

MINUTES
DOUGLAS COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
WORK SESSION
OCTOBER 5, 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; Mrs. 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. Jackson, seconded by Mr. Caldwell, unanimous approval was given to approve the agenda as presented.

BOARD RECOGNITION

A. Youth Leadership Douglas

Ms. Ruby Byers with the Douglas County Chamber of Commerce is proud to partner with Douglas County Schools to coordinate the Youth Leadership Douglas program. She is assisted by Julia Areh from Georgia Highlands College and Taylor Pounds from HRC Engineering. Whitney Lester and Dr. Tawyna Bailey, work based learning coordinators at New Manchester and Douglas County High Schools, also assist with the program. We are happy to recognize the spring 2020 graduates of Youth Leadership Douglas tonight.

Youth Leadership Douglas is a program that was created in partnership between the Chamber of Commerce 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 about leadership, but also develop friendships and contacts in Douglasville. These students are exceptional in their schools, and they have immersed themselves in the community through working with their mentors and performing community service.

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For social distancing reasons, we are recognizing the spring 2020 Youth Leadership Douglas class over two meetings. Half of the class was recognized at the last Board of Education meeting. I am delighted tonight to recognize those participants from New Manchester High School and Chapel Hill High School.

From New Manchester High School:

Kelsey Baker
Jerney Jackson
Bria Salters
Domenica Weems

From Chapel Hill High School:

Wyatt Griffin
Miles Harley
Hannah Jackson
Aidyn Kittrell
Joann Obioma
Kendall Rogers

B. Retired Educators Day Proclamation

Ms. Portia Lake read the Retired Educators Day Proclamation. Mr. John Stone, President of the Douglas County Retired Educators, thanked the Board for their support.

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.

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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 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.

WORK SESSION AGENDA

A. Update on COVID19

Mr. North along with Mrs. Nell Boggs, Mrs. Pam Nail, Dr. Michelle Ruble and Mr. Kwame Carr updated the Board on COVID19 in the Douglas County School System. We will continue with face to face learning for those students who have chosen that option Monday through Thursday for the remainder of 1st semester with Friday being a digital learning day for all students.

WORK SESSION BOARD AGENDA ITEMS

A. Minutes of Previous Meetings

1. Minutes of September 8, 2020 Work Session
2. Minutes of September 8, 2020 Executive Session

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3. Minutes of September 21, 2020 Regular Board Meeting
 4. Minutes of September 21, 2020 Executive Session
- B. Student Achievement & Leadership
- C. Special Education
- D. Finance
- E. Operations
1. Grease Trap Pumping Contract
- F. Technology
- G. School Nutrition
- H. Student Services
- I. General Administration
- J. Personnel and Policy
1. Board Policies GAAA: Equal Opportunity Employment and GAEB: Sexual Harassment of Employees
 2. Board Policies JAA: Equal Educational Opportunities and JCAC: Sexual Harassment of Students

ACTION AGENDA

- A. FY21 Local Board Training Plan

On motion by Mr. Jackson, seconded by Mr. Caldwell, unanimous approval was given to approve the FY21 Local Board Training Plan as presented.

INFORMATION ONLY

- A. New School Clubs

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BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Ms. Fasina-Thomas thanked the staff for all that they have done with regard to the reopening of school and maintaining a safe environment for our students and staff.

Mr. Jackson thanked the Technology Department for all that they are doing by taking care of our students and staff with technology.

Ms. Simmons thanked everyone. She thanked the teachers for doing double the amount of work and remember the humanity in the job. Ms. Simmons said that we have a top notch school system and we are doing a wonderful job.

Ms. Rookard echoed Ms. Simmons and said that she appreciates the great work of the teachers and staff and that she appreciates the support system of the Central Office and our amazing Superintendent.

Mr. North said that he is thankful for our governance team. He is also thankful for our parents who are understanding, appreciative and supportive. We are very fortunate in Douglas County.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

On motion by Mr. Jackson, seconded by Ms. Simmons, unanimous approval was given to go into Executive Session.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:14 p.m.

Trent North, Superintendent

Tracy Rookard, Chair