
ITEM : 8. Superintendent Report - Dr. Phyllis A. Edwards

Summary

March 2019 Dothan City School Board Meeting

As we approach spring break, we near a three- month mark in the planning to reorganize the school system. I continue to provide the Task Lists and I am pleased to report that many central office staff personnel have created their own Task Lists to follow and document the work.

Without being intricately involved, no one would know or understand the depth of the work which has been done. We are working in a systematic manner so that, to the extent possible, we do not miss a key piece.

The teachers and other certified staff now have their assignments. The Board will be asked to approve the placements at this Board Meeting. The staff and I will work to make sure that support personnel are notified of their placements for next year or notified if the position (as described in the February Board Meeting-at a public meeting) is RIFFed. This is a huge step in the reorganization process.

The Principals have met with their staffs and many have had conversations with parents. During the next few months, open houses and meet and greets will take place.

I attended the JROTC Ball at Dothan. It was lovely. It was so nice of the Dothan Cadets to invite the JROTC Northview Cadets. In addition, the Black History Celebration was very uplifting and a true testament to how the future is in good hands.

We continue to work on next year's budget and purchase orders will be closed out right before spring break. This will give us an opportunity to project out in terms of fund balance. Our goal is to ensure that we continue to have the one-months expenditures available.

This upcoming year, the second budget cycle that I have participated in, brings us closer to the way the state and federal funding is to be utilized. We expect to save approximately 3 million dollars but remember that we plan to put dollars back in play for necessary staff and professional development.

We will move forward with the many building renovations and major fixes that are required and have been pending for some time now. With the bond dollars, which have been mapped out in detail, the plans continue to be fine-tuned.

I attended a County Commission Meeting and shared the budget shortfalls. I estimate that the system needs an additional 7 million per year to ensure that we can continue to move toward being the best school system in the state and the nation.

We have completed a complete audit on the Transportation services. Director Bruner does a fine job. He enjoyed the mentorship, he received from a very seasoned Transportation Director (retired), and we will bring the findings to you next month. Transportation is a key service but just like other operations, it is a support to the schools and instruction. We hope to bring you some details which show that thinking outside of the box and looking at all facets of the funding and delivery of students, will save dollars but most important, keep students from being on the bus too long or being dropped off too early or picked up too late.

Thank you to Mr. Faulk for serving in the difficult capacity of drafting next

year's calendar. This is one of the areas where there is no way to make everyone happy. We will present the calendar to you at this March meeting.

Scott has also worked on the Student Code of Conduct. He does not do this alone but works with Principals and others to develop the code. We feel it is necessary to project a strict and consistent message and not tolerate behaviors which are threatening to students, teachers or staff.

Board Members will attend a Legislative Conference in early March. I will be attending a Superintendent's Conference the week prior to the Board Conference. We are hearing that a salary increase may be coming from the state after this session. Certainly, teachers and staff deserve a raise.

Groups of Principals, Directors and Staff Members are working in teams to dissect the moving process. We are now taking inventory of equipment, furniture and materials.

The JROTC Northview Instructor and the JROTC Cadets will be assisting us with the moves. The group that works every summer, WIRED, has also agreed to provide assistance and the Pastor of the Wiregrass Community Church has also offered assistance with volunteers.

Teachers and Principals are reviewing media collections; which have not been addressed in some time. Also, technology will be categorized and placed out in schools. We are attempting not to order new at this time; until we have determined what we have and what condition it is in presently.

The CFO has come up with a plan to forward funding to schools where a predominant number or percentage of students will be housed. He will present this to you in March or April.

In April, we will tackle the School Choice Issue. I will begin by asking Principals for the numbers of possible seats at their schools. Then, we will advertise the open slots and have parents complete an application form. These forms will be turned in to their School of choice. At the school site, the Principal will determine if a lottery is necessary and will conduct a lottery. I would ask that if a parent does receive the choice they request, then the child should stay in the school of choice until the end of that school-aged experience.

In April, I will also tackle the issue of out of zone requests for transfer. I want to make sure that we have in zone and in system students placed first.

Testing ramps up again in April. It is almost never-ending. We cannot address the movement of technology until the testing has ceased.

The existing PreK classes for next year are filled. If we receive additional classes for next year, we will advertise the openings. These children will be housed at Honeysuckle next year and staff led by Christy Martin.

I am pleased with the addition of SPOTLIGHTS to the Board Agenda. There are many good things happening and this is just a sampling of the positive items going on in this school system.

Thanks for the support and I wish everyone a pleasant and restful spring break.

Goals

✓ **Goal I-STRATEGIC PRIORITY: A. Meet or exceed the Alabama 2020 Learning Goals.**

✓

Goal VI-STRATEGIC PRIORITY: B. Build Community Pride, Spirit and support for the Dothan City Schools, because investment in our public schools equals investment in the City of Dothan.

✓

Goal XI-STRATEGIC PRIORITY: C. Create a seamless educational pathway in which every child enters kindergarten ready to learn and graduates college and career ready.

✓

Goal XVIII-STRATEGIC PRIORITY: D. Foster the health and development of all students through social, emotional, behavioral, and physical supports in collaboration with parents and community partners.

✓
Goal XXIII-STRATEGIC PRIORITY: E. Attract and retain highly qualified and inspired personnel at all levels, able to meet 21st Century learning needs.

✓
Goal XXIX-STRATEGIC PRIORITY: F. Adequately fund infrastructure critical to student outcomes including, but not limited to administrative personnel, facilities, transportation, nutrition and technology.

Supporting Documents

[3-18-19 - SR - Department Evaluation.pdf](#)
[3-18-19 - Beverlye-Timeline for Restructuring .pdf](#)
[3-18-19 - Carver MST Update.pdf](#)
[3-18-19 - Dothan City Early Education Center.pdf](#)
[3-18-19 - New Dothan High Updates 03.11.19.pdf](#)
[3-18-19 - Dothan Preparatory Update.pdf](#)
[3-18-19 - Girard Primary Update.docx](#)
[3-18-19 - Girard Intermediate Update.pdf](#)
[3-18-19 - Heard Update Flyer.pdf](#)
[3-18-19 - Hidden Lake Primary Update.pdf](#)
[3-18-19 - Highlands Update for the Board-March 2019.pdf](#)
[3-18-19 - Jerry Lee Faine Update.pdf](#)
[3-18-19 - Kelly Springs Update.docx](#)
[3-18-19 - Selma Street Update.pdf](#)
[3-18-19 - Slingluff Update.pdf](#)
[3-18-19 - Good News.pdf](#)
[3-1-19 - DCS Restructuring To Do List.pdf](#)
[2-19-19 - Dothan City Schools- Houston County Meeting RR.pptx](#)
[3-18-19 - SSA Legislative Update.docx](#)

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