

MINUTES
DOUGLAS COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
WORK SESSION
FEBRUARY 1, 2021

The Douglas County Board of Education met in a work session in the board room of the administrative office building at 9030 Highway 5. Ms. Tracy Rookard called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Board Members present were: Ms. Tracy Rookard, Chair (Post 3); Ms. Michelle Simons, Vice Chair (Post 4); Mr. Devetrion Caldwell, (Post 1); Mr. D.T. Jackson, (Post 2), and Mr. Glenn Easterwood, (Post 5).

Staff members present were Mr. Trent North, Superintendent; Ms. Pam Nail, Assistant Superintendent of Student Services; Mr. Greg Denney, Chief Financial Officer; Mr. Kwame Carr, Assistant Superintendent of District Operations; Dr. Michelle Ruble, Assistant Superintendent of General Administration; Mrs. Nell Boggs, Executive Director of Community Relations; and Mrs. Melanie Nicholson, Secretary to the Superintendent.

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

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

None.

BOARD RECOGNITION

A. Youth Leadership Douglas County Schools

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 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 fall 2020 Youth Leadership Douglas class over two meetings. The other half of the class was recognized at the last Board of Education meeting. I am delighted tonight to recognize those participants from Chapel Hill, Douglas County and Lithia Springs High Schools.

Members of the fall 2020 Youth Leadership Douglas Class are:

From Chapel Hill High School:

Sam Austin

Denver Moreland

Israel Thorpe

From Douglas County High School:

Neal Daniel

Kiersten Elder

Bryce Falker

Lily Hart

Josh McElroy

From Lithia Springs High School:

Rebecca Scarbrough

BOARD AGENDA ITEMS

- A. Minutes of Previous Meetings
 - 1. Minutes of January 11, 2021 Work Session
 - 2. Minutes of January 19, 2021 Board Meeting
 - 2. Minutes of January 19, 2021 Executive Session
- B. Student Achievement & Leadership
- C. Special Education
- D. Finance
- E. Operations
 - 1. Surplus of Various Items
- F. Technology
- G. School Nutrition

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1. Walk-In Freezer Bid Tabulation
- H. Student Services
- I. General Administration
- F. Personnel

ACTION AGENDA

- A. \$1,000 Disaster Relief Payment Program

On motion by Mr. Jackson, seconded by Ms. Simmons, unanimous approval was given to authorized the board staff to administer a Disaster Relief Payment Program pursuant to IRS Section 139(b)(4) created by the COVID-19 Disaster declaration on March 13, 2020 under the following written guidelines:

1. The payment will be to reimburse employees for expenses to promote general welfare not otherwise covered by insurance;
2. Eligible employees are those employees employed in full time (benefits eligible) positions;
3. Method of Reimbursement – one time direct payment of \$1,000 per employee via check;
4. Program will start on February 1, 2021 and end February 15, 2021.

INFORMATION ONLY

- A. 2021-2022 Full Calendar

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Caldwell thanked everyone and said this is very exciting that we can offer more to our staff. Our goal is to offer more to our staff.

Ms. Simmons echoed what Mr. Caldwell said.

Ms. Rookard said that we know that our employees work hard and that our teachers are working under challenging situations. Thank you for all your hard work.

Mr. North said that on behalf of all staff we thank you. We know that our board always tries to

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do the right thing by our employees. This is just another way to say thank you to our staff. Thank you board members.

Important Dates

- Regular Board Meeting – February 8, 2021 7:00 p.m.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:29 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board did not go into Executive Session.

Trent North, Superintendent

Tracy Rookard, Chair