

**MINUTES**  
**DOUGLAS COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**REGULAR BOARD MEETING & TAX MILLAGE RATE 2<sup>ND</sup> PUBLIC HEARING**  
**AUGUST 17, 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); and Ms. Rita Fasina-Thomas (Post 5). Mr. D.T. Jackson (Post 2) arrived at 7:13 p.m.

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. Caldwell, seconded by Ms. Simmons, unanimous approval was given to approve the agenda as presented.

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> PUBLIC HEARING ON TAX MILLAGE RATE

The staff will recommend that the Board lower the millage rate from 19.65 mills to 19.6 mills.

No one was present to address the Board.

#### 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.

A. Mr. John Williams addressed the Board. He is president of the Alexander High School Softball Booster Club. His daughter is a senior on the softball team. He would like for high school softball to continue. He said that if we cancel the season that sports will go on but not as controlled as in a high school setting. He recommends that we make masks mandatory for coaches, players and fans and limit ticket sales. He said there are 11 seniors on the team this year and they are looking forward to a great season. He suggested that we look at each sport on an individual basis.

B. Mr. David Ligon signed up to speak but was not present at the meeting.

#### NEW BUSINESS

A. Re-Opening of School

Mr. Eric Collins, District Athletic Director, provided an update to the Board on fall sports.

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Ms. Angela Carter, Area Executive Director, along with Kenja Parks, Principal of Factory Shoals Elementary; Chelsie Goodman, Principal of Winston Elementary; Dr. Raymond Leonard, Principal of Factory Shoals Middle School; and Dr. Chris Small, Principal of Alexander High School, presented information on COVID-19 to the Board on the District's re-opening plan including safety procedures that schools will follow when students return to the buildings.

Dr. Michelle Ruble, Assistant Superintendent of General Administration, presented information on the accommodations that are being made for medically fragile employees during the time of COVID-19.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

- A. Minutes of July 20, 2020 Executive Session
- B. Minutes of July 20, 2020 Work Session/Regular Board Meeting and Budget Hearing
- C. May 2020 Financial Reports
- D. Surplus of Mobiles
- E. FY21 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Center Grants
- F. Certified Personnel
- G. Classified Personnel

**ACTION AGENDA**

- A. Savvas myPerspective for High School English Language Arts

On motion by Mr. Jackson, seconded by Mr. Caldwell, unanimous approval was given to approve the purchase of Savvas myPerspective as presented.

**INFORMATION ONLY**

**BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Ms. Fasina-Thomas thanked Mr. North, her fellow board members and the Executive Cabinet for helping her daughter with the recent fire that destroyed her home. Ms. Fasina-Thomas was very grateful for the support and appreciates everyone.

Mr. Jackson thanked all of the administrators for their hard work daily.

Ms. Simmons thanked everyone that presented information and working through COVID 19. You are doing a wonderful job. Ms. Simmons thanked the parent that shared concerns and

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provided a solution.

Ms. Rookard thanked those that presented and the level of detail provided and our response to maneuver through the pandemic. We will get through it and we support you. We have added a 4<sup>th</sup> public hearing for the tax millage rate on Thursday, August 20 at 5:00 p.m.

Mr. North said that on behalf of himself and the team, he thanks the Board for asking questions and holding us accountable. Thank you for pushing us and providing us space and supporting us on trying to make the right decisions. We appreciate your support. Mr. North said that he would like to commend the principals today for the good start. Mr. North thanked Mr. Hindmon and the technology staff for a very good first start. Mr. North thanked Ms. Handley and the Special Education department and teachers for welcoming back our exceptional students today.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:57 p.m.

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Trent North, Superintendent

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Tracy Rookard, Chair