

Today, February 10, 2009, 25 minutes ago

[Wow, I finally heard about your blog and came to I...](#)

Today, February 10, 2009, 25 minutes ago | noreply@blogger.com (jodynroy) [Go to full article](#)

Wow, I finally heard about your blog and came to log on and it's just a short time after you deleted the whole blog, apparently. Is there any chance that the past posts will be available to those of us who haven't followed this blog?

Any chance of convincing you to continue this blog? thanks for what you've done. I'm sorry it was so hard for you - and I wish I'd found this sooner!

[Cere,I respect your decision and thank you for the...](#)

Today, February 10, 2009, 25 minutes ago | noreply@blogger.com (John Heneghan) [Go to full article](#)

Cere,

I respect your decision and thank you for the dedication that you have shown our children.

To the readers and commenter's of DeKalb County School Watch, it is imperative that this blog needs to continue. What needs to happen is that the heavy commenter's and daily readers need to be able to step up and publish items of interest.

Cere has already offered to do this for anyone who is interested; all that you need to do is send her an e-mail to repartee4fun@gmail.com from a gmail account that you may already have or that can be especially created for this endeavor.

I am available to advise and train anyone who is interested in doing this (while keeping your identity anonymous) and I will assist with the blog though my time is limited and this subject is not my forte.

That being said as the father of soon to be three DeKalb County School Children, anything I can do to keep this blog alive, I am willing to do.

Please contact me if I can offer assistance, John@JKHeneghan.com

[I only recently have followed your blog due to Joh...](#)

Today, February 10, 2009, 2 hours ago | noreply@blogger.com (Anonymous) [Go to full article](#)

I only recently have followed your blog due to John Heneghan's blog mention. I HATE to see someone who so obviously has our childrens' best interest at heart beaten down. I REALLY appreciate all your

work and the information you've put out there. I completely understand your position but I do hope someone with a servant heart like yours will take up the flag. THANK YOU!!

[Cerebration, Thanks for your work and leadership. I...](#)

Today, February 10, 2009, 2 hours ago | noreply@blogger.com (Anonymous) [Go to full article](#)

Cerebration,

Thanks for your work and leadership. I do wish you would reconsider - I found your words to be enlightening and encouraging of the open format of information that we desperately need in the Dekalb County School System..... Why is everything such a secret? I think that they count on people to not take the time or not have the time to track down the details of what they do. We need you and even if they do not know it, Dekalb County School System needs you. I am hopeful that you have led by example and someone will pick up the flag - I will definitely go along. Thanks Again Cere

[Please don't feel bad Dunwoody Mom - your comment ...](#)

Today, February 10, 2009, 2 hours ago | noreply@blogger.com (Cerebration) [Go to full article](#)

Please don't feel bad Dunwoody Mom - your comment was just an example. I really don't want to have racial battles - it's not my place. This was really starting to become one.

I'd happily turn this blog over to anyone interested -- just send me an email
reparteeofun@gmail.com

It's just time for me to change my focus. Or as Jerry Farber used to say, "I think my Karma ran over my Dogma"...

No worries my friend...

[I wrote this: \("There is just something tacky and u...](#)

Today, February 10, 2009, 3 hours ago | noreply@blogger.com (Dunwoody Mom) [Go to full article](#)

I wrote this:

("There is just something tacky and ugly and low class about playing the "race card" - from both angles

I was in no way referring to you. I am so, so sorry that you feel I was. I was referring to "Anonymous" and to Zephora.

What you have done with this blog is so important and necessary and I am devastated if somehow my words caused you to give up on this cause.

Please, please, rethink your decision to leave this blog. Don't let "them" win.

[It has to do with the SPLOST 2 spending going to a...](#)

Today, February 10, 2009, 4 hours ago | noreply@blogger.com (Cerebration) [Go to full article](#)

It has to do with the SPLOST 2 spending going to almost exclusively schools in her district. She questioned some approved technology spending for Peachtree Middle and had some additional spending allocated to Columbia and there is no record of the Board voting on it. This was back in SPLOST 2 when everything was 'above or below the line'... She didn't write anything particularly "racial" in the email - it's just that this is consistent with how she treats people outside of her district. She is only there to get whatever she can for "her" schools and everyone else she simply dismisses. This email is proof of that.

I am trying to point out the total dysfunction on the BOE. Deals are made and projects are promised to vocal people behind the scenes. It's not professional - or even remotely fair. These schools are not overcrowded or in any more "need" than some schools up north, however, there is some kind of total ingrained belief that the schools in the north are so much better. This is apparently a carryover from the 60s and 70s. Cynthia McKinney actually fueled the fire for many years as well. (Geez, she recently has been telling whoever will listen that 5,000 blacks were killed and dumped in swamps after Katrina - many of them prisoners!) These are just examples of how deep the political divide is between the races.

I would be so ashamed if MY board rep spoke to anyone in another district as disrespectfully and dismissively as Zepora did here.

Check into SPLOST spending and you will see that it is very unevenly spent. Especially for schools with populations less than 50% African American, or from a Hispanic perspective. Heck - Dr. Lewis forgot all about Cross Keys on his "tour of schools" in September.

The facts is the facts. I just bring them to the blog.

[Just curious - hopefully school insiders can answe...](#)

Today, February 10, 2009, 4 hours ago | noreply@blogger.com (Dekalbparent) [Go to full article](#)

Just curious - hopefully school insiders can answer. In viewing the salary website, I found a good number of elementary school counselors making anywhere from \$75,000 to \$96,000. I looked at high school counselors, and found a good number of higher salaries, too, but not as many over \$80,000.

I do not want to draw any conclusions. What the counselors do and whether elementary counselors have a significantly different job than high school counselors.

I kind of know what the high school counselors do, but there are teachers who are doing the same

amount of counseling in their after-school hours...

And Cere - the librarians do a lot. It takes two to run a high school library. At least at our high school, they are teaching several classes a week in research methods, use of technology and writing. This is in addition to monitoring the school's collection, extracting materials that have gotten too out of date, and acquiring whatever the faculty thinks is necessary to support learning. They also consult with teachers on lesson plans to decide where the media center can help them.

[cere, do you know to what question or situation sh...](#)

Today, February 10, 2009, 5 hours ago | noreply@blogger.com (Dunwoody Mom) [Go to full article](#)
cere, do you know to what question or situation she was responding to? I don't see any racism issues in that response.

There is just something tacky and ugly and low class about playing the "race card" - from both angles.

[Zepora Roberts was on the DeKalb Parks & Recreatio...](#)

Today, February 10, 2009, 5 hours ago | noreply@blogger.com (Anonymous) [Go to full article](#)
Zepora Roberts was on the DeKalb Parks & Recreation Citizen's Advisory Board for two years. And she would occasionally and randomly throw out a zinger on South DeKalb always had the worst parks and recreation centers, which is not the case. Just check out the Browns Mill Aquatic Center and the money about to be spent at Wade Walker Park. She would get all heated and flustered. It was funny sad not funny ha-ha.

[Z is a freak. I saw her call a guy who disagreed ...](#)

Today, February 10, 2009, 5 hours ago | noreply@blogger.com (Anonymous) [Go to full article](#)
Z is a freak. I saw her call a guy who disagreed with her a racist. And loudly too.

[Juxtapose the current press releases regarding cap...](#)

Today, February 10, 2009, 6 hours ago | noreply@blogger.com (Cerebration) [Go to full article](#)
Juxtapose the current press releases regarding capacity for Arabia with the original that was published the day of the groundbreaking. Either they reduced the scope of the project, or they are not telling the truth about the capacity of Arabia in order to forge ahead with additions to Miller Grove, MLK and Lithonia.

DeKalb Breaks Ground on Going Green

Arabia Mountain High School

DeKalb County School System has officially 'gone green.' Last Wednesday morning, the public school system officially broke ground on the new Arabia Mountain High School, the first environmentally friendly school in Georgia for which DeKalb plans to achieve Leadership in Energy Efficient Design (LEED) silver certification.

Arabia Mountain will be situated on a unique 80 acre, hybrid campus found along the PATH nature trail which, when completed, will connect the school to DeKalb's Martin Luther King Jr. High School, the new Evans Mill area elementary school, Lithonia Middle School, Rockdale County's Lorraine Elementary and northeast Henry County. Positioned on one of only 37 Congress-designated national heritage areas in the U.S., Arabia Mountain High will be constructed to preserve the natural environment, provide outdoor learning areas for students and multiple courtyards.

The environmentally friendly school will also have an environmental theme facilitated through a proposed curriculum model, "Environment as the Integrating Context for Learning" [EIC].

"Instruction is at the heart of [our] construction," said Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Crawford Lewis, at Wednesday's groundbreaking.

In 2002, the idea for an environmentally friendly DeKalb school was proposed and for five years, the Arabia Mountain Heritage Area Alliance gathered environmentalists, developers, politicians and community members into a uniquely cooperative organization dedicated to preserving the wilderness in the nature preserve, while promoting the harmonious development of the area.

*Arabia Mountain High School will be 240,000 square feet with an expansion **capacity of 2,100 students**. The high school will include an environmental sciences lab, three business labs, a 600-seat auditorium, three music rooms, an indoor running track, practice athletic fields, an outdoor classroom/amphitheater and walking trail.*

[I cannot understand why we are not getting our fai...](#)

Today, February 10, 2009, 6 hours ago | noreply@blogger.com (Ella) [Go to full article](#)
I cannot understand why we are not getting our fair share.

[Proof? -- Well, here's a snippet of an email from ...](#)

Today, February 10, 2009, 6 hours ago | noreply@blogger.com (Cerebration) [Go to full article](#)
Proof? -- Well, here's a snippet of an email from Zepora to a white parent outside of Zepora's district (2 years ago as some of us were questioning how/when some of the funding for Columbia's renovation was approved.) --

Although I am an elected official, I am not obligated to respond to you in any form or fashion, and as of this date, February 7, 2007, I will not waste my time in the future trying to respond to you. ... Even though you have access to a lot of data, you still have it all wrong. You have forgotten that I served on the first SPLOST Review Committee until I was elected to the board, and we accomplished quite a lot. Frankley, (sic) ... I feel sorry for you, so take your lopsided, twisted thoughts where they belong, to the trash bin. Thank you."

Nice communication from an elected official, eh?

[I posted Dekalb School System Points on the hear n...](#)

Today, February 10, 2009, 6 hours ago | noreply@blogger.com (ella) [Go to full article](#)

I posted Dekalb School System Points on the hear news or went ot a meeting. The email went to the Dekalb legislative branch to try to answer questions about why Dekalb got so little money from the state verses other counties around Atlanta. Please go read it.

I like Ms. Roberts. I do not agree with her sending interns to try to get jobs but I think she does work very hard. I do not see the racism at all. She has represented her area very well and probable has worked hard to get what she has gotten for her area. I have seen her vote for reductions in staff and I have seen her vote not to give teachers their step raise. I think it is hard for anyone in any of the board of education seats to cut jobs. I am sure it is also very hard for Dr. Lewis.

On another note the block schedule is designed to go so much faster than the traditional day which does not provide for as much repetition. If teachers are teaching the way they should be teaching there should not be very much time to do homework at all. The problem is that students do not have the attention span to be involved in instruction for 90 minutes. It is great for PE and Science classes though.

[600 trailers -- wow!! If you have 25 students per...](#)

Today, February 10, 2009, 6 hours ago | noreply@blogger.com (Cerebration) [Go to full article](#)

600 trailers -- wow!! If you have 25 students per trailer - that puts 15,000 kids in trailers -- more students than most school systems even HAVE.

[I was forwarded this message from DCSS to the Stat...](#)

Today, February 10, 2009, 6 hours ago | noreply@blogger.com (Cerebration) [Go to full article](#)

I was forwarded this message from DCSS to the State BOE regarding the Needs of DCSS and how the Assessments were made. As you read, it will become clear that Lakeside's assessment was never done as we had no principal leadership during that time.

Capital Improvements Plan Summary

A Needs Assessment was completed by the Facilities Group/Gude Management which evaluated every facility in the district for the physical soundness of the structure, integrity of the building, functionality of the MEP systems, compliance with current codes, and potential aesthetic improvements. The Needs Assessment also included input from each Principal or Administrator from each school and center in the District. Each facility was asked what they needed to meet the educational needs of the students at their school. From this data they compiled the final comprehensive Needs Assessment.

The Needs Assessment identified \$1.9 billion of needed improvements. It was determined that the CIP would need to be financed by an extension of the SPLOST program. The Finance Department for DeKalb County Schools estimated that a proposed SPLOST III income would be approximately \$466 million. The Committee decided that since the Needs were almost quadruple the expected income, a cut off point would need to be determined for the Needs Assessment.

[I am going to the public hearing tonight of the De...](#)

Today, February 10, 2009, 7 hours ago | noreply@blogger.com (Ella) [Go to full article](#)

I am going to the public hearing tonight of the Dekalb County Legislative Body, so I hope someone will let me know what Ms. Mosley state of Lakeside High School is all about. I received this today and decided to share with my buddies on Dekalb County School Watch. This is totally unreasonable of the Georgia State Board of Education. WE ALL NEED TO EMAIL THEM.

Dear Interested and Active DeKalb Citizens,

I have corresponded with each of you regarding the issue of the amount of construction bond funding allocated to DeKalb Co. versus that of some other metro counties. I shared David Lakly's explanation with you, wherein he explained that there was controversy between DCSS and the State DOE over the method used to allocate the funding. We received this email addressing the issue from the Interim Director of Governmental Relations for the DCSS, Nicole Knighten, that presents DCSS's viewpoint and I expect will interest you all, if you have not yet seen it.

Thank you.

Elena C. Parent
Chief of Staff, Senator David Adelman, District 42

Please see the email below and attached information on construction bonds for public schools.

Thank you.

Nicole Knighten
DeKalb County School System
Interim Director, Governmental Relations and Special Projects
Phone: (678) 676-0713
nicole_n_knighten@fc.dekalb.k12.ga.us

----- Original Message -----

From: NICOLE N. KNIGHTEN Tuesday, February 10, 2009
10:31:01 AM
Subject: Fwd: DCSS Construction Bonds
To: fran.millar@wachovia.com
Cc: ROBERT G. MOSELEY II NICOLE N. KNIGHTEN
Attachments: Talking Points Construction Bonds 2.4.09 2.doc
33K
Capital Improvements Plan Summary 2.doc 25K

Nicole Knighten
DeKalb County School System
Interim Director, Governmental Relations and Special Projects
Phone: (678) 676-0713
nicole_n_knighten@fc.dekalb.k12.ga.us

----- Original Message -----

From: NICOLE N. KNIGHTEN Thursday, February 05, 2009
11:23:45 AM
Subject: DCSS Construction Bonds
To: howard.mosby@house.ga.gov
Cc: ROBERT G. MOSELEY II ALICE A. THOMPSON
Attachments: Talking Points Construction Bonds 2.4.09 2.doc
33K
Capital Improvements Plan Summary 2.doc 25K

Representative Mosby:

As requested by members of the DeKalb House Delegation, information on the
the
issue of construction bonds for schools is attached. Also included is
information on the DeKalb County school's needs assessment for

construction that was recently conducted. The needs assessment information is on a cd. I will deliver this information to your office this afternoon. If you have any questions please contact me at (404) 379-2562.

