return on Fridays. We need to remain focused on stopping the spread of the virus during the holidays. COVID has increased in Douglas County but not to the point that we need to change our model.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Trent North, Superintendent

Tracy Rookard, Chair