

March 16, 2009 Date	Regular Kind of Meeting	Teachers' Center Where Held	Dr. Steve Stokes, Chairman Presiding Officer
Members Present:	Dr. Steve Stokes Ms. Gayla White Mrs. Brenda Guilford Mr. Franklin Jones Mr. Jimmy Addison Dr. Hays McKay	Members Absent:	Mr. Chris Maddox

The Chairman, Dr. Steve Stokes, called the meeting to order.

Dr. Hays McKay led in prayer.

The Chairman led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Franklin Jones read the Mission Statement of Dothan City Schools.

Mr. Franklin Jones gave the School System News stating:

1. Mr. Greg Yance, Principal, Girard Middle School, reports that Good Morning America came to Girard Middle School on February 23rd at 10:30 to interview some of the students about letters they wrote to President Obama (printed in the Dothan Eagle). This was part of an assignment in Mrs. Mauldin's 7th grade Civics Class. They were particularly interested in a letter written by Makayla Weekly. Thanks Mrs. Mauldin for a great job. Everyone keep an eye out for the broadcast of this on national TV! Congratulations to the Science Olympiad team. They placed in the top 10 on their first trip to the state-wide competition. Proof positive great things are happening at GMS! Our team had some great coaches and parent mentors. Thanks to Mrs. Hall and all those parents and teachers that helped with this effort.
2. Mrs. Aneta Walker, Principal, Cloverdale Elementary School, reports Jump Rope for Heart was a very successful event! Students had fun and many improved their jump rope skills. They learned how using a simple jump rope could give them a tremendous amount of exercise! Our school raised a total of \$2,519.36. The American Heart Association will reward us with \$100.00 of free equipment for our fundraising success. The top class was Mrs. Hatcher's with \$297.50. Our top money raiser for Cloverdale was Dassandra Sawvell who raised \$200.00. Thank you to all who participated in helping to raise money to fight heart disease and stroke.

Dr. Steve Stokes recognized and thanked Commissioner Keith Seagle for coming.

Ms. Susan Trawick, Executive Director, Dothan-Houston County Substance Abuse Partnership presented Kevin Bishop with the Daily Point of Light Award stating the school system played a vital role in Kevin's development and instilled leadership qualities. Award number 3872 was awarded and presented to Kevin Bishop by the President of the United States on December 5, 2008. There has only been one other student in the history of Dothan, Alabama to receive this award. Kevin's career began working with his grandparents as a 7th grader for Meals on Wheels, he has volunteered with the Medical Center, Dothan Leisure Services, the Soup Bank, Habitat for Humanity, and has been on several mission trips. He is a member of the Dothan-Houston County Substance Abuse Partnership Youth Council and an honor student at Northview. He is also a finalist for the Sony Star Class of 2010 Scholarship.

Ms. Gayla White made a motion seconded by Mrs. Brenda Guilford to accept the Agenda and Consent as submitted along with the item mailed to us this weekend as recommended by the Superintendent. The motion carried. Voting was as follows: "YEA" – Guilford, Jones, White, Stokes, Addison, McKay. "NAY" – None. "ABSTAIN" – None.

Minute(s): February 2, 2009 – Special, February 17, 2009 – Regular, February 23, 2009 – Special, March 2, 2009 – Special, March 9, 2009 – Special Called
Monthly Financial Reports and Accounts Payable/Payrolls (See Attachment "A")
Child Nutrition Program – Monthly Financial Report
Project Updates
Donation(s)
Bid(s): Sporting Equipment – Carver Magnet School and Asbestos Floor Tile Removal–Dothan High School – Science & Arts and Old Vocational Buildings
Cafeteria Addition – Dothan High School

Dr. Dell Goodwin presented the Personnel Agenda including Addendum.

Ms. Gayla White made a motion seconded by Dr. Hays McKay to approve the Personnel Agenda along with the Addendum as presented and as recommended by the Superintendent. The motion carried. Voting was as follows: "YEA" – Guilford, Jones, White, Stokes, Addison, McKay. "NAY" – None. "ABSTAIN" – None. (See Attachment "B")

Dr. Steve Stokes stated that the retirees would be recognized at a later date.