Sincerely,

Nicole Knighten

Nicole Knighten
DeKalb County School System
Interim Director, Governmental Relations and Special Projects
Phone: (678) 676-0713
nicole_n_knighten@fc.dekalb.k12.ga.us

Construction Bond Funding for DeKalb County Schools: Requesting Equitable Funding

DeKalb County Schools received significantly less than other Metro school systems for construction needs in the Governor's FY2010 budget recommendations for capital outlay and is therefore requesting additional capital outlay funding.

Metro District Allocations

Cherokee \$7,983,293
Clayton \$4,316,934
DeKalb County \$1,203,680
Cobb \$41,797,726
Fulton(includes APS) \$22,522,568
Gwinnett \$42,431,993
Rockdale \$3,327,568

The five year facility plan school systems must submit for funding under the Entitlement Program was developed by the state and does not accurately reflect the needs of school systems. The Entitlement Program formula used by the Department of Education (DOE) favors enrollment growth and currently provides significantly more funds to neighboring school systems over DeKalb. This Entitlement Program funding is not based on the needs assessments local districts provide to DOE. Instead, districts may only apply for a reimbursement based on DOE's calculation, which does not factor in what the system's believe reflects their needs. If districts do not accept this, they risk not receiving any construction funding.

DeKalb County Schools

- Is the third largest school system in the state and the current appropriation could not meet the facilities needs of even one school in the County

- Has more buildings than any other school system in the state
- Has over 600 mobile classroom units on our sites to assist with overcrowding
- Has aging school buildings (some are 40-60 years old) with older related infrastructure (ie: air conditioning units)
- Has \$2 billion in facilities needs even after 3 SPLOSTs totaling \$1 billion
- Spent \$66 million on recent construction at 3 schools (Princeton ES, Flatrock ES and Dunwoody ES). As the current construction formula is structured, DeKalb is not eligible to receive funding reimbursement from the State for these necessary projects
- Has enrollment growth in particular regions of the county which has escalated the construction needs of these areas
- Can not provide SPLOST IV funds until 2014 and there are immediate construction/infrastructure needs that need to be met.

The construction bond funding formula was developed by the Department of Education and follows no Federal or State requirements. This formula can be changed without amending current state statute.

Proposed Changes/Recalculation for Capital Outlay Formula:

- Developing a formula which emphasizes school districts with stable enrollment and aging facilities instead of significant emphasis on school systems with enrollment growth.
- More transparency from DOE in the formula factors and funding priorities as they relate to construction bonds.
- A formula that does not penalize systems for 'seats' that are in buildings that have been decommissioned for use as instructional facilities. Simply redrawing attendance lines or redistricting would not solve the problem if this is still a factor in funding.

Capital Improvements Plan Summary

A Needs Assessment was completed by the Facilities Group/Gude Management which evaluated every facility in the district for the physical soundness of the structure, integrity of the building, functionality of the MEP systems, compliance with current codes, and potential aesthetic improvements. The Needs Assessment also included input from each Principal or Administrator from each school and center in the District. Each facility was asked what they needed to meet the educational needs of the students at their school. From this data they compiled the final comprehensive Needs Assessment.

The Needs Assessment identified \$1.9 billion of needed improvements. It was determined that the CIP would need to be financed by an extension of the SPLOST program. The Finance Department for DeKalb County Schools estimated that a proposed SPLOST III income would be approximately \$466 million. The Committee decided that since the Needs were almost quadruple the expected income, a cut off point would need to be determined for the Needs Assessment.

[Anonymous, proof of one's allegations is always an...](#)

Anonymous, proof of one's allegations is always an important item to provide if you want those allegations to be taken seriously.

[Stating that Zepora \(and Copelin-Wood\) have worked...](#)

Today, February 10, 2009, 9 hours ago | noreply@blogger.com (Anonymous) [Go to full article](#)
Stating that Zepora (and Copelin-Wood) have worked hard for years, in public and behind closed doors, to funnel as much SPLOST money as possible to South DeKalb schools could not be more truthful and with merit.

And I've witnessed her race baiting tirades in person. She fuels the alledges South DeKalb/North DeKalb divide more than any other person in an elected position.

[Correct, Dunwoody mom - there is no formal plan to...](#)

Today, February 10, 2009, 12 hours ago | noreply@blogger.com (Cerebration) [Go to full article](#)
Correct, Dunwoody mom - there is no formal plan to renovate Lakeside. Sadly, this goes back the days of firing/rehiring/refiring Wayne Chelf. It was during this tiime that the "Needs Assessments" were completed. Lakeside didn't do one of their own because Wayne didn't appoint a committee because he had his own fire to deal with. So - some random person from maintenance did one - a few pages worth, compared to everyone else's hundreds of pages... We have been pleading to be allowed to do our own assessment for at least two years now and so far - we get agreement, but no action.

We have been approved for an Auditorium/Career Tech addition, like other high schools, and I'm certain that once that project begins they will find that the building they are trying to tie into is toast.

[How does one block money for projects that have no...](#)

Today, February 10, 2009, 12 hours ago | noreply@blogger.com (Dunwoody Mom) [Go to full article](#)
How does one block money for projects that have not even been proposed?

That is the gist of the argument on this blog with regards to Lakeside - that the school needs major renovation. But, as far as any formal documentation goes there has been no request to fund such a renovation at Lakeside that I can find. Maybe Cere knows something on this.

Also, I think it is important to remember that we need to make sure that any comments made on this blog are truthful and with merit.

[Caring about students does not make for a qualifed...](#)

Today, February 10, 2009, 12 hours ago | noreply@blogger.com (Anonymous) [Go to full article](#)
Caring about students does not make for a qualified BOE member.

Zepora plays favorites only for students and schools in her district and actually fights against schools in other districts getting any money for renovation or new schools. She doesn't have the understanding or intellect to realize that this is a school system, and not something to be balkanized. Why, why, why does she block any money for a new or renovated Lakeside High?

If you have known her for any amount of time, you know she plays the race card in just about every discussion she has. She is the No. 1 leader on the BOE to save central office jobs. Anytime she's losing an argument, she threatens to get the DeKalb NAACP involved, which is led by her good friend and convicted felon John Evans.

I've known her for a long time, and she's a major part of the problem. Just like Crawford, she is incapable of allowing the central office to be brought to its proper size.

[Check out today's AJC DeKalb Vent:http://projects....](http://projects.ajc.com/vent/metro/dekalb/)

Today, February 10, 2009, 12 hours ago | noreply@blogger.com (Anonymous) [Go to full article](#)
Check out today's AJC DeKalb Vent:
<http://projects.ajc.com/vent/metro/dekalb/>

People are finally getting fed up with the monstrosity that is the DCSS Central Office.

[OOPS! Forgot a biggie -- the system is looking in...](#)

Today, February 10, 2009, 13 hours ago | noreply@blogger.com (Cerebration) [Go to full article](#)
OOPS! Forgot a biggie -- the system is looking into creating a US Military Academy (US Marines)...

[She did and I forgot to put that in my notes on th...](#)

Today, February 10, 2009, 13 hours ago | noreply@blogger.com (Cerebration) [Go to full article](#)
She did and I forgot to put that in my notes on the "I went to a meeting and I heard...." thread.

Zepora cares very deeply about her students. She works hard for them and she gets things done. She said she has changed her mind on the effectiveness of the block schedule. She really does spend time thinking about things. My only issue with her is that she really only cares about HER schools. I wish she had a countywide viewpoint.

[PLUS - these are my notes about the discussion on ...](#)

Today, February 10, 2009, 13 hours ago | noreply@blogger.com (Cerebration) [Go to full article](#)

PLUS - these are my notes about the discussion on block scheduling at last night's meeting moved from the Potato Head Thread --

The Board didn't discuss the block very long. They made a decision to review it over the course of the 09-10 school year (Gloria Talley said high schools are making their schedules now and to change the whole system would throw them into turmoil. Callaway, at the beginning, said that the deadline to request a change is Dec 31 so that means that no changes could possibly be made until 2012-13 - if Lewis "investigate" all of next year - and requests the change after the deadline.

McChesney also cited that 60-70% of teachers need more training on the block (along with his factoid that the block takes 5-7 years to really implement) I wish he would cite where his research came from.

The promise was made that the principals and Area Supers would ensure that teachers are teaching "bell to bell" ... but then, Dr. Lewis quickly jumped in and took away the Area Super's power to suggest a change and said he would evaluate - along with others.

Redovian wondered if we weren't losing good teachers who prefer to teach on a 7 period day. Lewis said teachers felt they couldn't get through the textbook on a 7 period day. (I have actually heard the opposite - it's harder to get through the textbook on the block - even though classes are longer, they're only half a year as opposed to all year. Also, this may be why students do better on tests, they get daily math, English, etc - it's fresher and input more steadily.)

[I don't know what the interns do...anyone?Wanted t...](#)

Today, February 10, 2009, 13 hours ago | noreply@blogger.com (Cerebration) [Go to full article](#)

I don't know what the interns do...anyone?

Wanted to mention that I posted more meeting notes from last night's board meeting on the thread - "I went to a meeting and I heard..."

[Other highlights from the Feb 9 Board Meeting -An ...](#)

Today, February 10, 2009, 13 hours ago | noreply@blogger.com (Cerebration) [Go to full article](#)

Other highlights from the Feb 9 Board Meeting -

An award was presented to Sandra Purkett for her many years of service and support to students at Redan HS and in the PILOT program.

March 2-6 is Exceptional Children's Week.

Recognitions went to Browns Mill and Kittredge for achievement

ODE asked Board members to take March 2 off to read to students during "Read Across America" ODE will also be giving away books at North DK and Stonecrest malls on March 7.

Many people advocated to keep driver's ed, nurses and graphics dept.

The culinary teams around the county will compete in an "Iron Chef" competition at Le Cordon Bleu.

Ms. Jackson and her children spoke as always - she was salivating over the 500 seat auditorium at Arabia. They don't want to move into Terrell Mill, as they reiterate every month. She also said the administration had no creativity or innovation in fiscal responsibility.

We've pretty much covered the conversation about the block. It's basically been deferred until Dr. Lewis decides to bring it back as an action item. I did understand Dr. Walker to say that when he taught, he factored in "student progress" on his grades. (Inferring, I guess that he doesn't really value standardized tests that much.)

It is interesting that Arabia will open on the 7 period day though. Also - data was shared that Arabia will only take 350 students from MLK and 250 from Lithonia. The rest will be "Choice" students (emphasizing this is not a "magnet" program, but a "choice" program.) There will be 3 more community meetings to communicate to people the programs available there and the application process.

Someone suggested a 4 day school week to save money. Of course, IMO this would never fly - what would working parents do?

Ernest Brown praised the small learning communities at Arabia and stated that we should implement the concept in middle schools. He also hopes we can duplicate the rehab at Murphy Candler at other older buildings around the county. (Can't disagree there!) He's on a mission to beef up joint enrollment and allow full high school credit for college credits earned (1 to 1) Now, you only get a half HS credit for a full college credit class. His son also spoke to this - very cogently. He also asked to get a DK Urban Debate League subsidized like APS.

Sandy Purkett mentioned a new program where students can effectively become full time government employees while attending college on a full scholarship... I'd like to know more!

Nathanial Paxton is holding a "Men Only" meeting at (Miller Grove I think) to encourage a "Spirit of Change" in DK.

Mr. Turk once again reiterated that if the State would grant us our Homestead Relief Grant, our budget would be balanced. Legislators are debating this now and may actually do so as Womack pointed out.

Human resources reported that there were 57 resignations (compared to 83 this time last year), and 98

subs added to the list, bringing the total to 1513 subs available. There are only 6 teacher vacancies out of over 7,200 teachers.

And the figure we have all been wondering about - there were 484 absences on Jan 20 and 417 on Jan 21. (costing the system \$81,090 in subs for those 2 days -- by my calculation.) This is a far cry from the published PR stating there would be no more than 250.

[I know I see students who are hired on to help cle...](#)

Today, February 10, 2009, 13 hours ago | noreply@blogger.com (themommy) [Go to full article](#)
I know I see students who are hired on to help clean/prep buildings over the summer.

Is this what they are talking about.

[The students completed the survey during classtime...](#)

Today, February 10, 2009, 14 hours ago | noreply@blogger.com (Dunwoody Mom) [Go to full article](#)
The students completed the survey during classtime.

It does not seem too many parents cared enough to respond to the survey. That does not surprise me though.

Watching some of the rerun of the BOE meeting, I saw where Zephora Roberts spoke that there needs to be more parental involvement in the schools. Here, here, Zephora!!!

[I'm curious - what exactly do these interns do ove...](#)

Today, February 10, 2009, 14 hours ago | noreply@blogger.com (Cerebration) [Go to full article](#)
I'm curious - what exactly do these interns do over the summer? Is this just a free jobs program? This would have flown right under the radar if Womack hadn't asked for the lottery addendum (which was shot down.)

[The numbers cited by Dr. Callaway for the official...](#)

Today, February 10, 2009, 14 hours ago | noreply@blogger.com (Cerebration) [Go to full article](#)
The numbers cited by Dr. Callaway for the official survey responses were

18,507 students responded
1,592 staff

1,478 parents

Looks like students resoundingly drove this decision.

[Dr. Harris indicated that the teachers at Dunwoody...](#)

Today, February 10, 2009, 14 hours ago | noreply@blogger.com (Dunwoody Mom) [Go to full article](#)

Dr. Harris indicated that the teachers at Dunwoody voted to keep the block schedule. I have no reason to believe he was not being truthful.

[Redovian wondered if we were losing teachers who p...](#)

Today, February 10, 2009, 14 hours ago | noreply@blogger.com (Cerebration) [Go to full article](#)

Redovian wondered if we were losing teachers who prefer to teach on a 7 period day to other counties. I have no idea what teachers prefer in general... teachers? Weigh in...

[I got the feeling that these students rely on thes...](#)

Today, February 10, 2009, 14 hours ago | noreply@blogger.com (Cerebration) [Go to full article](#)

I got the feeling that these students rely on these jobs from year to year. The cut off age is 24. Zepora indicated that if they didn't get the summer internship, they couldn't continue in college.

And yes, it was kind of an aha when Sarah asked if high school was 4 or 5 years...

Apparently, the graphic arts department, which is being cut -- just went through a renovation and move to the Mt Industrial site - including the purchase of brand new equipment. Then bang - the dept is cut. This is an example of reactive vs proactive management. Money was wasted on new equipment - because there was no vision that the dept may be cut - not the best planning.

["I found it interesting that Dr. Lewis said that i...](#)

Today, February 10, 2009, 15 hours ago | noreply@blogger.com (Anonymous) [Go to full article](#)

"I found it interesting that Dr. Lewis said that imposing a lottery for the jobs (if there are too many applicants) could actually discriminate against some students. I didn't get that."

A lottery discriminates against more qualified candidates by allowing less qualified candidates an equal opportunity at getting the internship. Why not conduct interviews and select the best candidates? That's how the real world works.

[the mommy - the Board didn't discuss the block ver...](#)

Today, February 10, 2009, 15 hours ago | noreply@blogger.com (Cerebration) [Go to full article](#)
the mommy - the Board didn't discuss the block very long. They made a decision to review it over the course of the 09-10 school year (Gloria Talley said high schools are making their schedules now and to change the whole system would throw them into turmoil. Callaway, at the beginning, said that the deadline to request a change is Dec 31 so that means that no changes could possibly be made until 2012-13 - if Lewis "investigate" all of next year - and requests the change after the deadline.

