Decatur County Board of Education
January 16, 2014
Work Session Meeting

The Decatur County Board of Education met for the Work Session Meeting on January 16, 2014, at 6:00 p.m. at the Decatur County Board of Education Support Center, 507 Martin Street. Members present were: Dr. Sydney Cochran, Chairman, Mr. Jacky Grubbs, Vice Chairman, Mr. Bobby Barber, Jr., Mr. Kelvin Bouie, Sr., Mr. Randall Jones and Mr. Winston Rollins.

Dr. Cochran called the meeting to order.

Superintendent Rayfield provided the Board with information on the following items:

- Budget Update - information provided by Superintendent, Dr. Fred Rayfield and Chief Financial Officer, Mr. Tim Matthews.
- CCRPI/Student Growth Update (Strategic Goal Area 1 – Student Achievement) - information provided by Dr. April Aldridge, Assistant Superintendent for Elementary Curriculum and Dr. Suzi Bonifay, Assistant Superintendent for Secondary Curriculum.

**Superintendent Notes:**

(1) Board Chair and Vice Chair – Selection Process.

**REMINDDERS:**


2). Board Training – Decatur County Schools Support Center – 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. on February 6, 2014. Topic: Attracting, Developing and Retaining School and System Leadership.

Mr. Bobby Barber made a motion to adjourn, with a second by Mr. Winston Rollins. The motion carried and the meeting adjourned.
The Decatur County Board of Education met for its regular monthly meeting on January 16, 2014, at 7:00 p.m. at the Decatur County Schools Support Center. Members present were: Dr. Sydney Cochran, Chairman, Mr. Jacky Grubbs, Vice Chairman, Mr. Bobby Barber, Jr., Mr. Kelvin Bouie, Sr., Mr. Randall Jones and Mr. Winston Rollins.

Dr. Cochran called the meeting to order. Mr. Jacky Grubbs gave the invocation. The inspirational message was provided by Jones Wheat Elementary Teacher of the Year, Mrs. Otha Backey whom read a poem entitled: “Be Inspired” and showed a video entitled: “Life Is a Little Bit of Work.”

Mr. Jacky Grubbs made a motion to accept the agenda. Mr. Kelvin Bouie gave a second to the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Randall Jones made a motion to accept the minutes of the previous meeting. Mr. Winston Rollins made the second to the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: None

SPECIAL RECOGNITION:

Superintendent Rayfield presented:

- Dr. April Aldridge, Assistant Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Cheryl Guy, System Parent Involvement Coordinator, Mrs. Allison Matthews, WBE Principal and School Superintendent, Dr. Fred Rayfield recognized the Decatur County 2014 Georgia Parent Leadership Award Winner – Mrs. Gail Bouie. Mrs. Bouie is one of six winners for the State of Georgia.

Superintendent Notes:

Dr. Rayfield shared current proposals by Georgia Legislators and the Governor as they relate to the state budget. Additional monies are being allocated to education, which is good news. Stipulations in how this money will be spent have not yet been determined. There are discussions of increased monies for technology. There may be monies set aside to fund instructional days that have been lost due to furlough days. Monies also have been set aside to assist in funding non-certified staff insurance increases for one year. This will help with the Decatur County School’s Budget.
INFORMATION ITEMS:

I. Administrative Services Report:

A. Financial: Tim Matthews, Chief Financial Officer, reported that with 50% of the school year completed, we have expended 48% of the budget. ESPLOST receipts for December were $331,000 and are down from the prior month, and down by 14% for the year.

B. School Food Service: Mrs. Debbie Purcell, SFS Director – Absent.

C. Maintenance: Jerry Mills, Maintenance Director reported that the Maintenance Department has been working under challenging conditions repairing broken water pipes due to the cold weather. The new Jones-Wheat Elementary School project is going very well. One hundred and two workers were on site today.

D. Transportation: Farrell Lawrence, Transportation Director - reported to the Board that Bus Inspections for all Decatur County School busses will occur February 18 – 21, 2014. Mr. Lawrence also reported that he will attend an Auction on January 17, 2014 to auction off three busses and two 2 way radios.

E. Kathy Varner, Federal Programs Director reported on the upcoming review sessions to be held regarding the 45 – 60 Day Short Term Action Plan (STAP) for all Decatur County Schools on February 18 – 19, 2014. Mrs. Varner also reported that Homeless numbers are continuing to rise and currently 64 homeless students have been identified.

F. Dr. April Aldridge, Assistant Superintendent for Elementary Curriculum reported on the continuous focus to maximize student growth and achievement.

G. Dr. Suzi Bonifay, Assistant Superintendent for Secondary Curriculum reported the Graduation Rate Information for the 2013 Cohort at Bainbridge High School.

H. Catherine Gossett, Exceptional Education Director reported on CRCT and GAA preparation. Mrs. Gossett also reported that Pre-K Registration will be held on February 11, 2014. Mrs. Gossett also noted that the Decatur County Schools Exceptional Education Department was recently recognized at the Board of RESA Control for not being disproportionate.

I. Technology: Steve Dunn, Director reported on a successful first semester start and a workshop held on using collaborative applications held on January 6, 2014.

ACTION ITEMS:

1. Elect Board Officers- Superintendent Rayfield opened the floor for nominations for Board Chairman for 2014. Mr. Randall Jones nominated Dr. Sydney Cochran for the office of Board Chairman. Mr. Kelvin Bouie seconded the nomination.
Mr. Bobby Barber made the motion to close nominations. Mr. Kelvin Bouie seconded the motion. The motion carried with a unanimous vote. Dr. Sydney Cochran will serve as Board Chairman for the 2014 year.

Dr. Cochran, on behalf of the Board of Education, expressed the pleasure and appreciation of the Board to work with all employees as a cohesive team.

Dr. Cochran opened the floor for nominations for Vice Chairman. Mr. Randall Jones nominated Mr. Jacky Grubbs for the office of Vice Chairman. Mr. Bobby Barber seconded the nomination. The motion carried with a unanimous vote. Mr. Jacky Grubbs will serve as Vice Chairman for the 2014 year.

2. Approval of Out-of-State/Overnight Field Trips:
   (a) *BMS Sea Camp Trip, May 4, 2014 – May 7, 2014, Big Pine Key, Florida.
   Mr. Kelvin Bouie made a motion to approve Out-of-State/Overnight Field Trips, with a second by Mr. Bobby Barber. The motion carried unanimously.

4. Recommendation of Personnel - Superintendent Rayfield presented the Board with the January 2014 personnel recommendations and resignations. Mr. Bobby Barber made a motion to accept the personnel recommendations and resignations. Mr. Jacky Grubbs made a second to the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Randall Jones made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Kelvin Bouie made a second to the motion. The motion carried with a unanimous vote. The meeting was adjourned.

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J. Sydney Cochran                Fred H. Rayfield, Jr.
Chair or Presiding Officer      Secretary