Dr. Sam Nichols stated we are concluding Phase I of our Co-Owned Strategic Plan that we and so many people in this community have been working on for so many months. We have involved community members through forums held throughout the City and through the work that has been going on that Rhonda Waltman and Harold Dodge assisted us in developing. I have to give accolades to Allyson Morgan who has worked extremely hard in putting this plan together. Dr. Nichols introduced Mrs. Allyson Morgan and Mr. Matt Parker to present the plan to the Board for consideration. He further stated he would agenda the plan for the next meeting for discussion and approval by the Board.

Mrs. Allyson Morgan addressed the Board stating we are here to present to you and the community the Co-owned Strategic Plan which represents the combined efforts of our community and Dothan City Schools. Mrs. Morgan reviewed the Co-Owned Strategic Plan – Phase I 2008-2013 as follows:

1. *Where We Started*
 - June 16 – DCS School Board unanimously supported "Yes We Can! Dothan"
 - June – October – 47 community meetings held involving 1,000 citizens
 - October 20 – Community Agreement presented to the Board
2. *Themes from Community Conversations*
 - Graduation for All: Ready for College, Work, Life
 - Communication That Informs, Engages, and Reconnects Dothan
 - High Expectations and Accountability for Home, School and Community
 - Parent responsibility and Accountability
 - Funding Better Schools to make a Better Dothan
3. *Dothan City School's Actions:* "It is our hope that the community will reclaim its public schools and return Dothan to being ranked among the finest public school systems in the state of Alabama and in the United States." Dr Sam Nichols, Dothan City Schools Strategic Plan for Excellence
4. *Graduation for All*
 - Revise Curriculum to include high standards and 21st Century Skills
 - Deepen the level of instruction through targeted Professional Development, focused inspections and benchmarks of all students – K-12.
 - Change Culture to increase student engagement
 - Improve leadership at all levels
5. *High Expectations and Accountability for All*
 - School - Establish student advocacy programs
 - Home – Establish family support programs at all levels
 - Community - Establish Superintendent's Leadership Team that connects schools, families, and community.
6. *Parent Responsibility and Involvement Parent Responsibility and Involvement*
 - Develop nontraditional avenues to reach out to parents and connect them with school
 - Establish opportunities for involvement in the community and schools
 - Identify and implement best practice models on parent involvement
7. *Funding Better Schools to Make a Better Dothan*
 - Communicate with transparency
 - Develop model for every school that provides opportunities for all students
 - Publicize financial status of system
 - Seek grants and outside funding
8. *Communication that Informs, Engages, and Reconnects*
 - Engage students as part of the communication process
 - Implement school-based success teams to coordinate continuous communication efforts
 - Implement Customer focus/marketing focus
 - Utilize all viable communication avenues

Mr. Matt Parker addressed the Board stating many residents, business leaders and community leaders have been involved in this project. We have raised the bar in our community because we are focused on

enhancing our educational system. It is because of leadership of Dr. Nichols and the School Board to open the door and work collaboratively to build a stronger system. Mr. Parker continued reviewing the Co-Owned Strategic Plan – Phase I 2008-2013 as follows:

1. *Community's Actions:* ...“if our children are going no where, neither are we.” Judge Rose Gordon
2. *Graduation for All*
 - Provide personnel to develop and manage a data system that focuses on continuous improvement
 - Develop and administer a dropout and graduate study
 - Manage a Civic Index for Quality Public Education
3. *High Expectations and Accountability for All*
 - Develop multiple volunteer groups for all local schools through parents, businesses, faith-based and other community agencies
 - Establish recognition programs for outstanding students, teachers, counselors and staff
4. *Parent Responsibility and Involvement*
 - Coordinate P-12 reform initiatives with the Wiregrass P-20 Public Education Council
 - Manage and Replicate the FACES program currently serving Faine and Grandview (Families and Communities Empowering Students)
 - Develop Best Practice Model Program on parent and community involvement and responsibilities
5. *Funding Better Schools to Make a Better Dothan*
 - Maintain collaborative effort to identify and put in place a stable funding mechanism for DCS.
 - Develop marketing/media plan.
6. *Communication that Informs, Engages, and Reconnects:* Employ a marketing/media/communications director to lead and manage information from and about DCS.