McChesney also cited that 60-70% of teachers need more training on the block (along with his factoid that the block takes 5-7 years to really implement) I wish he would cite where his research came from.

The promise was made that the principals and Area Supers would ensure that teachers are teaching "bell to bell"... but then, Dr. Lewis quickly jumped in and took away the Area Super's power to suggest a change and said he would evaluate - along with others.

Redovian wondered if we weren't losing good teachers who prefer to teach on a 7 period day. Lewis said teachers felt they couldn't get through the textbook on a 7 period day. (I have actually heard the opposite - it's harder to get through the textbook on the block - even though classes are longer, they're only half a year as opposed to all year. Also, this may be why students do better on tests, they get daily math, English, etc - it's fresher and input more steadily.)

[It's obvious to me, at least, that school board of...](#)

Today, February 10, 2009, 16 hours ago | noreply@blogger.com (Dunwoody Mom) [Go to full article](#)
It's obvious to me, at least, that school board officials, or any DCSS official for that matter, should not be referring candidates for these internships. To me, that's a no-brainer.

["Roberts was upset and made comments that she alwa...](#)

Yesterday, February 09, 2009, 11:26:00 PM | noreply@blogger.com (Anonymous) [Go to full article](#)
"Roberts was upset and made comments that she always referred her students in her district to this intership as to they needed the money for school."

Hey Zepora, first off, that's unethical. It's also micro-management, and exactly the type of thing that got Clayton County in trouble with SACS.

You have no business getting involved in choosing interns, and for Crawford not to support alottery is typical of his preference for insider deals.

[Crawford Lewis has no problem with the large numbe...](#)

Yesterday, February 09, 2009, 11:17:00 PM | noreply@blogger.com (Anonymous) [Go to full article](#)
Crawford Lewis has no problem with the large number of administrators making huge money. He himself helped build the bureaucracy. He will never cut these positions.

When will the BOE learn and let Crawford take his long overdue retirement?

[EllaHow did DCSS officials respond to the concerns...](#)

Yesterday, February 09, 2009, 11:12:00 PM | noreply@blogger.com (themommy) [Go to full article](#)
Ella

How did DCSS officials respond to the concerns about the block?

[A quick question about the block... really not mea...](#)

Yesterday, February 09, 2009, 11:11:00 PM | noreply@blogger.com (themommy) [Go to full article](#)
A quick question about the block... really not meant to be answered by this blog of course...

but if the block is so good, then why is the shining star school Arabia Mountain going to be 7 periods?

I had always been under the impression that the block was cheaper, but at DCPC (Dunwoody Chamblee Parents Council), the head of curriculum for the state said multiple times that it is more expensive and that is why systems have dropped it.

In fact, when FCSS dropped it, Riverwood asked to stay on the block and were told no for fiscal reasons.

I missed the board meeting... did they have a thorough discussion of the block?

[One more from the State PTA \(there's more on the "...](#)

Yesterday, February 09, 2009, 10:31:00 PM | noreply@blogger.com (Cerebration) [Go to full article](#)
One more from the State PTA (there's more on the "I went to a meeting and I heard" post...)

Tomorrow, Feb. 10, is the last day to sign up for PTA Day at the Capitol at the early bird rate of \$30. If you want to know what's going on at the Capitol, want to hear the latest news, want to have a chance to talk to your legislators in person, don't miss this opportunity. Go to the GA PTA website for the registration form and more information. www.georgiapta.org

On the budget -- there's one thing everyone can do...

Yesterday, February 09, 2009, 10:28:00 PM | noreply@blogger.com (Cerebration) [Go to full article](#)

On the budget -- there's one thing everyone can do - email your legislator right away and plead with them to make the State PAY UP the Homestead Tax Relief Grant they owe the school system. I received this from the State PTA for a better description - in any event - if they would pay up - I understood Mr. Turk to say that our budget would be balanced.

HB 143: *This guarantees that the Homestead Tax Relief Grant (HTRG) will be funded this year and establishes a formula to determine whether the state will pay for it in any given year. What this means to you: Tax bills went out this year and the HTRG was included. Based on your individual property taxes that grant equated to about \$200-300. If the HTRG isn't covered you'll receive another tax bill and will have to pay that now. Given the funding requirements proposed in the bill, it isn't likely that the state will pay the HTRG any time in the next few years so taxes will go up next year. Update: Passed in House, Passed in Senate but to be reconsidered.*

I caught that too, Ella. I found it interesting t...

Yesterday, February 09, 2009, 10:18:00 PM | noreply@blogger.com (Cerebration) [Go to full article](#)

I caught that too, Ella. I found it interesting that Dr. Lewis said that imposing a lottery for the jobs (if there are too many applicants) could actually discriminate against some students. I didn't get that.

As far as being under Pope's office - I'm beginning to wonder who isn't. Seems the graphics department (who pleaded for their jobs which they just learned to their shock that they were being totally cut) is also under Pope. They asked to be moved to PR. (same as the TV station.)

There were people at the meeting tonight supporting nurses and driver's ed - programs teetering on the chopping block. I hope you can get your data to the board so that they can consider cutting at the top, rather than areas that directly hurt children - the whole reason we have a school system.

All in all, I must compliment the Board - they were much more cordial and professional than in recent months - I hope they are settling in and hunkering down to the business at hand.

One big issue was the block schedule. Zepora decided she is no longer supportive of the block. She cited the AJC article that exposed the number of students given A's in a class - even though they failed the EOCT. She was very disappointed and concerned that teachers were not teaching the full 90 minutes.

It occurred to me during this debate - that the block schedule is actually pretty expensive. Perhaps we could save a lot of money by at least modifying the block. Basically what the block does is create more "product" for a dollar. I mean - kids only need 24 credits to graduate - the block offers them 32 during 4 years (7 period day offers 28) - thereby forcing the schools to dream up 8 EXTRA classes to teach students over the course of high school - that's 8 more teachers, 8 more classrooms, 8 more etc, etc...

Perhaps if we simply offered what was really necessary plus a few career tech options (no more than 4) then we could save \$\$\$ by cutting back on our total product package. ???

[I just received an email from the State PTA -- her...](#)

Yesterday, February 09, 2009, 10:05:00 PM | noreply@blogger.com (Cerebration) [Go to full article](#)

I just received an email from the State PTA -- here are some highlights --

Tomorrow, Feb. 10, is the last day to sign up for PTA Day at the Capitol at the early bird rate of \$30. If you want to know what's going on at the Capitol, want to hear the latest news, want to have a chance to talk to your legislators in person, don't miss this opportunity. Go to the GA PTA website for the registration form and more information. www.georgiapta.org

Voucher Legislation! SB 90 introduced

As predicted, a universal voucher bill was introduced last week. Any child currently enrolled in public schools could get a voucher to any public (within the district or in another district) or private school if:

- The school accepts the student
- Parents agree to provide transportation for the student
- Parent and student agree to abide by the rules and policies of the new school

While GA PTA supports school choice, we oppose this legislation (SB 90): In a time where every dollar counts, where every program and department is being scrutinized to make sure public taxpayer dollars are being spent effectively, how can the State government use public tax dollars to write a blank check to a private institution with no accountability of those tax dollars?

- Private institutions don't need to hire certified teachers. The teachers don't have to be certified in the subject material being taught; they don't have to be certified to teach; they don't even need to have a college education.
- Private institutions are not required to teach a curriculum that prepares the student for the 21st century in a global economy or test them on that curriculum.
- Private schools don't have to show that a student has learned anything since there is no requirement to test a child and show any level of knowledge or gain in knowledge.

SB 84: School boards may have only seven members unless grandfathered by a local act. Each school board member shall subscribe to an ethics policy, shall have no interest in a business which transacts with the school system, shall accept no gifts or favors, loans, contributions or other thing of value, except campaign contributions. School board members can be removed by a vote of the remainder of the board. The governor may remove board members if a local school system is placed on probation by an accrediting agency. The board member may appeal to the governor for reinstatement after a hearing. Disallows a relative of a superintendent to be on the school board. State board shall design and deliver all school board member training.

HB 143: This guarantees that the Homestead Tax Relief Grant (HTRG) will be funded this year and

establishes a formula to determine whether the state will pay for it in any given year. What this means to you: Tax bills went out this year and the HTRG was included. Based on your individual property taxes that grant equated to about \$200-300. If the HTRG isn't covered you'll receive another tax bill and will have to pay that now. Given the funding requirements proposed in the bill, it isn't likely that the state will pay the HTRG any time in the next few years so taxes will go up next year. Update: Passed in House, Passed in Senate but to be reconsidered.

HB 229: Student Health and Physical Education Act. Students in grades 4-12 enrolled in physical education in 2011-12 must have an annual fitness assessment approved by the state board of education during the PE class time. The aggregate results shall be reported to the state board yearly. What this means to you: If your child is in PE, which is required in elementary school and for one semester in high school, he will get assessed on his physical fitness and those results will be aggregated and sent to the state. Requires elementary schools to actually conduct PE which some aren't doing today. Update: PTA asked for the bill to add required reporting to students. If a child is assessed, the parents should know the results. Vote will be Tuesday.

HB 149: Move on When Ready: Students in 11th and 12th grades may enroll in Georgia public colleges and take Department of Education approved courses that will meet both high school graduation requirements and earn them college credit. Hours earned will not count against HOPE. What this means to you: If a student is ready to attend college and only has a few high school credits remaining to fulfill the high school diploma requirements, (s)he can earn those credits while attending college. To be heard in subcommittee this week

[There was much discussion at the school board meet...](#)

Yesterday, February 09, 2009, 9:56:00 PM | noreply@blogger.com (Ella) [Go to full article](#)

There was much discussion at the school board meeting about block schedule and if it is effective regarding AYP. Chamblee and Lakeside do not want to go to block schedule and they are two of the highest performing HS in the county.

I have taught on block and a 6 and 7 period day and I find that students who struggle academically do much better on a 6 or 7 period day because you are giving them smaller bits of information to learn at a time. The problem which was discussed tonight is that teachers do not teach from bell to bell on block schedule.

[Celebration, Kim and I know exactly who PSCEXB is....](#)

Yesterday, February 09, 2009, 9:50:00 PM | noreply@blogger.com (Ella) [Go to full article](#)

Celebration, Kim and I know exactly who PSCEXB is. I talked to PSCEXB tonight and Kim can email he/she the stuff to look at. I think I know who someone else is also but I will not disclose who I think they are just like I will not disclose who PSCEXB is. I did talk to PSCEXB tonight about how we

calculated the data. I would love for him to look at it.

On another note, I went to the school board meeting tonight and one thing bothered me. They discussed interships positions in Ms. Popes office and Mr. Womack put up a motion that there be some type of lottery or fair way for the interns to be selected and one of the other school board members (Roberts) was upset and made comments that she always referred her students in her district to this intership as to they needed the money for school. Mr. McChesney also was for a fair way to choice the candidates for the intern positions. I immediately saw a red flag go up. Why are board members referring students to the intership program to work in Ms. Popes office? Would this not be possible micro-managing or at least giving the students they refer preferential treatment over other students who apply but maybe are not applying with a school board member pushing for that student to get a job as an intern. I think their should be a process to give students an opportunity to be an intern but there should be criteria in selecting these students to make sure the process is fair and transparent and not a way to help friends of school board members get jobs for their children in the summer. It was mentioned that some students need money to pay for school in the fall. I have a son in college and he also needs expense money to spend in the school year by having a job in the summer. I do not know many college students who do not have to work for spending money in the summer. The process to become an intern should be fair, and transparent without school board members making referrals or recommendations of any kind. Thank you Mr. Womack for trying to make sure this was a fair and equal opportunity for every student in Dekalb County.

[Somehow, you guys need to publish exactly how you ...](#)

Yesterday, February 09, 2009, 9:23:00 PM | noreply@blogger.com (Cerebration) [Go to full article](#)
Somehow, you guys need to publish exactly how you sorted your data. PSCEXB is an awesome data extractor - and maybe he or she would be willing to double check ?!! That would probably involve emailing it to me and I'll forward it...

I wonder if you took off the lowest several hundred folks who throw the totals off because they are very, very part time in odd jobs and/or very part time subs. If you count these people as part of the total number of employees it will throw your percentage of total off - however - sadly, it would probably increase the amount spent in admin even more - as a % of total - (if we deleted info from the lowest earners.)

[@Ella "she expected Gwinnett's administrative cost...](#)

Yesterday, February 09, 2009, 8:53:00 PM | noreply@blogger.com (Kim->CommunityRadar.com)
[Go to full article](#)

@Ella "she expected Gwinnett's administrative costs to be much less than either Fulton or Dekalb and they are a larger school system."

Gwinnett's numbers (my best effort)

Total Salaries: \$905,627,464.71
Salaries "Central Office:" \$98,263,221.83
Ratio: 10.850%

Comparable to Fulton ...

[Also, I have considered that financial reporting m...](#)

Yesterday, February 09, 2009, 8:07:00 PM | noreply@blogger.com (Kim->CommunityRadar.com)

[Go to full article](#)

Also, I have considered that financial reporting may differ from system to system. For example, if other systems have an outsourcing arrangement for a significant operations area, what is reported as salaries in DCSS might be reported as straight expense in FCSS, not salaries.

In any case, it is important to get to the bottom of this huge number in DCSS. And I will hold my breath!

[The first thing that needs to happen is that DCSS ...](#)

Yesterday, February 09, 2009, 8:02:00 PM | noreply@blogger.com (Kim->CommunityRadar.com)

[Go to full article](#)

The first thing that needs to happen is that DCSS and the GA reporting resources that posted the salary data need to validate that it is indeed accurate. I am having a hard time accepting that there's a 250% "bloat" in DCSS vs FCSS. If there are problems with the source data, they had better be big ones.

[Note to the BOE and DCSS: Your job educate my chi...](#)

Yesterday, February 09, 2009, 6:24:00 PM | noreply@blogger.com (Dunwoody Mom) [Go to full article](#)

Note to the BOE and DCSS: Your job educate my children. While it's unfortunate that people may lose their jobs, the DCSS is not an employment factory.

[I don't agree that because DeKalb has 9% more stud...](#)

Yesterday, February 09, 2009, 5:35:00 PM | noreply@blogger.com (Cerebration) [Go to full article](#)

I don't agree that because DeKalb has 9% more students, they should have a higher PERCENTAGE of salaries for Admin. In fact, I would say the opposite should be true. The larger the system, the more efficiently it should run. The PERCENT of the total spending on Admin should go down.

[Back to the Librarians/Media - wow! We actually ha...](#)

Yesterday, February 09, 2009, 5:30:00 PM | noreply@blogger.com (Cerebration) [Go to full article](#)

Back to the Librarians/Media - wow!

We actually have TWO of these at Lakeside! One is paid \$74,162.85 the other one makes \$71,245.62 - AND there's also a clerk at \$29,935.53 AND parent volunteers! C'mon -- how many highly paid people does it take to manage the library? There's nearly \$200,000 going towards library staff that could be most likely cut in half.

A simple example, but multiply this across the system. We've become a jobs program. Think about it - there are SIX custodians and a plant manager at Lakeside - wonder what they all do - besides trip over each other?

And - Lewis continues to report that his "major" cutbacks are still holding at 127 people. (Including the early retirees I think...some of whom have to be replaced.) 127 is less than 1% of the total.

