

1. Call to Order

2. Moment of Silence

3. Pledge of Allegiance

4. Approval of Agenda and Proposed Agenda Modifications

5. Superintendent Statement

6. Board Discussion of System Reorganization Plan

7. New Business

- A. Board approved Board Meeting(s) to be held at Beverlye Magnet School, 1025 S. Beverlye Road
 - i. Monday, November 26, 2018, 5:30 PM - Special Called School Board Meeting
 - ii. Thursday, December 13, 2018, 2:00 PM - School Board Work Session
 - iii. Monday, December 17, 2018, 5:00 PM - Regular School Board Meeting
- B. Schedule of Board Meetings

8. Adjournment

Mike Schmitz
Chairman

Brenda Guilford
Vice-Chair/District 1

Franklin Jones
District 2

Susan Vierkandt
District 3

Brett Strickland
District 4

Amy Bonds
District 5

Chris Maddox
District 6

1. Call to Order

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5. Superintendent Recommendation for Dothan City Schools Restructuring

6. Board Action

7. New Business

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DISTRICT-WIDE ACCREDITATION BY THE SOUTHERN ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGES AND SCHOOLS

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY AGENCY

November 26, 2018

Superintendent's Recommendation:

Recommend the Dothan City School Board adopt the Superintendent of Schools' Recommendation of Scenario 5, which reconfigures the district into K-6 Elementary Schools; a 7-9 Junior High, 10-12 Senior High. School Buildings to close Include Grandview Elementary, Cloverdale Elementary, Montana Street Elementary and Honeysuckle Middle School. Signature School models will exist at all elementary schools. Once neighborhood children are seated within their home zone, opportunities for school choice will be provided. Carver Magnet School will remain open for grades 3,4,5 and 6 with a focus on Science and Math.

PROCESS and RATIONALE:

It is clear that the Dothan City School System cannot remain on the current path. While there are many positives within the system, there are factors which cannot be ignored and which have led to a decline in enrollment and efficacy. In order to determine, with as many facts and as much information as possible, the Superintendent led a detailed review and included a myriad of information in the development of a model for the future.

*The mission of the school system is to **Empower all students for the choices and challenges of the 21st Century**. In order to meet this mission, it is the responsibility of the School Board to determine the future course for the school system to ensure the best fit for all students. Public Schools are to provide free and appropriate education for all students. It is no longer adequate to provide programs without opportunity for all to succeed.*

To ensure that the steps of this plan were clearly understood by the Board Members and the public, every opportunity was given to a creating a transparent process. This process has been on-going since the spring of 2018. Every aspect of this school system has been reviewed and considered. The information has been presented to the Board and the public with presentations posted on the website on the following dates:

May 2

May 17

July 20

August 16

September 13

November 2018

Over 331 questions were posted and answered on-line; excluding the last question and answer opportunity / presented publicly on November 15, 2018.

At the end of October, the Board met in a work session and the Superintendent gave an additional full report of the possible scenarios, reasons for the study and determinations of the needs of the system.

This process was public and was designed to provide information and take public comment. There were no fewer than 3 public presentations, 2-4 opportunities for public comment and several sessions for the board to review details in a timely manner. In addition, the Superintendent met with Board Members individually and in groups of two or three to answer questions. Principals and Directors have been included in the plan development and asked to provide input.

The following factors were considered:

- *Enrollment*
- *Building capacity*
- *Campus Size*
- *Educational Resource allocation and possibilities*
- *Pros/Cons*
- *Funding Issues*
- *Deferred Maintenance Needs*
- *Staffing Considerations*
- *Academic Proficiency Levels*
- *Increased Emphasis on Career Technology Initiatives*
- *Establishment of a Prekindergarten Early Childhood Center*

From the beginning of the presentations provided at the Dothan Museum and the Civic Center, the Superintendent stated that any saved funding would be used to provide additional academic resources and benefits to remaining schools. For example, the possible use of resources would go toward increasing salary schedules, providing a

foreign language at the elementary level, providing gifted services at all elementary schools, increasing the reading opportunities for struggling students, social worker staff position and increasing staff professional development.

At the secondary levels, the disbursement of students into several facilities decreases the ability to provide additional academic and extra-curricular opportunities as staff is duplicated and spread out. Taking the opportunity to put students together concentrates the teachers and support staff in a common site. This also provides opportunities for collaboration and proper use of materials and technology. This puts children with common age and need requirements together and teachers with appropriate training and certification to assist the students.

Providing vision, direction, stated outcomes and accountability for Principals, teachers and students will give a road map to educators. The vision is to create a system where every school provides a high-level academic environment and a system in which there are significant beacons of educational initiatives and opportunity so that students will remain in the system and those that have left may look to return in order to be part of these educational opportunities.

There is no doubt that this is a weighty decision for the School Board Members. There can be no solution which will be embraced by all members of the community; and as such, much pressure is placed on members to make decisions of which their closest constituents may approve. Voltaire is credited with first stating, "With much power comes great responsibility"; If you have the responsibility to do something, make sure that you do it for the good of others.