Mr. Parker stated our system will be strong because we as citizens of Dothan are united and focused on one common vision for our school system. Mrs. Morgan stated that common vision must be couched in the belief that all children matter and can learn rigorous and relevant 21st Century knowledge and skills. Dr. Sam Nichols thanked everyone for their countless hours of work and devotion to this effort. It is exciting to know that our entire community is involved and the great things that can come because of this partnership between the School System and this Community.

Mr. Jimmy Addison thanked everyone for coming and for the community supporting this, it takes all of us and I really believe in our public education. We have got to work with our kids and give our Administrators the opportunity to work with kids and give them the resources. A lot of you do not have children in the system anymore but you know what it means to this community. The way our kids go is the way our community is going to go. I appreciate all of you putting your time and efforts into this and let us continue to work together.

Discussion was held among Board Members and Mrs. Morgan regarding graduates, drop outs, things we can do, where they are going when they start dropping out, drop outs not being a high school problem but an elementary problem, they drop out when they get to high school, at what point do students fall behind, we need to look at the students that do graduate and where they are going, how many have to have remediation, how many make it through 4 years of college, how many make it through 2 years of college. Mrs. Morgan stated I went to the Governors' Drop Out Summit last week and he made a profound statement he said we know the problem and we know the programs to fix it but it boils down to one caring adult with one student. We heard about programs at the Summit that can mentor students. Discussion continued regarding studies on how the first three years of school might affect the drop out rate, studies that say attendance in first grade is a predictor of drop out, the failure rate between first and third grade is a big predictor of students dropping out, being prepared for kindergarten, there are studies regarding the first five years of a students' life and how they are connected with what is going on at school and with a parent or mentor, the more prepared we have our students for school the better they will be, and if you have students enrolled in a pre-k program then you are going to have better success in first grade. Dr. Steve Stokes asked how the 9th grade transition was doing and if we were showing success. Discussion was held regarding meetings with the 9th grade now and individual conferences, the true group are the 8th graders we have now, tomorrow and Wednesday every 9th grade teacher on the 9th grade team next year from Dothan and Northview will be here for training with our High Schools at Work Coach and they will have a planning day to plan their summer bridge which is a two week program this summer, the Cougar Camp and the Tiger Camp, and then plan the 9th grade with their advisee, they should leave the summer program with their notebooks, schedules, supplies, and knowing their classes, 9th graders are on a wing by themselves so they are not spread out across the school and following the Better Practice Model for setting up, and our results/data will be how well these 9th graders will do coming up. Dr. Steve Stokes

stated we cannot wait 4 years. Mrs. Allyson Morgan stated the projected graduation rates for both of our schools has increased and is very encouraging.

NEW BUSINESS

Dr. Steve Stokes stated the Board would meet on April 6th and April 20th.

Ms. Gayla White thanked everyone that came to Dothan High School the other night, it was wonderful and we had great community involvement. Thank you to those people in the community that contributed. It was very much appreciated by the community, kids and staff.

Dr. Steve Stokes recognized Mrs. Margaret Johnson.

Ms. Gayla White requested that someone come from SREB and give the Board professional development. Dr. Nichols stated he would talk to Mr. Steve Broome to give an overview.

Ms. Gayla White made a motion seconded by Mr. Franklin Jones to adjourn. The motion carried. Voting was as follows: "YEA" – Guilford, Jones, White, Stokes, Addison, McKay. "NAY" – None. "ABSTAIN" – None.

The meeting adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

APPROVED: April 6, 2009

Dr. Steve Stokes, Chairman

Sam Nichols, Superintendent, Secretary