There are more administrative level jobs even within the schools that could be cut - jobs that I consider not to be vital - and actually to be bloat. Jobs like Assistant Principals (WAAAYYY too many of those.) I can't accept putting 2 or 3 more students in classrooms, therefore putting the burden of cutbacks on the students and teachers, when cuts could be made elsewhere and money focused on teaching staff - first and foremost.

AGAIN - please survey the teachers and ASK THEM who administratively they consider vital to helping them do their jobs...

[Sorry there should be in my blog about verses thei...](#)

Yesterday, February 09, 2009, 5:19:00 PM | noreply@blogger.com (Ella) [Go to full article](#)

Sorry there should be in my blog about verses their. What can I say I am sure there are more mistakes then this. I just saw this one.

[I have heard several school board members indicate...](#)

Yesterday, February 09, 2009, 5:17:00 PM | noreply@blogger.com (Ella) [Go to full article](#)

I have heard several school board members indicate that they are trying to save jobs. I am not so sure that saving jobs is what is best for the school system or the children in our school system.

Dr. Lewis and the school board members need to make some serious cuts in personnel to enable the teachers to get the step raising that they deserve. Dekalb appears to be spending too much money for administrative costs to run the schools. I was actually understanding of the school board for the teachers not to get their step raises because I thought money was not their for the raises. The money appears to be their but is being spent on administrative costs to run the school system.

[I am still in shock over our findings. I am sure p...](#)

Yesterday, February 09, 2009, 5:11:00 PM | noreply@blogger.com (Ella) [Go to full article](#)

I am still in shock over our findings. I am sure problems exist with the data and our numbers are off but even if they are off slightly I do think it shows Dekalb is spending a great amount of money on administrative personnel costs to run the schools verses actually personnel in the students with direct contact with our children.

The salaries administrators make are similar to other school systems. They are definitely not paid too much but there are too many of them. The administrative costs should be about 9% more than Fultons as compared to the number of students the two school systems serve.

[Everyone, please send an e-mail to: Larry Conley, ...](#)

Yesterday, February 09, 2009, 5:07:00 PM | noreply@blogger.com (Anonymous) [Go to full article](#)

Everyone, please send an e-mail to: Larry Conley, AJC DeKalb Editor, lconley@ajc.com, Kristina Torres, AJC DeKalb Education reporter, ktorres@ajc.com, Ty Tagami, AJC DeKalb reporter, ttagami@ajc.com, and Kathy Mitchell, The Champion Newspaper editor, kathy@dekalbchamp.com, and Crossroads News, news@crossroadsnews.com, and demand that they cover this story!!!

Demand coverage. Kim and Cere already did all the work for them! No more huge administrative bloat and wasted taxpayer money by DCSS, the BOE and the ultimate insider Crawford Lewis.

[I also noticed that Dekalb had so many more titles...](#)

Yesterday, February 09, 2009, 5:04:00 PM | noreply@blogger.com (Ella) [Go to full article](#)

I also noticed that Dekalb had so many more titles that Fulton.

This is a break down of comparison between the money both of them have to spend. Dekalb is bigger but they also have a lot more money due to their size. According the my prinicipal this afternoon Fulton has about 90,000 students. Dekalb has about 99,000 so that is about 9% difference in number of students. There is definitely not 10% difference in spending on personnel that is not in the school houses. We did in-school house and out of school house. For instance bus drivers have contact with students everyday so they where in-school house. Mantainance personnel does not so they are part of the administration costs to run the school houses but not in the schools educating the students. Secretaries in the school were in-school verses Secretaries at the county office or elsewhere would be Administrative costs.

I do think Dekalb is not running its school system as efficiently as it could. I am concerned that our school board members are too concerned with cutting jobs to make our school system more efficiently

run with less personnel.

I did talked to my principal today about what Kim and I did yesterday and she expected Gwinnett's administrative costs to be much less than either Fulton or Dekalb and they are a larger school system. We will have to run these numbers to see.

<http://www.kathiegannon.com/February Food Drives...>

Yesterday, February 09, 2009, 5:01:00 PM | noreply@blogger.com (Anonymous) [Go to full article](#)

<http://www.kathiegannon.com/>

February Food Drive

Inspired by President Obama's inaugural address, Commissioner Kathie Gannon is offering a challenge to District 6 constituents to "spread the love" during February by making non-perishable food item and/or monetary donations to benefit the Atlanta Community Food Bank and Decatur Cooperative Ministries. Because of our current economic crisis and the toll it has taken on many of our families who are forced to make difficult choices and often go without even the necessities, many of our social service agencies and charitable organizations are also experiencing cutbacks in giving and Commissioner Gannon thought this would be an opportunity to help them help our neighbors.

Food collection barrels will be placed in the lobbies of the Maloof Building (1300 Commerce Drive) and 330 Ponce de Leon Ave during the month of February. The most needed food items currently are: canned tuna, beans, soups, stews, fruit and vegetables; pastas, macaroni and cheese dinners, whole grain and low sugar cereals.

Online donations can be made directly to the Atlanta Community Food Bank's secure site, just visit my website, www.kathiegannon.com, click on constituent information, then news to access the link. The food bank can leverage over \$8 in food and services for every \$1 donation.

If you have questions, please contact Rita Morgan at 404-371-6353 or remorgan@co.dekalb.ga.us.

Please help spread the word and let's show the spirit of "love thy neighbor" in DeKalb's District 6.

[Oh!! Better yet -- I'll just post Kim's article he...](#)

Yesterday, February 09, 2009, 3:11:00 PM | noreply@blogger.com (Cerebration) [Go to full article](#)

Oh!! Better yet -- I'll just post Kim's article here -- hope that's ok Kim!!

[Great job, everyone!!! I will try to consolidate ...](#)

Yesterday, February 09, 2009, 3:07:00 PM | noreply@blogger.com (Cerebration) [Go to full article](#)

Great job, everyone!!! I will try to consolidate into a new post later today. I'm SOOOO impressed with all of you!!!

[Cere, YOU NEED TO RUN FOR SCHOOL BOARD!WE NEED YOU...](#)

Yesterday, February 09, 2009, 12:27:00 PM | noreply@blogger.com (Anonymous) [Go to full article](#)
Cere, YOU NEED TO RUN FOR SCHOOL BOARD!

WE NEED YOU!

[KimYes... so though we only have 14 percent differ...](#)

Yesterday, February 09, 2009, 11:58:00 AM | noreply@blogger.com (themommy) [Go to full article](#)
Kim

Yes... so though we only have 14 percent difference in the amount of students we are spending nearly 25 percent more (in terms of salaries) to educate them!

Why and what results do we have to show that spending that extra money is making a difference.

[Is there any news on the "Pat Pope Investigation"?...](#)

Yesterday, February 09, 2009, 11:44:00 AM | noreply@blogger.com (Cerebration) [Go to full article](#)
Is there any news on the "Pat Pope Investigation"? I recall back around December 6th, Dr. Lewis was quoted in the AJC saying, "We'll know more next week."

[Nancy Creek is about to get a new roof.The bidding...](#)

Yesterday, February 09, 2009, 11:32:00 AM | noreply@blogger.com (themommy) [Go to full article](#)
Nancy Creek is about to get a new roof.

The bidding process has been slowed down by whatever garbage is going on between Pope and Lewis. It is my understanding that we should see a bunch of bids for a bunch of projects on the March agenda. I guess time will tell.

[Off Topic re: the mother in Clayton Co/Henry Co](#)

Yesterday, February 09, 2009, 11:28:00 AM | noreply@blogger.com (Kim->CommunityRadar.com)

[Go to full article](#)

Off Topic re: the mother in Clayton Co/Henry Co ... If it's a felony to misrepresent your address to get your kid in another school district, shouldn't teachers who help families "steal" HOPE money by "social" grading be charged as felons?

I'm just saying ...

["It's be a matter of time before we have Legionnai...](#)

Yesterday, February 09, 2009, 11:20:00 AM | noreply@blogger.com (Anonymous) [Go to full article](#)

"It's be a matter of time before we have Legionnaire's disease in our children from the poor water/ roof maintenance."

I heard at my church this weekend that there were already some alarming student attendance issues at some DCSS schools with leaking roofs. (Our church membership has a lot of CDC folks.) They said several children and a teacher had developed chronic respiratory illnesses at Nancy Creek and that OSHA and CDC were about to investigate it.

[@themommy: "but DCSS is 14 percent bigger than Ful...](#)

Yesterday, February 09, 2009, 11:20:00 AM | noreply@blogger.com (Kim->CommunityRadar.com)

[Go to full article](#)

@themommy: "but DCSS is 14 percent bigger than Fulton, what percentage more on total salaries are we spending?"

I am not sure I understood your question - is this it?

Total Salary Difference:

$\$682,709,025.22 - \$552,969,891.22 = \$129,739,134$

Percentage Total DCSS Salary Above FCSS:

$\$129,739,134 / \$552,969,891.22 = 0.23462241988213978114394161136765$ (23.5%)

Is that what you're looking for?

[Found a very interesting website that keeps tabs o...](#)

Yesterday, February 09, 2009, 10:29:00 AM | noreply@blogger.com (Cerebration) [Go to full article](#)

Found a very interesting website that keeps tabs on the Stimulus package as well as support for projects

<http://www.stimuluswatch.org/>

[DCSS Admin/"Central Office" Salaries 2008: \\$170,64...](#)

Yesterday, February 09, 2009, 9:38:00 AM | noreply@blogger.com (Anonymous) [Go to full article](#)

DCSS Admin/"Central Office" Salaries 2008: \$170,649,680.76

Ratio 2008: 24.996%

FCSS Admin/"Central Office" Salaries: \$56,194,268.83

Ratio 2008: 10.162%

And doesn't FCSS have more students than DCSS?

As of 2007, Fulton County has 992,137 residents. DeKalb had 737,093 as of 2007.

More proof that Crawford Lewis has built an army of bureaucrats, and he is not willing to make any cuts to the army he helped create over his decades as a DCSS insider.

[I need basic math instruction here. Not only are ...](#)

Yesterday, February 09, 2009, 7:17:00 AM | noreply@blogger.com (themommy) [Go to full article](#)

I need basic math instruction here. Not only are the central office figures interestingly frightening, but DCSS is 14 percent bigger than Fulton, what percentage more on total salaries are we spending?

Do keep in mind that DCSS gets a lot more Title 1 dollars than Fulton, we have a lot more poor children. This will affect both school house and central office spending, but not buy more than a couple of million total.

[It is the HOPE SCHOLARSHIP.](#)

Yesterday, February 09, 2009, 6:48:00 AM | noreply@blogger.com (ELLA) [Go to full article](#)

It is the HOPE SCHOLARSHIP.

[I think it should remain tied to grades because st...](#)

Yesterday, February 09, 2009, 6:47:00 AM | noreply@blogger.com (Ella) [Go to full article](#)

I think it should remain tied to grades because students have more control of how they do regarding their

grades than always the SAT/ACT scores.

I think more accountability should be put on the principal and teachers to make sure their evaluation tools are truly evaluation tools of what the student knows and not entirely on what work the student completes. Projects are good but again most of any student's grade should come from test and quiz grades if we truly are using the EOCT to measure what a student has learned when he/she leaves the class.

[Just to continue rounding out relative perspective...](#)

Yesterday, February 09, 2009, 1:22:00 AM | noreply@blogger.com (Kim->CommunityRadar.com)

[Go to full article](#)

Just to continue rounding out relative perspective on this, I took my "learning" from Ella and took a crack at Gwinnett ...

Total Salaries: \$905,627,464.71

Salaries "Central Office:" \$98,263,221.83

Ratio: 10.850%

The more I dig, the more DCSS number seems WAAAAAY out of line. I hope someone at "Central" has an answer for these very dramatic differences between DCSS and other systems.

[I just ran through City of Decatur's data. It was ...](#)

Yesterday, February 09, 2009, 12:05:00 AM | noreply@blogger.com (Kim->CommunityRadar.com)

[Go to full article](#)

I just ran through City of Decatur's data. It was a lot easier because Decatur's job titles are actually intelligible. I got these numbers which place Decatur way below DeKalb's bloat and slightly above Fulton's.

Total Salaries 2008: \$21,513,732.21

Total "central overhead" Salaries 2008: \$2,936,975.84

Ratio: 13.652%

At this level of efficiency, DeKalb would ONLY save \$80 million.

[For those you don't hear the other shoe dropping i...](#)

Sunday, February 08, 2009, 11:53:00 PM | noreply@blogger.com (Kim->CommunityRadar.com)

[Go to full article](#)

For those you don't hear the other shoe dropping in this salary analysis ... if DCSS ran with the

"efficiency" of Fulton County in terms of central office salary costs versus in-school salary costs, there's nearly \$100 million in the difference. Budget short-fall? What budget short-fall? Don't cut our schools when there is this outrage in salary costs at the center of it all.

[Since DCSS is so DATA driven. I hope this gets the...](#)

Sunday, February 08, 2009, 9:52:00 PM | noreply@blogger.com (Anonymous) [Go to full article](#)
Since DCSS is so DATA driven. I hope this gets them to looking at the big house instead of the school house. Great work Kim and Ella. You get a pat on the back from me.

[Keep in mind that in some cases, even a failing EO...](#)

Sunday, February 08, 2009, 9:36:00 PM | noreply@blogger.com (themommy) [Go to full article](#)
Keep in mind that in some cases, even a failing EOCT grade won't hurt a student's letter grade and a 100 won't help. So there is no incentive to do well. That said, even without studying, a child who has passed the class should be able to pass the EOCT. Ask the teachers who teach the gifted, advanced and AP classes how many students of theirs fail the EOCT? Not many.

When the HOPE started, my mother, a retired elementary educator, commented that it would be hard for her to give a kid below a B in a class.

I would like to see HOPE tied to something besides the GPA. GPA and SAT/ACT scores perhaps. Or, to use HOPE at a certain tier of schools, SAT/ACT then below that tier GPA alone.

We know we have a problem in GA. Far to low of SAT scores for the number of students using HOPE (then losing it).

[The HOPE SCHOLARSHIP in the best thing this state ...](#)

Sunday, February 08, 2009, 9:35:00 PM | noreply@blogger.com (Ella) [Go to full article](#)
The HOPE SCHOLARSHIP in the best thing this state has done for its young people to give them a chance to get a quality education without all the burden to parents and/or the student who in the past may have had to borrow the money. My son at Georgia State is a sophomore and one the HOPE SCHOLARSHIP still. We pay for his books now as the state took this away. We also pay for his board, food and spending money. But getting the HOPE SCHOLARSHIP was not an option in our house. You either kept a B average or above in HS or you did not leave the house. You were home studying. My son knows now he keeps the HOPE SCHOLARSHIP or we no longer pay for him to stay downtown. He knows to keep the HOPE SCHOLARSHIP so he has it easy.

Teachers need to keep their standards high and not lower them to pressure. Administators have no

business trying to get teachers to lower there standards. There needs to be a state law or at least a school board policy that prevents this from happening. Particularly in freshman Biology and Math classes where the failure rate is going to be higher due to the classes being hard and the students coming into high school sometimes are just not ready to put the time into their studies they need to put in order to master the standards.

[I have always heard that Dekalb County Schools adm...](#)

Sunday, February 08, 2009, 9:22:00 PM | noreply@blogger.com (Ella) [Go to full article](#)

I have always heard that Dekalb County Schools administrative costs were too high compared to other county school. After Kim and I compared this afternoon I see that Dekalb County administrative and operational personnel costs are too high compared to another school systems comparisons.

