

BOARD DOWNLOAD

September 13, 2021 Board Meeting

If you missed the September 13, 2021 Board Meeting, please visit DSTV on demand (VOD): <https://www.dekalbschoolsga.org/communications/dstv/>

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

During the first ten days of school, DCSD evaluated students on how they were doing academically through Diagnostic Assessments. This led to instructional planning:

- What to teach (develop lessons based on the data)
- How to teach
- Which strategies to use
- Academic support

COVID-19 RESPONSE

- The DeKalb County School District actively reviews the health data and guidance and consults with the Department of Public Health and the Medical Advisory Committee to inform decision-making pertaining to the health and safety of staff and students. The District will inform the community if there are modifications to in-person instruction, activities, and/or daily operations.
- *Per the feedback received from the Medical Advisory Committee and Board members, the decision-making matrix was revised* because of the risk of identifying any single metric to drive the closure determination.
- *No single condition or data point determines the school district's operating status. Instead, a combination of multiple, dynamic factors* including daily COVID-19 exposure and positive reports from stakeholders, staff and student absenteeism rates, local school's ability to implement the mitigating strategies, and ability to maintain appropriate staffing for essential functions of the school and/or district.
- The decision-making matrix provides guidance to facilitate the continued effective operations of the classroom, school, cluster, region, and/or district.
- <https://www.dekalbschoolsga.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/covid-19-closure-procedures-document-2021-2022.pdf>
- DCSD has developed a pivot checklist in the event that DCSD has to go virtual at any time and to ensure the transition goes smoothly and students and teachers have devices at hand
- DCSD currently encourages those who are eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine to get vaccinated. We continue to work with our partners at the DeKalb County Board of Health to host clinics for our staff. The District will partner with Georgia Department of Public Health to facilitate onsite surveillance testing. We will use surveillance testing as a safeguard to minimize the spread of COVID-19 for our learners, staff and families.

- DCSD Family Engagement Mobile IMPACT Learning Hub for families will launch 9-22-21 to help with registration and distribution of resources

SEL Support/Family Impact Hub

- Additional Training for Counselors and Social Workers (Trauma Informed Care and Mental Health) are being provided
- School-based sessions are being offered through our Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) and expanding MTSS offerings
- Relationship Building Activities are being in local school counseling sessions and scholars can call a friend in the building
- Expanding our Family Impact Hub-Family Mobile Unit will launch next week to support families. The Vision for the Mobile Bus: Provide a Mobile Parent and Student Center for stakeholders to receive information, resources, and training in the comfort of their neighborhoods.
- Cross-Collaboration across divisions is being provided to support parents and heighten parent awareness of mental health resources
- There's a safe center at Cross Keys High School to support students and families
- The Safe Center at Cross Keys has been established to meet the needs of the students and families in the community. SAFE stands for Student and Family Engagement. The Safe Center was designed to provide extended services to the schoolhouse. Services include local resources, including social services, mental health services, and partners, including the Atlanta Community Food Bank and other donors into the schoolhouse to address and remove barriers to education. The Center has dedicated space to promote emotional wellness, and is equipped with a food pantry and clothing closet. Through addressing the needs of the whole child and making services more accessible, the goal of the Safe Center is to increase the graduation rate.

Device Distribution

- Teacher Devices
 - More than 9,000 staff Devices have been distributed to our school-based staff
 - We heard our teachers' concerns regarding the limitations of the Chromebook when trying to interface with DCSD platforms
- Connectivity
 - District-owned and personal laptops are supported by the district network

- Students who have connectivity concerns or may need a hotspot for connectivity at home should submit a request to their local school
- All student requests for Hotspots are made at the local school

Bus Driver Staff and Concerns-Hiring

- DCSD staff is meeting with bus drivers to find solutions and to ensure the safety and well-being of students
- Billboards are posted throughout the district to recruit bus drivers
- Schools have posted on their marquee and made automated calls to recruit for drivers
- Automated calls and HR attended three external job fairs to recruit drivers
- Multi-tiered benefits for bus drivers and we have created an incentive plan and will share with the bus drivers
- We have been looking at the routes to see where there are inefficiencies
- Region I has the highest number of routes
- DCSD is looking at the problem to understand where bus drivers have more capacity

Launching of Edulog:

- The Edulog Tablet is a Samsung tablet that is scheduled for deployment beginning September 15, 2021. The tablet has the functions:
 - Time and Attendance
 - Navigation
 - Student Ridership
 - Telematics
- Edulog Routing Software is a cloud-based bus routing application used to route students to school and allows parents to know when the bus is near the bus stop.
- It will be used at all schools subject to parental use and will help with time and attendance. Visit here for more information:
<https://www.dekalbschoolsga.org/parents/edulog-parent-portal/>

FINANCE

- July Monthly Financial Report reflects 1/12 of the FY2021 Budget as authorized in accordance with the spending resolution that was adopted for July (FY2022).
- Details of charts and expenditures can be found at <https://tinyurl.com/wm2bcwbu> in the FINANCE SECTION.
- The audit is moving on schedule. We closed the FY 2021 books on 9-12-21. This was two weeks earlier than the prior fiscal year. The next milestone will be the delivery of draft financial statements to the State Auditor prior to the end of October 2021. The State is scheduled to begin audit field work in

October. Should the timeline be met, we anticipate that the audited financial statements will be ready for approval in February 2022, approximately three months earlier than last year and within the window of time that would meet the State's targets for timely financial reporting.

HUMAN RESOURCES

- There are a total of 214 Region and District Vacancies
- There are a total of 350 new hires
- There are a total of 150 Separations
- HR has implemented new applicant tracking system
- HR is open to change on how it reports to data
- HR is launching a retention and recruitment campaign to attract top talent
- For hire and separations data see <https://tinyurl.com/wm2bcwbu>

DEKALB SCHOOLS FOUNDATION

- During the October BOE meeting, we will come back to present a slate of potential Foundation Board of Director's for your review and approval and make a full presentation of plans for the foundation.

OPERATIONS

- DCSD is examining the fire sprinkler systems of DCSD buildings and schools and the first round of installations are in the design phase.
- Landscaping services were approved at the BOE meeting for Yellowstone to operate on a month-to-month contract.
- NOTE: The public is invited to apply for membership on the E-SPLOST (Education Special-Purpose Local Option Sales Tax) Advisory Committee. ***Applications can be submitted online until Monday, September 20, 2021.*** Applying online for this great opportunity to work behind the scenes in one of Georgia's largest school districts is easy! Just [click here to submit](#) your information.