

MINUTES
DOUGLAS COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
AUGUST 16, 2021

The Douglas County Board of Education met in regular session at the administrative offices located at 11490 Veterans Memorial Highway, Douglasville, Georgia. Board Members present were: Ms. Tracy Rookard, Chair (Post 3) called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM; Ms. Michelle Simmons, Vice Chair (Post 4); Mr. Devettrion Caldwell, (Post 1); and Mr. Glenn Easterwood (Post 5). Mr. D.T. Jackson (Post 2) was absent.

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, Associate Superintendent of General Administration; Mr. Kwame Carr, Assistant Superintendent of District Operations; Mrs. Pam Nail, Assistant Superintendent of Student Services; Mrs. Portia Lake, Director of Public Information; Mr. Isaiah Smith, Communications Specialist; Mrs. Melanie Nicholson, Senior Executive Assistant to the Superintendent; and Mrs. Hannah Washington, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent.

CALL TO ORDER

THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG was led by Ms. Rookard

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

MISSION, VISION, BELIEFS

SETTING OF AGENDA

On motion by Michelle Simmons, seconded by Devettrion Caldwell, unanimous approval was given to approve the agenda as presented.

BOARD RECOGNITION

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION the Guidelines were read by Ms. Michelle Simmons, Vice Chair

Douglas County Board of Education Public Participation at Board Meetings Policy: BCBI

Meetings of the Board of Education are held to conduct the affairs and business of the school system. Although these meetings are not meetings of the public, the public is invited to attend all meetings and citizens are invited to address the Board at all regular meetings at the time shown on the agenda and in accordance with procedures established by the Board or the Superintendent. Public participation may be allowed in the discretion of the Board at certain additional meetings under procedures set by the Board.

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The Superintendent shall make available the procedures to allow citizens to address the Board at regular meetings in accordance with this policy. These procedures shall include a requirement that notice be given at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting and that the Chair shall have the discretion to limit the length of time for individual comments and the number of citizens speaking for or against an individual matter. These procedures shall be available at the Superintendent's office and shall be given, upon request, to anyone requesting a copy. All comments to the Board in accordance with this policy are to be brief and are intended for the Board to hear from citizens but not to take action.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN BOARD MEETINGS GUIDELINES

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 guidelines:

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 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 24 hours 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.

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- A. Douglas County Fire Chief Miles Allen
 - a. Chief Allen stated that the Fire Department was ready and available to serve the community
- B. Heidi Hulsey
 - a. Spoke opposing the mask mandate
- C. Clifton Jones III
 - a. Spoke in favor of the mask mandate
- D. Sherry Ponder
 - a. Spoke opposing the mask mandate
- E. Marlene Anderson
 - a. Spoke in favor of the mask mandate
- F. Holly Leasure
 - a. Was not present to speak
- G. Jerralee Fiermonte
 - a. Spoke opposing the mask mandate
- H. Kyle Church
 - a. Spoke in favor of the mask mandate
- I. Cedric Beedles
 - a. Spoke in favor of the mask mandate
- J. Cathryn Mitchell
 - a. Spoke opposing the mask mandate
- K. Bill Willis
 - a. Spoke in favor of the mask mandate
- L. Michelle Hallmark
 - a. Spoke opposing the mask mandate
- M. Jennifer Black
 - a. Was not present to speak
- N. Milton Brown
 - a. Spoke in favor of the mask mandate
- O. Jacki Snow
 - a. Spoke opposing the mask mandate
- P. Will Jones
 - a. Spoke opposing the mask mandate
- Q. Dellena Priester
 - a. Spoke in favor of the mask mandate

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NEW BUSINESS

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 July 19, 2021 Executive Session
- B. Minutes of July 19, 2021 Work Session/Regular Board Meeting
- C. FY22 Capital Outlay Program
- D. Surplus
- E. FY22 21st Century Community Learning Center Grants (CCLC)
- F. Lexia Learning Systems LLC Software Renewal
- G. Renaissance Learning for Title I Schools
- H. Curriculum Advantage (Classworks Suite) for Title I Schools
- I. WriteScore for Title I Schools
- J. Gaggle
- K. Curriculum Associates - IREADY
- L. Certified Personnel
- M. Classified Personnel

On motion by Michelle Simmons, seconded by Glenn Easterwood, unanimous approval was given to approve the agenda as presented.

ACTION AGENDA

- A. Purchase of Food Service Delivery Vehicle

On motion by Michelle Simmons, seconded by Glenn Easterwood, unanimous approval was given to approve the agenda as presented.

INFORMATION ONLY

- A. Overnight/Out of State Field Trips

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BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A. Next Board Meeting Date: August 17, 2021 at 8am - 1st Tax Millage Rate Hearing
- B. Glenn Easterwood
 - a. Stated we must work together to mitigate COVID-19
- C. Devettrion Caldwell
 - a. Stated his disappointment in the audience conduct during the meeting
- D. Michelle Simmons
 - a. Stated the importance to continue to hear from the community
 - b. Stated the desire to keep students and children in school face to face
- E. Tracy Rookard
 - a. Stated we must be collaborative and civil in the opposing views of the audience
 - b. Stated that necessary changes will be considered based on the audience participation and feedback
- F. Trent North
 - a. Compared starting the 2020-2021 school year to the 2021-2022 school year
 - b. Stated 3 main goals for this school year amid the COVID-19 virus:
 - i. To keep students and employees safe
 - ii. To maintain a Monday-Friday schedule
 - iii. To maintain face to face instruction

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board did not go into Executive Session

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:31 PM.

Trent North, Superintendent

Tracy Rookard, Chair