I will let Kim share him findings. The findings are rough estimates and we need to double check our correct titles with either administration or school but even if we made some eras the difference in the two schools we compared this afternoon was to say the least shocking. Dekalb School System needs to make its administrative costs that are not in the school costs much less than they are. What I saw was shocking and upsetting when I hear our board members talk about saving jobs for Dekalb County School employees. Saving jobs can not be a top priority over serving our children by providing as lean as possible administrative and operational costs in personnel so that more funds can be spent in the school for our children. Making cuts in personnel is a hard thing. But in business this has to be done when funds are not available. A school system can not be any different than other businesses from an administratinal and operational prospective. Now when it comes to the school house then that is a different situation because we are talking about our children and emotions do come into play. But administrative and operational costs are not improving our childrens ability to be taught educational standards and this part must be run totally like a business. School board members must put aside their emotions regarding administrative and operational individuals jobs and do the right thing for the taxpayers of Dekalb County.

[My mother taught for 27 years in Fulton system and...](#)

Sunday, February 08, 2009, 9:17:00 PM | noreply@blogger.com (Kim->CommunityRadar.com)

[Go to full article](#)

My mother taught for 27 years in Fulton system and complained about pressure to pass failing kids the entire time - so, this is definitely not a new issue. But certainly the value of HOPE to families has increased the pressure they'd bring to bear on the system. Sad, really.

[@cere: bad link above should be:DeKalb County Scho...](#)

Sunday, February 08, 2009, 9:06:00 PM | noreply@blogger.com (Kim->CommunityRadar.com)

[Go to full article](#)

@cere: bad link above should be:

[DeKalb County Schools System as Mr. Potato Head?](#)

Sorry!

[@Thread watchers: Way back up there we all started...](#)

Sunday, February 08, 2009, 9:03:00 PM | noreply@blogger.com (Kim->CommunityRadar.com)

[Go to full article](#)

@Thread watchers: Way back up there we all started talking about the DCSS salary costs for 2008. Today, I followed up with Ella who devoted over 3 hours of her time with me going title by title through the DCSS and the Fulton salary files.

I published the findings at my blog for the broader community and rather than paste the LOOOONG report here, please read online at:

[DeKalb County Schools System as Mr. Potato Head?](#)

Everyone should thank Ella for her time and also Cerebration for posting the salary links in the first place.

I pray that I have made a grave mistake in my analysis.

Bottom line:

DCSS Total Salaries 2008: \$682,709,025.22

DCSS Admin/"Central Office" Salaries 2008: \$170,649,680.76

Ratio 2008: 24.996%

FCSS Total Salaries 2008:\$552,969,891.22

FCSS Admin/"Central Office" Salaries: \$56,194,268.83

Ratio 2008: 10.162%

There must be some mistake ... please, let this be a mistake!

[Dunwoody mom I totally agree that the blackberry i...](#)

Sunday, February 08, 2009, 8:36:00 PM | noreply@blogger.com (Ella) [Go to full article](#)

Dunwoody mom I totally agree that the blackberry is just a tool of the trade now as an administrator. I do not see this as wasteful spending.

[The problem is accountability of teachers' teachin...](#)

Sunday, February 08, 2009, 8:33:00 PM | noreply@blogger.com (Ella)

[Go to full article](#)

The problem is accountability of teachers' teaching the standards or there is a problem with the teacher's evaluation tools. As a teacher I have to say the problem appears to be a teachers' problem. Now whether or not the administration is pushing teachers to make sure they pass students with good grades. This does happen. Teachers in some schools get in trouble for failing too many students also. I think you will find that in Dekalb County's high performing high school the standards are extremely high and students have to know the standards to pass the class. I do believe that teachers and administration have to make sure the standards are set and that to get an A or B a student must master the standards.

[Our school is going to a system where every studen...](#)

Sunday, February 08, 2009, 8:24:00 PM | noreply@blogger.com (Ella)

[Go to full article](#)

Our school is going to a system where every student in Biology 1st semester takes the same semester exam on the material and then we have the EOCT. It enable comparisons within the department regarding if the students know the standards during the year. We also do checkpoint testing during several times during the year to compare scores as we go along. I can go into a data base and pull data on which or the standards my students did horrible on and go back and did remediation in that area.

The bottom line is what does students know when they finish a class. Did they learn some of the material to take along the way in their general knowledge bank or did they just finish assignments and learn the material for a test (put into short-term memory) and then forget what they learned because they did not put it in long-term memory. Most students are not going to remember everything they learn but if they are not learning enough to get a 70% on the end of course test with scaled scores. (There is a state comparison done on the test and you do not get 70% of the answers correct to get a 70%.) I am not for sure how they do the scaled scores but these scores are not true to the percentage of correct answers. Again, most of my special education students in team taught classes pass the EOCT and some of my self-contained students. They are not extremely difficult tests.

[I agree. I wouldn't reduce the HOPE scholarships, ...](#)

Sunday, February 08, 2009, 7:40:00 PM | noreply@blogger.com (Cerebration)

[Go to full article](#)

I agree. I wouldn't reduce the HOPE scholarships, I just have to wonder if it isn't what is motivating teachers to inflate grades. Seems we made need to standardize grading - something along the lines of what Ella describes.

[@Cerebration: Provocative post ...I would argue th...](#)

Sunday, February 08, 2009, 7:12:00 PM | noreply@blogger.com (Kim->CommunityRadar.com)

[Go to full article](#)

@Cerebration: Provocative post ...

I would argue that whether one likes HOPE or not, a broadening of the population of college bound students inherently waters down over all standards throughout the system. So, my guess is the answer is, "Yes," to all of the above.

However, that is not a reason to criticize HOPE in my humble opinion. We're certainly shouldn't reduce HOPE because systems or individual teachers disregard professional ethics vis-a-vis standards. I hope this intersection of empathetic but unethical teachers and marginally under-performing students is a small one.

[I read EOCT to students with reading disabilities ...](#)

Sunday, February 08, 2009, 7:04:00 PM | noreply@blogger.com (Ella) [Go to full article](#)

I read EOCT to students with reading disabilities every year in many different subjects. The EOCT questions are based on state standards. Occassionally you might ask, "I wonder where that question came from." I think the tests are fairly balanced and fair tests and they actually are scaled in comparison to how students in the whole state does on the test. I find that the majority of my team taught students with disabilities pass the tests. Some of my self-contained students do have much more difficulty with passing the tests. This being said, a test like this is necessary to make sure the students are mastering the material in the class. If students can not pass an EOCT test at the end of a course and have an A in the class then there is a problem.

Apparently some schools in Dekalb County are watering down the curriculum and the percentage that test grades count to their final grade. I do think that tests grades and quiz grades overall should be a minimum percentage of the final grade and this should be consistent in the county. Also by going to more standardize tests being used on units in the county in high school subjects you can actually monitor how your students at a certain school are performing compared to other students at other schools.

I also wonder how much the curriculum is being watered down in the schools where the students are failing the EOCT with A's in the class to make sure students are getting the HOPE SCHOLARSHIP to help them go to college. There apparently is something wrong with the teacher's evaluation tools regardless because if a student cannot pass the EOCT in a school when they are getting an A in the class (with scaled scores in the state) then the teacher and that school have a problem with accountability of the children learning the standards.

[Maybe it will go in at the old Briarcliff HS site?...](#)

Sunday, February 08, 2009, 6:59:00 PM | noreply@blogger.com (Cerebration) [Go to full article](#)

Maybe it will go in at the old Briarcliff HS site?!!

Say - here's something totally not related to school but it's all over the DeKalb blogs -- and it's pretty funny. I don't know if you've ever gone to the DeKalb police dept website, but every department had a musical theme - sort of like the Braves each have a theme song when they go up to bat.

Well - don't cha know - now this rapper called ytcraacker has written rap music to the beats and recorded a CD full of rap songs about the DK police.

The Police Website has taken down the music, but you can go here to download the rap songs created for them - the lyrics are here as well - you'll need them.

<http://www.ytcraacker.com/dcpd/>

[The Feds will be paying for it, that is why! I al...](#)

Sunday, February 08, 2009, 6:14:00 PM | noreply@blogger.com (themommy) [Go to full article](#)
The Feds will be paying for it, that is why! I also wonder if in the end, it will be a charter school, so it can accept students from outside of DeKalb.

I envision a stand alone facility, though I could be totally wrong.

[My niece attends high school in Forsyth County and...](#)

Sunday, February 08, 2009, 5:31:00 PM | noreply@blogger.com (Cerebration) [Go to full article](#)
My niece attends high school in Forsyth County and an email was sent home recently letting parents know that the U.S. DOE is going to start collecting info on race and ethnicity in a new way. The county will be sending home questionnaires for families of current students to answer in order to update their files. New students will complete the new forms from now on. Haven't heard anything about this in DeKalb yet.

Check it out at the DOE

<http://www.ed.gov/policy/rschstat/guid/raceethnicity/questions.html>

[This is from the State DOE websiteHow does the EOC...](#)

Sunday, February 08, 2009, 4:48:00 PM | noreply@blogger.com (Cerebration) [Go to full article](#)
This is from the State DOE website

How does the EOCT affect the student's grade?

The EOCT is administered upon completion of one of the above courses. Beginning with the 2004-2005 school year, a student's EOCT score is averaged in as 15% of the final course grade. The student must have a final course grade of 70 or above to pass the course and earn credit toward graduation. When the student repeats a course to earn credit for graduation, he/she would participate in the EOCT at the end of the repeated course. EOCT scores will not be "banked". The EOCT is also one criterion for a student to receive a variance for the Georgia High School Graduation Test (GHS GT).

In fact, with the economic conditions our nation/s...

Sunday, February 08, 2009, 4:30:00 PM | noreply@blogger.com (Dunwoody Mom) [Go to full article](#)

In fact, with the economic conditions our nation/state/county is currently facing, I would suggest that it's time that the DCSS and the BOE start thinking "out of the box" and come up with new ways to educate and train our children.

Allow me to tell you a positive story about that. ...

Sunday, February 08, 2009, 3:08:00 PM | noreply@blogger.com (Cerebration) [Go to full article](#)

Allow me to tell you a positive story about that. My child had a horrible English teacher at Lakeside (at the same time he had the biology teacher with the end times online essay about Jesus) who made it very clear she was going to give him a hard time. She intimidated him several times in class and once stood him in the hallway because he couldn't recite a sentence with a direct object on command. She gave him a "70" on every project he did. And gave him "Fs" on several items she said he didn't turn in - which he did (I saw the work some of which I actually had to sign.) He ended up doing a group project on his own, as members of his group did not complete their parts of the project so the night before, he cranked it out alone. He turned it in with only his name on it for which she promptly gave him an "F" for not including the names from his group - EVEN THOUGH THEY DID NOTHING.

Long story short - her final grade for him was a 67. However, after the computer automatically added his 93 from the EOCT, his grade was raised to a passing 71 - much to her dismay.

Thank you State of Georgia for proving that my son has value when his own teacher almost killed his spirit.

Good grief, most people have blackberries these da...

Sunday, February 08, 2009, 3:01:00 PM | noreply@blogger.com (Dunwoody Mom) [Go to full article](#)

Good grief, most people have blackberries these days. They are not a new and novel item to have. Complain if you will, but complain about something that is really important to the education of our children.

[Here's a question. Is the weight given to the EOC...](#)

Sunday, February 08, 2009, 2:50:00 PM | noreply@blogger.com (Dunwoody Mom) [Go to full article](#)

Here's a question. Is the weight given to the EOCT (Example: 15% of a child's final grade) standard across counties?

[I think the Marine Magnet initiative is a fine ide...](#)

Sunday, February 08, 2009, 2:47:00 PM | noreply@blogger.com (Dunwoody Mom) [Go to full article](#)

I think the Marine Magnet initiative is a fine idea. It's utilizing outside sources to assist with the education of our children. With the obvious cutbacks that are coming, any assistance that can be provided to our children is welcome and necessary.

[Point well taken FedUp, however it should be noted...](#)

Sunday, February 08, 2009, 2:44:00 PM | noreply@blogger.com (Cerebration) [Go to full article](#)

Point well taken FedUp, however it should be noted that Cobb and Gwinnett - and to a degree, Fulton have much lower failure rates on the EOCT's. Somehow, their students are figuring out the correct answers.

[Guess what all? Grade inflation is nothing new. ...](#)

Sunday, February 08, 2009, 2:43:00 PM | noreply@blogger.com (Dunwoody Mom) [Go to full article](#)

Guess what all? Grade inflation is nothing new. It has been going on for decades!!! Let's not act like it's a new trend in education.

[Maybe that's what they're going to spend our Stimu...](#)

Sunday, February 08, 2009, 2:41:00 PM | noreply@blogger.com (Cerebration) [Go to full article](#)

Maybe that's what they're going to spend our Stimulus check on... ? I get the impression that money has to go for new construction - but I may be wrong. We'll find out tomorrow at the BOE meeting, hopefully.

That is - IF the other board members let Mr. Womack speak without shouting him down publicly again.

[While I agree that classes are dumbed down \(i.e. m...](#)

Sunday, February 08, 2009, 2:15:00 PM | noreply@blogger.com (fedupindcss) [Go to full article](#)

While I agree that classes are dumbed down (i.e. making sure kids get 50% for "classwork," lots of extra credit for bringing in tissues), the question is predicated on the assumption that the EOCT is a good test. And it isn't. I have looked at some of them (as well as the CRCT), and they are poorly written and constructed. While I appreciate that the state wants to standardize learning in GA, it needs to get a company to write good tests.

[Beverly Hall is successful because she has a profe...](#)

Sunday, February 08, 2009, 2:12:00 PM | noreply@blogger.com (fedupindcss) [Go to full article](#)

Beverly Hall is successful because she has a professional BOE that backs her initiatives. The people of the city of Atlanta threw out their crappy BOE reps several years ago, and voted for people with brains. It makes a difference, folks.

Why are we getting a Marine-based school? Lewis is talking about closing neighborhood schools for lack of funds, and we are still putting fluff programs (magnets, choice, etc.) in place. What is wrong here?!

[Answer to Question: Talk to teachers, and yes, HOP...](#)

Sunday, February 08, 2009, 11:19:00 AM | noreply@blogger.com (Anonymous) [Go to full article](#)

Answer to Question: Talk to teachers, and yes, HOPE has dumbed down curriculum in some schools, but not all. Grade inflation is a real problem.

And talk to college professors. They are amazed at how many students are not close to being prepared for college.

[I seem to recall Shayna Steinfeld mentioning at a ...](#)

Sunday, February 08, 2009, 11:06:00 AM | noreply@blogger.com (Cerebration) [Go to full article](#)

I seem to recall Shayna Steinfeld mentioning at a meeting that the State is sitting on over a million dollars in lottery funds. Maybe the excess is due to so many students being unable to hold on to the Hope?

[The illnesses are already occurring at Chamblee HS...](#)

Sunday, February 08, 2009, 11:03:00 AM | noreply@blogger.com (Cerebration) [Go to full article](#)

The illnesses are already occurring at Chamblee HS. I have spoken with kids who say they have

experienced breathing trouble since attending school there.

Maybe they should all get on a bus and ride 30 miles to the new Arabia HS every day - could be worth it! Sadly, they can't get mileage reimbursement because Chamblee isn't a Title 1 school in AYP failure - students get rewarded for that. There are no rewards for being a passing school - in fact - there only seem to be repercussions - which will ensure eventual failure.

[Sure HISD has problems, but they have double the n...](#)

Sunday, February 08, 2009, 10:57:00 AM | noreply@blogger.com (Anonymous) [Go to full article](#)

Sure HISD has problems, but they have double the number of students that DCSS serves. They also have a long history of magnet and vanguard programs that have been in existence for over 25 years with good community and school district support.

We also have substandard infrastructure with leaking roofs, mold, and it's be a matter of time before we have Legionnaire's disease in our children from the poor water/ roof maintenance.

[I have heard Beverly Hall speak numerous times. S...](#)

Sunday, February 08, 2009, 10:55:00 AM | noreply@blogger.com (Anonymous) [Go to full article](#)

I have heard Beverly Hall speak numerous times. She has a BIG plan and she has initiatives that help ASP reach those plans. The bottom line for her is whether there are tangible results and that's what seems to drive decision making. Contrast that to DCSS where there is no BIG PLAN or vision, and where favoritism and nepotism drive decisions. ASP and Beverly Hall are not perfect but they communicate well.

[I also visited Arabian Mountain HS. Arabian Mounta...](#)

Sunday, February 08, 2009, 10:08:00 AM | noreply@blogger.com (Ella) [Go to full article](#)

I also visited Arabian Mountain HS. Arabian Mountain is beautiful and very environmentally friendly. I was so impressed with seeing all the deer grazing on the football/soccer field and all the geese. The school has windows everywhere to let natural light in. The gym was very nice with an indoor track. The curriculum looks very good to attract many students. The only problem as a Charter School is the location. It will be very convient for some individuals who live on the extreme south side of the county in the Lithonia area. It would be a drive for individuals on the north side of the county. The school is beautiful. I would even consider coming back to DeKalb to teach after visiting the school and viewing the curriculum. I think the School Super and administration did a good thing by opening this school as they are presenting it. It gives students and parents options in public education at a time when our county is not performing as well as many parents and citizens of Dekalb would like. The Lithonia area is one of the highest percentage of very high income African American in the nation. I talked to one of my

surgeons this week-end who lives in the Stone Mountain area (whose children go to Woodward currently) and I suggested that his wife and him check out the Arabian Mountain HS for their children coming up who would be going to high school. I do hope we get a similar school on the north side of the county in time. It emphasis of the Sciences and Math will hopefully draw back in many of the parents in this area whose children attend private schools.

["It was lovely to be able to ride your bike on the...](#)

Sunday, February 08, 2009, 9:44:00 AM | noreply@blogger.com (Anonymous) [Go to full article](#)

"It was lovely to be able to ride your bike on the PATH system right to the back of the school."

If the school system worked closely with the county and did this for middle schools and high schools, it would cut down on transportation costs, cut down on the number of vehicles coming and going from schools, and also cut down on the horrible particulate pollution of school buses.

Every student biking or walking to school is either one less on a bus or one less parent driving!

[The reason he has that blackberry is to respond in...](#)

Sunday, February 08, 2009, 9:17:00 AM | noreply@blogger.com (Ella) [Go to full article](#)

The reason he has that blackberry is to respond in a quick and fast many to communicate to the public and within the school system. It appears that this blackberry was worth the money if he used it as Mr. Mosley appears to be doing a great job with communication.

[I also have heard from my supporters in the Cross ...](#)

Sunday, February 08, 2009, 9:14:00 AM | noreply@blogger.com (Ella) [Go to full article](#)

I also have heard from my supporters in the Cross Key's area that they are ready to go to court over what they see as discrimination toward the majority Latino population at Cross Key's. I sincerely hope this situation gets fixed so that this group does not feel the way they currently do. The Cross Key's community has been very supportive of me as a candidate and I will continue to be supportive of their needs in anyway that I can.

I am meeting today with some friends to go over the spreadsheet at 1:45. If you would like to be involved please call me at 404-550-5931. I am meeting in the Cross Key's area. I will be out this morning looking at some property for sale so I will not be checking my email.

[This is not a meeting I went to, but I place that ...](#)

Sunday, February 08, 2009, 8:24:00 AM | noreply@blogger.com (Anonymous) [Go to full article](#)

This is not a meeting I went to, but I place that I went to and saw with my own two eyes. The New Arabia Mountain High School is a real lovely building.

From Browns Mill Road, you would never know a school was back there.

It was lovely to be able to ride your bike on the PATH system right to the back of the school.

The Canada Geese have already found their home. People already using the track for exercise.

The brand new high dollar pressure washer sitting outside, along with the brand new Makita cordless power drill sitting on pallets. And here was the kicker, a drop cord running from inside the building to the outside. No one was around, no cars, no workers, no one. The building was left wide open on a Saturday. Sure hope there was no damage done.

[Mr. Mosely probably used one of those wasteful and...](#)

Sunday, February 08, 2009, 7:14:00 AM | noreply@blogger.com (Anonymous) [Go to full article](#)

Mr. Mosely probably used one of those wasteful and unnecessary Blackberries to respond to your query so quickly.

[What I heard in black and write:DeKalb Military Ma...](#)

Saturday, February 07, 2009, 10:03:00 PM | noreply@blogger.com (Ella) [Go to full article](#)

What I heard in black and write:

DeKalb Military Marine Corps' Institute

Rationale

The program would link directly to the DeKalb School District's Strategic Plan and Board and Superintendent's goals in that it maximizes students' social and academic potential and prepares them for a global society.

Summary

The Marine Corps proposes to partner with DeKalb School System and local post secondary institutions to create an immersive small community learning system that seamlessly incorporates all facets of academically sound educational principles along the 9th through 14th year continuum.

This focused initiative will leverage and synergize resources from the Department of Defense, Federal and State Governments, the private sector and the School District.

Contacts

Dr. Frankie Callaway, Deputy Superintendent, School Administration , 678.676.0671

Ms. Gloria Talley, Deputy Superintendent, Curriculum & Instruction, 678.676.0731

Quick Summary / Abstract

Presented by: Dr. Frankie Callaway, Deputy Superintendent, School Administration and Ms. Gloria Talley, Deputy Superintendent, Curriculum & Instruction

Requested Action

It is recommended that the Board approve the request for the Superintendent and DeKalb County School System to engage in a data collection exercise with the U.S. Marine Corps, U.S. Department of Defense, and Georgia Department of Education to complete the due diligence including reviewing and exploring the design components and the feasibility for establishing the first DeKalb Military Marine Corps Institute. This would be the first school of this type in the state of Georgia.

Motion by: _____

Seconded by: _____

Vote: _____

Implementation Date

8/10/2009

[Beverly Hall reached out to parents from day one. ...](#)

Saturday, February 07, 2009, 9:35:00 PM | noreply@blogger.com (Cerebration) [Go to full article](#)

Beverly Hall reached out to parents from day one. She has huge parental support. She is a good communicator and is able to make tough decisions.

[Actually, the transportation issue is just one cha...](#)

Saturday, February 07, 2009, 9:27:00 PM | noreply@blogger.com (themommy) [Go to full article](#)

Actually, the transportation issue is just one challenge Houston is facing. Over a third of their schools are (or contain) magnet programs. Many of these schools are low performing (not meeting standards) and some are very small in substandard buildings.

The Super. wants to combine schools, including moving/combining some magnet programs, so that more students are in better buildings. Of course, he also wants to combine some schools that aren't magnet as well.

There are huge spending inequities between actual schools in HISD and their BOE wants this fixed. The

parents at the wealthy schools are fighting this tooth and nail.

So excluding the magnet component, Beverly Hall has addressed many of these issues and is still in place.

What makes her special? Why can she get it done?

[I can't believe that C Lew would earn any praise f...](#)

Saturday, February 07, 2009, 9:04:00 PM | noreply@blogger.com (Anonymous) [Go to full article](#)

I can't believe that C Lew would earn any praise from anyone except those drinking the Kool Aid. Cutting transportation costs decreased the budget by less than 0.5% Whoopee! In contrast the Super for Houston ISD who threatened to change (not cut) transportation for magnet programs got shut down and is resigning at the end of the year.

[Robert Moseley is very impressive. We are lucky t...](#)

Saturday, February 07, 2009, 8:12:00 PM | noreply@blogger.com (Ella) [Go to full article](#)

Robert Moseley is very impressive. We are lucky to have him working for the school system. I am glad no changes were made.

[I also heard that the legislative branch from Deka...](#)

Saturday, February 07, 2009, 8:08:00 PM | noreply@blogger.com (Ella) [Go to full article](#)

I also heard that the legislative branch from Dekalb County are checking why Dekalb County did not get as much money as the counties around Dekalb for infrastructure. There is concern, but not proof to this point that necessary papers or documentation for the state may not have been completed. If this were to be the case it is not the first time this would have happened. It have happened before. I am hopeful that the correct papers can be produced by the county so it is not a situation that Dekalb County School System did not do what it should have done for the taxpayers of Dekalb and children of Dekalb.

I did hear a great deal of praise for Dr. Lewis for cutting the transportation costs. I also heard that there is going to be a different type of emphasis on career tech. education. I wish I had went to the Lincoln's dinner on Friday night to hear Dr. Lewis speak as everyone was so please with what they heard.

I heard that Mr. Womack is bringing in the Marines to open up a HS in Dekalb County. Apparently this will be discussed at the school board meeting Monday night.

I heard Dekalb will not cut school nursed and that the state legislature may also not cut the school nurses from the schools. Actually, Georgia is one of the only states which provides money for school nurses in

their budget.

At the Lakeside Soccer game at Woodward this afternoon I heard so many upset parents at the handling of the Football Coaching situation. Apparently the coach that the county hired coach's record last year was 1 win and 9 loses.

[Actually - \\$31 million is only about 3% of our tot...](#)

Saturday, February 07, 2009, 6:11:00 PM | noreply@blogger.com (Cerebration) [Go to full article](#)

Actually - \$31 million is only about 3% of our total \$900 million budget. That's not a horrible amount to have to cut. It sounds like a ridiculous amount of money until you put it in perspective as a percentage of the total.

[Let's see - my trustee DCSS payroll list from the ...](#)

Saturday, February 07, 2009, 6:05:00 PM | noreply@blogger.com (Cerebration) [Go to full article](#)

Let's see - my trustee DCSS payroll list from the State website tells me that Ron Ramsey makes \$112,743.13 - oh and PLUS - \$4,158.00 for that ever interesting "Miscellaneous Activities."

[I received a reply from Robert Moseley - I was imp...](#)

Saturday, February 07, 2009, 6:04:00 PM | noreply@blogger.com (Dunwoody Mom) [Go to full article](#)

I received a reply from Robert Moseley - I was impressed with his prompt reply and on a Saturday no less.

"There has been no change to middle sports. Please call me if you have questions. Also please let me know which school your daughter attends so that I can clarify this for the school. Thank you for your email. "

[Agreed. Proactive school social workers are inval...](#)

Saturday, February 07, 2009, 5:51:00 PM | noreply@blogger.com (Open+Transparent) [Go to full article](#)

Agreed. Proactive school social workers are invaluable, as is a good, caring, proactive school nurse.

But Ron Ramsey's Office should be investigating student residency. Ron has a big staff. He has a take home car, as does someone else in his office. But Ron is busy as a state senator for over 2 months every year, plus out of session meetings and commitments throughout the year.

There are hundreds and hundreds of students in DCSS schools who do not live in the county. Ron Ramsey and his staff should be all over this. Crawford and Turk and Bob Moseley should be all over this. The BOE should be all over this.

But none of them are. it cost the taxpayer and it affects the education our students receive.

["PSCEXB heard that the State is going to cut anothe...](#)

Saturday, February 07, 2009, 5:44:00 PM | noreply@blogger.com (Open+Transparent) [Go to full article](#)

"PSCEXB heard that the State is going to cut another \$15 million from our budget"

Good, cut 130 of those making over \$100,000 per with the huge benefits from the Central office, and we're even.

Here's something else: Only teachers and principals should have pensions.

Every other DCSS employee should have a 403b (the education version of a 401k).

The school ssystem would contribute to each employee's 403b, as would the employee. It's portable too, which is a huge bonus for those who leave the system.

But then when the employee leaves or retires, the school system is not paying a nice fat pension forever.

If someone starts working for DCSS at 22 or 23, works 30 years and retires, and lives to 80, 85, 90, etc, we're paying a huge amount in pension and health insurance.

I have no problem with making sure a teacher or principal gets a good pension. But everyone else at DCSS, all the pencil pushers and non-educators, need to be on a 403b.

It would save taxpayers tens of millions if not more, probably hundreds of millions, and give an incentive for teachers and principals to stay teachers and principals, instead of trying to get sweet unproductive DCSS Central office administrator jobs.

[I'll go ahead and transfer a few of the recent pos...](#)

Saturday, February 07, 2009, 5:09:00 PM | noreply@blogger.com (Cerebration) [Go to full article](#)

I'll go ahead and transfer a few of the recent postings that apply --

Ella heard Dr. Lewis was going to cut transportation and increase career tech spending.

Ella also heard that Mr. Womack may introduce the idea of creating a Military Academy run by the U.S.

Marines.

PSCEXB heard that the State is going to cut another \$15 million from our budget - which when added to the \$16 million already cut totals over \$30 million.

Add more as you hear them!

[Oh brother. This is getting ugly. I think it's ti...](#)

Saturday, February 07, 2009, 5:01:00 PM | noreply@blogger.com (Cerebration) [Go to full article](#)

Oh brother. This is getting ugly. I think it's time to put some property up for sale - the old Chamblee Middle comes to mind - but I know the system owns quite a bit of unused property. I hope someone is at least looking into assessing our properties and considering some sales.

Hey - how about selling to the county? They could clear the land and create parks and greenspace - they have lots of greenspace \$ in the bank - our tax dollars!

[My child will take math next year at GPC and it wi...](#)

Saturday, February 07, 2009, 4:19:00 PM | noreply@blogger.com (themommy) [Go to full article](#)

My child will take math next year at GPC and it will take the year to equal the one semester. Not real sure, maybe seat time. But given the overall dismal experience we have had with math -- we will gladly take the extra hours.

[Dunwoody Mom, the answer is yes to your question a...](#)

Saturday, February 07, 2009, 3:56:00 PM | noreply@blogger.com (psceb) [Go to full article](#)

Dunwoody Mom, the answer is yes to your question about JE and AP. It so happens, a classmate of my son is doing that this year.

I like the idea of pushing as many students as possible for JE, either for college or career technology. It may not work for everyone but some could use the additional challenge and opportunity.

A possible negative with JE, I heard it may take two college classes to replace one HS class for graduation. Huh??? I think the state board is aware more students are considering JE and will address that disparity shortly.

You remember when Perimeter was a Junior College??? Just kidding.... :)

[Hot off the presses! Got back from Stan Watson's ...](#)

Saturday, February 07, 2009, 2:45:00 PM | noreply@blogger.com (pscexb) [Go to full article](#)

Hot off the presses! Got back from Stan Watson's meeting earlier today. Dr. Lewis spoke for a few minutes and indicated he was notified last night (Friday) that the state indicated a revenue shortfall. The impact to DCSS will be an additional 15 million. Adding this to the 16 million of cuts mentioned during the state of the school system address, we may now be looking at 31 million dollars needed to be cut from the budget.

I plan to investigate more about this but if true, it may be hard **not** to make cuts that do not impact the classroom. Oy vey....

[I have been to two political meetings this week so...](#)

Saturday, February 07, 2009, 11:47:00 AM | noreply@blogger.com (Ella) [Go to full article](#)

I have been to two political meetings this week so far. It was interesting to hear our local politicians discuss the possibility that the reasons that DeKalb County School System did not receive money needed from the state for infrastructure improvement was that the DeKalb County School System may not have provide appropriate documents to the state to show a need for the money. Community members and politicians are currently looking into this. Eventually we will know if this is the situation, we did not receive the needed money from the state. In the past DeKalb County School System has not received money from the state and federal government because they did not complete the necessary paperwork to show the need. Someone should be accountable to the taxpayers of DeKalb County, if they did not do their job. This is very important to the taxpayers and children of DeKalb County that we get our fair share of available funds from the state and federal government.

[Dale Davis is a very nice guy. He is just the per...](#)

Saturday, February 07, 2009, 11:12:00 AM | noreply@blogger.com (Ella) [Go to full article](#)

Dale Davis is a very nice guy. He is just the person who is in charge of representing the school system in making statements for them.

I agree that the school board needs to look into this more as these individuals are taking money away from the taxpayers of Dekalb. Other school boards have make new ruling that allowed that all students have to summit new evidence in where they live. There also are many students who move to another county and continue to come back into Dekalb County to the school where all their friends are. If the school the child attends sends out a letter of any kind then these letters come back and it is the school's responsibility to investigate. Many times they do not investigate because they do not have enough social workers. Social workers spend a great deal of time working on situations like this for counties. North Springs is lucky enough to have a full time social worker and when I turn a student of mine over to her when I have a letter come back she investigates and then the student is withdrawn.

We need more social workers and less administrators at the county office. We need more help in our schools with items like this. Social workers are worth every penny spent on them in the school system.

I also heard this morning that Dekalb is not cutting its nurses. I also heard that there is a possibility that the state may also not cut its nurses. Keep the emails going to our legislature members.

[I really wish I had have went to the Licoln Dinner...](#)

Saturday, February 07, 2009, 10:52:00 AM | noreply@blogger.com (Ella) [Go to full article](#)

I really wish I had have went to the Licoln Dinner last night so I could have heard Dr. Lewis speak. I also heard that they are going to close the schools they need to close in Dekalb. I am assuming this will be small schools which are costing them too much money and it will be more cost efficient to have fewer of these schools. I am assuming this will be elementary schools throughout the county.

Apparently he also talked about not spending the money on transportation as they have in the past. This apparently went over really well also.

[This by no means a scientific answer but ... I wen...](#)

Thursday, February 05, 2009, 11:05:00 PM | noreply@blogger.com (Kim->CommunityRadar.com)

[Go to full article](#)

This by no means a scientific answer but ... I went through the list and identified to the best of my ability the obvious central admin functions/titles.

This is probably understated because I did not count some titles like IT Specialist and others that are not clearly in or out of the schools, for example. I simply do not know the system that well.

In any case, even with this limited set of titles we can see that whatever the number is, it is north of 3.11%.

Is that high? Anyone? I have no benchmarks. I have this stuff loaded in a relational database so we could go as far as anyone is willing to go.

If anyone out there knows Fulton and DeKalb titles well enough, I'd be happy to support a full analysis of "central office" vs. school staffing ratios or any other metrics. With a partners who know these systems/titles, we could benchmark DeKalb vs. Fulton in this way.

Total Salaries DCSS: \$682,709,025.22

"Non-School Title Salaries": \$21,243,536.24

Percent "Non-school:" 3.11%

The figures above include the following 26 titles held by 351 persons:

STAFF DEVELOPMENT SPECIALIST
DIRECTOR OF CHILD SERVE
CENTRAL SUPPORT CLERK
DIRECTOR OF STUDENT SERVICES
PLANT OPERATIONS SEC/CLERK
SUPPORT SERV SECRETARY/CLERK
DEPUTY/ASSOC/ASSISTANT SUPT
DIRECTOR OF PSYCHO-ED PROG
PLANT OPERATIONS
RESEARCH PERSONNEL
PLANT OPERATIONS DIRECTOR/MGR
PLANNING/EVALUATION PERSONNEL
DIRECTOR OF GLRS
VOCATIONAL DIRECTOR
LEGAL PERSONNEL
CONSTRUCTION MANAGER
PUBLIC RELATIONS PERSONNEL
SUPERINTENDENT SECRETARY
DIRECTOR OF SCHOOL SAFETY
TECHNOLOGY DIRECTOR
CENTRAL SUPPORT
SUPERINTENDENT
DIRECTOR OF CURRICULUM/INSTR
DIRECTOR OF MEDIA SERVICES
PERSONNEL/HUMAN RESOURCES DIR
ATHLETICS DIRECTOR

["DCSS groupie -- that's funny... I wonder why the..."](#)

Thursday, February 05, 2009, 10:46:00 PM | noreply@blogger.com (Cerebration) [Go to full article](#)

"DCSS groupie -- that's funny... I wonder why they can't be a receiving school for AYP. That seems strange.

Ella - the only schools in DeKalb that are NOT on the block are Lakeside, Chamblee and now Arabia. The rest are all block - as far as I know. The problem is now that students are required to have 24 credits to graduate - it's hard to get it all in on a 7 period day (only taking 28 credits in all.) It would be much better to have a 6 period day and require only 20 or 21 credits to graduate - IMO. Let's just make sure those credits are rock solid and our kids go off to college without the need for remedial help.

[I have been known to suggest that.](#)

Thursday, February 05, 2009, 10:40:00 PM | noreply@blogger.com (Cerebration) [Go to full article](#)

I have been known to suggest that.

[I don't see how C. Lewis can make a public stateme...](#)

Thursday, February 05, 2009, 9:59:00 PM | noreply@blogger.com (Anonymous) [Go to full article](#)

I don't see how C. Lewis can make a public statement that a new medical magnet school choice program is starting next year. Look at the attachment re: Arabia Mtn on the next agenda. The medical magnet is NOT being implemented until 2010-2011 and will only take 42 students a year.

The environmental magnet only takes 42 students a year. The entire school has a design capacity of 1,764 but is slated to open with only 1076 students next August.

What gives? Both programs sounded wonderful on paper. If I lived in that area I would have encouraged my children to apply. But why are they limiting the program to so few?

I don't understand what the category "system wide" is. But you can see that the county expects the enrollments to continue to increase so I am sure they feel justified in spending money to build even more additions to the SDeKalb schools before spending a penny on CHS or Lakeside. Maybe we should just get the health dept. to condemn the schools.

[I must be a DCSS groupie as I went to the Arabia M...](#)

Thursday, February 05, 2009, 9:56:00 PM | noreply@blogger.com (pscexb) [Go to full article](#)

I must be a DCSS groupie as I went to the Arabia Mountain meeting again at ML King, Jr. Not as large of a crowd this evening. I did get clarification there would be 7 classes per day rather than 6 as reported before. It was also mentioned that the school would not be a receiving school for AYP transfers. That was interesting as I thought that was one of the remedies offered with the legislation.

[themommy, you are correct regarding Charter school...](#)

Thursday, February 05, 2009, 9:50:00 PM | noreply@blogger.com (Ella) [Go to full article](#)

themommy, you are correct regarding Charter schools. I meant Charter schools. The grant money from the state and federal government is nice to get the school started though.

I visited Arabian High School Tuesday afternoon and it is beautiful. There were 6-8 deer running around out on the football field. I would love to teacher there if I was going to teach in Dekalb and if it was in driving distance. I have not decided if I want to come back to Dekalb, and I am not sure about the drive. But, the school might be worth the drive. I would have to seriously think about it. The problem is I really like where I am. I just would like to have my own classroom which I currently do not.

[Dekalbparent, most school system are going away fr...](#)

Thursday, February 05, 2009, 9:22:00 PM | noreply@blogger.com (Ella) [Go to full article](#)

Dekalbparent, most school system are going away from block schedule because of the expense. Block schedule is much more expensive than a six day schedule, or even a seven day schedule.

We have had two county school system visit us this year to find out how our school made the change and what they could do to help. I am actually suprised that any Dekalb County Schools have block schedule. I know that Druid Hills does. Are there anymore? I know they discussed doing this at one time when block schedule was a big thing and the decision was not to do it in high school throughout the county because of the cost.

The trend is to go back to a 6 or 7 period day. The data indicates that students can concentrate better and do better on standardized tests. Most of the schools in Dekalb which are in the top percentages in the state are not on block schedule.

I have taught on both and like the block schedule for myself but I do not think high school students have the maturity or focus to concentrate for such a long period of time.

[I think there's a way on blogspot to automatically...](#)

Thursday, February 05, 2009, 8:51:00 PM | noreply@blogger.com (Cerebration) [Go to full article](#)

I think there's a way on blogspot to automatically interpret blogs -- I'll see if I can figure it out...

[EllaDeKalb is spending millions of its own money o...](#)

Thursday, February 05, 2009, 7:27:00 PM | noreply@blogger.com (themommy) [Go to full article](#)

Ella

DeKalb is spending millions of its own money on magnet schools. The difference between Fulton and DeKalb is that even with the magnet programs, Fulton's schools are more equal. For example, (this may change with the budget crisis of course) every Fulton elementary school has foreign language and a dedicated science teacher. In DeKalb, we aren't even close.

There is very little federal money for magnet schools and even less state money. Most magnet funding is local in nature.

Charter money is different. It comes to the state from the feds to be given (one time) to charter schools. It is called an implementation grant.

[The Lakeside High School Community and many of the...](#)

Thursday, February 05, 2009, 7:12:00 PM | noreply@blogger.com (Ella)

[Go to full article](#)

The Lakeside High School Community and many of the Alumni did not get the football alumni coach they wanted. It was announced at school today that someone with the last name of Cox received the job. I do feel sorry for Mr. Cox as he has a very hard job as he has many very upset community members and alumni which makes it harder to get the communities support. I wish Coach Cox a great deal of success with the program. I know nothing about Coach Cox so I feel it is unfair for me to judge this decision of Lakeside High School's principal. I guess we will wait and see if he can turn things around. I do hope he longer than the other two coaches she hired at Lakeside who were in and out in a year.

[From my experience magnet schools offer a screenin...](#)

Thursday, February 05, 2009, 6:30:00 PM | noreply@blogger.com (Ella)

[Go to full article](#)

From my experience magnet schools offer a screening process and additional guidelines. For instance, North Springs Science and Math Teachers are interviewing students in the next few weeks before they allow them in the magnet program. Also parents are interviewed in most situations and have to work or provide so many hours of service to the schools each year. At Northsprings it is 10 hours a year.

It enables a group of students who want to major in Art, Math, Engineering, become a doctor to take classes together which is great.

Due to state and federal dollars available for schools like this it is a good thing. For instance, North Springs is an old school which is upgrading to become wireless this year due to grants from the state because of being a charter school.

I will not make any comments on instructional supervisors as I do not have many positive things to say so I am not saying anything.

[From my experience magnet schools offer a screenin...](#)

Thursday, February 05, 2009, 6:30:00 PM | noreply@blogger.com (Ella)

[Go to full article](#)

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Springs is an old school which is upgrading to become wireless this year due to grants from the state because of being a charter school.

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[I don't think it's any of the above, Kim. I think...](#)

Thursday, February 05, 2009, 6:21:00 PM | noreply@blogger.com (Cerebration) [Go to full article](#)

I don't think it's any of the above, Kim. I think this county is just enormous - and the school system is enormous and the needs are high and many... Sadly, the leaders we have had until now have only reacted to the squeaky wheels - only reacted to emergencies - only reacted. It's time to stop - look around - take a breath and become PROACTIVE.

We're poised to do this - and the citizens input is vital.

[I am so sad to hear another precious student was h...](#)

Thursday, February 05, 2009, 6:18:00 PM | noreply@blogger.com (Ella) [Go to full article](#)

I am so sad to hear another precious student was hit today.

I hope all is well!!!! My thoughts and prayers are with the student and also the family.

[Hablo pequeño español -- actually - just a tiny bi...](#)

Thursday, February 05, 2009, 5:57:00 PM | noreply@blogger.com (Cerebration) [Go to full article](#)

Hablo pequeño español -- actually - just a tiny bit - enough to get me in trouble...

[Regarding Buford corridor ... keep in mind that th...](#)

Thursday, February 05, 2009, 5:32:00 PM | noreply@blogger.com (Kim->CommunityRadar.com)

[Go to full article](#)

Regarding Buford corridor ... keep in mind that the County Commission sees the future of Buford primarily as a commercial development opportunity.

Could it be that our government and our school system are both ready to let these communities die a slow death to make way for their plan for the bright future?

Given DCSS plans to close schools, I'd say their best bet would be to close the predominately immigrant

schools along this corridor after another year or so of neglect (since the families present the smallest threat to DCSS), send the kids around to surrounding areas (again, these folks have little or no voice), and sell the properties to developers who put in sites that fit into the Commission's vision for our "urban" environment.

Ready team, break!

Seriously, I do not want to believe this is true. I tend to be a stubborn person and I'll know within 6 months whether DCSS is serious about the schools in my area. I will believe in the better natures of the leaders involved until they prove me wrong.

[That kid working for Mercedes Benz is getting scre...](#)

Thursday, February 05, 2009, 5:28:00 PM | noreply@blogger.com (No Duh) [Go to full article](#)

That kid working for Mercedes Benz is getting screwed! To think he could be a mechanic in the DCSS transportation department and make \$100K! :)

I distinctly recall Dr. Lewis PROMISING after that last school closing round that he would not touch the schools for AT LEAST eight years. Anyone else remember that? He was questioned at one of the public meetings.

[@Anon: " ... but when it comes to Latinos, Zepora,...](#)

Thursday, February 05, 2009, 5:22:00 PM | noreply@blogger.com (Kim->CommunityRadar.com)

[Go to full article](#)

@Anon: " ... but when it comes to Latinos, Zepora, Copelin-Wood and the rest of the BOE simply don't care, and neither does Crawford Lewis."

Si eso es cierto, estamos perdidos.

@Cere:

¿Es usted bilingüe? If not, these families need their own forum and a sponsor.

[Another student hit??? No!We need crossing guards...](#)

Thursday, February 05, 2009, 5:19:00 PM | noreply@blogger.com (NoMoreKidsHitByCars)

[Go to full article](#)

Another student hit??? No!

We need crossing guards for both elementary schools AND middle schools.

[Apparently, a student has been hit. Unfortunately...](#)

Thursday, February 05, 2009, 4:51:00 PM | noreply@blogger.com (themommy) [Go to full article](#)
Apparently, a student has been hit. Unfortunately, I have no other details.

[I don't have any details but emergency personnel \(...\)](#)

Thursday, February 05, 2009, 4:39:00 PM | noreply@blogger.com (themommy) [Go to full article](#)
I don't have any details but emergency personnel (including helicopters) are all over the place there.

It was already chaotic as there was a broken water main there and they sent the students home a bit early. Not sure if a child was hit or not.

[Oh, goodness. I'll do some calling around - I pray...](#)

Thursday, February 05, 2009, 4:27:00 PM | noreply@blogger.com (Dunwoody Mom) [Go to full article](#)
Oh, goodness. I'll do some calling around - I pray this is not true.

Everything was ok when I picked up my child at DHS. I know there was a water main break that is causing events that were planned at DHS tonight to be moved to Peachtree.

[Crawford Lewis and the Board of Education continue...](#)

Thursday, February 05, 2009, 4:21:00 PM | noreply@blogger.com (Anonymous) [Go to full article](#)
Crawford Lewis and the Board of Education continue to virtually ignore Hispanic students & families. Their schools around the Buford Highway corridor are in deplorable shape. There is not outreach, and there needs to be. And DCSS has almost no employees who are Latino. There are thousands of Latino students in DCSS schools.

It's unintentional discrimination. Zepora and Copelin-Wood go bananas if there is the slightest slight against African-Americans, but when it comes to Latinos, Zepora, Copelin-Wood and the rest of the BOE simply don't care, and neither does Crawford Lewis.

[Dunwoody Mom, I just heard that a child was hit by...](#)

Thursday, February 05, 2009, 4:19:00 PM | noreply@blogger.com (Anonymous) [Go to full article](#)
Dunwoody Mom, I just heard that a child was hit by a car at the corner of Vermack & Womack near

Dunwoody High School. I recieved no other detail, can you confirm? Thanks.

[Six periods at Arabia Mountain? I'm surprised - bl...](#)

Thursday, February 05, 2009, 2:45:00 PM | noreply@blogger.com (Dekalbparent) [Go to full article](#)
Six periods at Arabia Mountain? I'm surprised - block scheduling seemed to be so established in DK high schools. I know the system puts out a questionnaire each year asking teacher, student and parent opinions about block scheduling, and I haven't heard what the result was this year. Perhaps it indicated some dissatisfaction.

[Kim - if you only knew! In fact - I'm hearing that...](#)

Thursday, February 05, 2009, 2:03:00 PM | noreply@blogger.com (Cerebration) [Go to full article](#)
Kim - if you only knew! In fact - I'm hearing that's what the Board members are saying about me too!

[I'm a little confused. The news reports say that a...](#)

Thursday, February 05, 2009, 1:35:00 PM | noreply@blogger.com (Cerebration) [Go to full article](#)
I'm a little confused. The news reports say that all the other cars were stopped - did the driver of the SUV careen into other cars or go around them or what? It's looking more and more like she was just out to lunch.

[If the magnet programs cost more.. how are we affo...](#)

Thursday, February 05, 2009, 1:21:00 PM | noreply@blogger.com (Dunwoody Mom) [Go to full article](#)
If the magnet programs cost more.. how are we affording them? What is being cut to pay for them?

I've had that question for years - especially the programs at CCMS and CCHS. Those programs are redundant as to what is already offered and available at most middle school and high school. IMO, it was a situation that allowed CHS to stay open.

[What is breaking my heart about the little project...](#)

Thursday, February 05, 2009, 1:13:00 PM | noreply@blogger.com (themommy) [Go to full article](#)
What is breaking my heart about the little project I began is that we have so many people in jobs that probably aren't needed.

For example, we have 65-70 people identified as Central Support Clerk. Their salaries range from \$900

to 72K. What do these people do and why so many? When I used the first class index and randomly checked three I found none of them in the schools. In fairness, a couple didn't show up, so maybe some have been let go.

Add to the clerks, 14 employees identified as BUSINESS SERV SECRETARY/CLERK. Their salaries range from \$25K to \$72K. Randomly checking 3, I again found not one worked in the schools.

Very few in the business world have secretaries anymore.

Does anyone know what instructional supervisors do?

[Yes, crossing guards are only available to element...](#)

Thursday, February 05, 2009, 1:12:00 PM | noreply@blogger.com (Dunwoody Mom) [Go to full article](#)

Yes, crossing guards are only available to elementary schools, which made the traffic light issue in front of Peachtree an even more unacceptable as described John Henegan even more insane.

[@themommy: I do not fully understand your point bu...](#)

Thursday, February 05, 2009, 1:07:00 PM | noreply@blogger.com (Kim->CommunityRadar.com)

[Go to full article](#)

@themommy: I do not fully understand your point but I am glad to hear that racism isn't your only explanation for what happened at APE. Regarding the Hispanic families in our district - what should have been done for them then (and now)?

@Cerebration: Wow! You are crazy. :)

[I seem to remember that crossing guards are only p...](#)

Thursday, February 05, 2009, 1:07:00 PM | noreply@blogger.com (fedupindcss) [Go to full article](#)

I seem to remember that crossing guards are only provided through elementary school, and that middle schools don't get them. Is this true? I would watch 6th graders cross Henderson Mill Rd. at 4:15 and about have a heart attack. The only person out there was one of the SROs, and he was also trying to get busses out and direct carpool traffic. Total nightmare.

[One thing I forgot to mention, Dr. Lewis did indic...](#)

Thursday, February 05, 2009, 1:02:00 PM | noreply@blogger.com (pscexb) [Go to full article](#)

One thing I forgot to mention, Dr. Lewis did indicate they may need to cut an additional 16 million

dollars, for a total nearing 41 million this fiscal year. 217 positions will be eliminated by June 30 from the first round of cuts. I would 'speculate' the additional cuts could come both in personnel and possibly school closings.

[Something else to consider when looking at the sal...](#)

Wednesday, February 04, 2009, 11:15:00 PM | noreply@blogger.com (pscexb) [Go to full article](#)
Something else to consider when looking at the salaries, I understood this to be for the 2008 school year, which runs from July 2007 to June 2008. Some of the people also took the early retirement in June (take a look at the HR report for the 2/9 meeting)

[OK, highlights from the Arabia Mountain meeting at...](#)

Wednesday, February 04, 2009, 11:00:00 PM | noreply@blogger.com (pscexb) [Go to full article](#)
OK, highlights from the Arabia Mountain meeting at Lithonia...

The design capacity for Arabia Mountain is 1764. Take a look at the board agenda for the 2/9 meeting, Action Item #11 for documentation on this.

Arabia Mountain will be a choice school. It will use the small learning community concept (similar to what is being used in APS) with three different programs.

It will have a system wide component however seats will be reserved for those currently attending Lithonia and ML King, Jr. Essentially there will be a lottery for students from schools needing relief and then everyone else.

Tranportation will be provided through the shuttle system. At this time, there will not be a residential bus.

There will be a uniform policy and parent volunteer requirements, like Theme schools. It will also have 6 classes/day.

The meeting was held in the Lithonia auditorium. I am pleased to say it was at least 75% full.

Dr. Pringle indicated she interviewed over 300 people at the job fair. Some candidates were referred to the March job fair.

[JUst wanted to move the below from the January thr...](#)

Wednesday, February 04, 2009, 10:58:00 PM | noreply@blogger.com (No Duh) [Go to full article](#)
JUst wanted to move the below from the January thread "Really Talk Splost"

Been There, Done That Got the T-Shirt Said: "My experiences with the current administration have shown me that the Super tends to favor those that always agree with him and ignore or worse, penalize, those who disagree with him - especially in public."

If that's true, what a sad little man he must truly be.

[The madness continues... I just don't understand h...](#)

Wednesday, February 04, 2009, 10:56:00 PM | noreply@blogger.com (Cerebration) [Go to full article](#)

The madness continues... I just don't understand how they can spend so much on renovating their OWN administrative spaces - while students continue to suffer... this is an outrage. Add this on top of the Sam Moss total renovation - and I think students at Lakeside, Cross Keys and Chamblee have been totally raked over the coals.

[Interesting:The Mountain Industrial Center project...](#)

Wednesday, February 04, 2009, 10:51:00 PM | noreply@blogger.com (Ella) [Go to full article](#)

Interesting:

The Mountain Industrial Center project budget will be increased by the amount \$3,943,839.00 allocated from the Capital Improvements Plan 421.73.01.00.124421.752.0000. A budget adjustment is attached to reallocate funds.

Requested Action

It is recommended that the Board approve the relocation of the DeKalb County School System's Administrative Offices to the Mountain Industrial Center site; amend the Mountain Industrial Center's Design/Builder's contract to include the Administrative Offices scope of work; and approve an associated budget adjustment for the Mountain Industrial Center project.

Motion by: _____

Seconded by: _____

Vote: _____

Goals

Goal #4-To ensure fiscal responsibility in order to maintain safe and healthy learning

Are these SPLOTs funds that have to do with learning as to the goal. Will the administration offices be in a safe and healthy learning enviroment while some schools are in the shape they are in.

I do not understand how school board member keep telling me we have no money for school improvements in the Lakeside area and then I see this amount of money being voting on by the board for

administrative offices. I would like to see the administration do their learning as stated in this goal in 22 trailers. I am disappointed in seeing this.

[How about this -- instead of vouchers - we just di...](#)

Wednesday, February 04, 2009, 10:39:00 PM | noreply@blogger.com (Cerebration) [Go to full article](#)

How about this -- instead of vouchers - we just dismantle public schools altogether and eliminate that portion of the property tax bill. Also, eliminate the Federal and State taxes going to education. With all that extra money - from not having to pay all that tax - private school should be affordable for just about everyone. We could go back to the day where that's all we had - private schools funded by tuition or maybe a church. Personally - I went to Catholic school back in the day when the Catholic church sponsored the schools - there was no tuition. We just went there because we were Catholic. Now - you'd be hard-pressed to find a Catholic school with a tuition under \$10k.

Radical - eh?

[Dunwoody Mom is absolutely correct and knows very ...](#)

Wednesday, February 04, 2009, 10:39:00 PM | noreply@blogger.com (John Heneghan) [Go to full article](#)

Dunwoody Mom is absolutely correct and knows very well from our "experience" with the Peachtree Charter Middle School intersection.

The DeKalb County Government (or local government) pays for all improvements off school property. I fought with both the County and the DCSS to get that intersection rectified and wrote nine blog posts outlining the circumstances. Satisfaction was finally obtained when the County couldn't refute their own legal opinion and that of the Georgia Supreme Court.

The entity responsible for the lack of a light at that school is the DeKalb County Government and if one is needed that is who will be footing the bill for the installation.

<http://dunwoodynorth.blogspot.com/2008/03/dekalb-county-finally-agrees-to-handle.html>

[Their children had special permission to attend La...](#)

Wednesday, February 04, 2009, 10:25:00 PM | noreply@blogger.com (Ella) [Go to full article](#)

Their children had special permission to attend Lakeside as they live out of district. This is interesting.

I am not saying this is why we have not gotten the additions but I do think that many bridges were burned and it actually hurt the Lakeside Community with their relationship with the county office. I believe Mr. Chelf fed the fuel that caused this situation to get out of control. First of all he did not have

the experience to be a principal. He just came to Lakeside and met the right people who wanted him as the principal. Many other qualified individuals were overlooked who just happened to be African American. This is what caused the racial tension at Lakeside. I do not believe he should have been hired over some more qualified candidates. Mr. Chelf felt he could use a group of the Lakeside community that helped him get his job to keep his job, so he had his little pep team. He catered to this group of parents and their children.

[Why didn't anyone back up the principal when she w...](#)

Wednesday, February 04, 2009, 10:20:00 PM | noreply@blogger.com (NoMoreKidsHitByCars)

[Go to full article](#)

Why didn't anyone back up the principal when she wanted the blinking light put back?

God bless the family.

[True enough, but Mr. Chelf himself was a big insti...](#)

Wednesday, February 04, 2009, 10:07:00 PM | noreply@blogger.com (Cerebration) [Go to full article](#)

True enough, but Mr. Chelf himself was a big instigator in spreading the madness. He planted a lot of the anger and wrong thinking in people's minds. However - none of this should matter. A School Board and a Superintendent should never feel as if it's ok to withhold spending tax dollars equitably on children who deserve to go to school in just as clean and safe a building as others who are more warm and cuddly with the Super. He is a professional and should rise above it all.

Also - several of the parents causing the bad relations with the Super are there on a transfer. He could very easily revoke their transfers or not have issued them in the first place - but he didn't have the guts.

[Cerebration, I liked Johnny Brown or Dr. Brown a g...](#)

Wednesday, February 04, 2009, 10:00:00 PM | noreply@blogger.com (Ella) [Go to full article](#)

Cerebration, I liked Johnny Brown or Dr. Brown a great deal. I went over and met with him and I was impressed with him. He really did want to clean house. I do not know Dr. Lewis and from what I see I like him. I am disappointed that Lakeside has been overlooked for additions and renovations except for an auditorium and vocational additions. I have been disappointed in several things I see happening at my son's school from time to time but maybe part of this was brought on by a group of parents who felt they could stop Mr. Chelf from being let go as the principal. Lakeside is still feeling the affect of the parents' actions. Rumor has it that legal charges could still be brought in this situation. I am not sure if this is true but there are many things that can not be discussed with the public to protect employees like Mr. Chelf. I am not saying Mr. Chelf did something wrong but if he did Dr. Lewis is not at liberty to talk to parents openly about it so it made for a bad situation. Many parents demanded too much information and did not

respect the privacy of Mr. Chelf or the privacy the school system must provide.

[I think he feels security with his position and I ...](#)

Wednesday, February 04, 2009, 9:45:00 PM | noreply@blogger.com (Ella) [Go to full article](#)

I think he feels security with his position and I doubt I hear from him. So many times people running for office will tell you about whatever you want to hear as when they get into office they seldom lose to someone who runs against them so once they have been elected.

[Your comments have little to do with the school sy...](#)

Wednesday, February 04, 2009, 9:32:00 PM | noreply@blogger.com (Dunwoody Mom)

[Go to full article](#)

Your comments have little to do with the school system having control over traffic lights.

This is a good read over the "fiasco" that was the new light/crosswalk in front of PCMS.

http://www.dunwoodynorth.org/schools/peachtree/SchoolBoard_funding_Traffic.pdf

[I remember when Johnny Brown looked into this, he ...](#)

Wednesday, February 04, 2009, 9:24:00 PM | noreply@blogger.com (Cerebration) [Go to full article](#)

I remember when Johnny Brown looked into this, he found out that there were many people not actually doing what their job description said they should be doing. Many of them were consequently being overpaid - paid for duties they didn't perform.

[Ella, thanks for contacting Adelman. As a BOE can...](#)

Wednesday, February 04, 2009, 9:23:00 PM | noreply@blogger.com (Anonymous) [Go to full article](#)

Ella, thanks for contacting Adelman. As a BOE candidate with a lot of votes, he should listen to you.

["The school system has no control over traffic lig...](#)

Wednesday, February 04, 2009, 9:21:00 PM | noreply@blogger.com (Anonymous) [Go to full article](#)

"The school system has no control over traffic lights."

The school system absolutely has a duty to work with the county on school safety. This could easily

happen again if the county and school system can't put aside their pettiness and work together for the common good of Dekalb residents.

[Ok-- you all are doing great on my little project....](#)

Wednesday, February 04, 2009, 8:34:00 PM | noreply@blogger.com (themommy) [Go to full article](#)

Ok-- you all are doing great on my little project.

Interesting stuff.. lots of "data" to mine. One thing, I randomly selected two instructional specialists to figure out what they do. One is an elementary PE teacher and the other is a middle school PE teacher.

I am done for the night, but I will come back with a further plan for tomorrow.

[Cerbration, we probable do have that many. I thin...](#)

Wednesday, February 04, 2009, 7:42:00 PM | noreply@blogger.com (Ella) [Go to full article](#)

Cerbration, we probable do have that many.

I think the graduation coach positions are not very helpful from what I see. They are just another counselor in high schools and middle schools. This is a job our counselors used to do with their students.

I think most academic support teachers are not needed as department heads have normally 2 planning periods daily and in most cases could do these jobs.

We probable do have 473 "Instructional Specialists" and 72 "Instructional Supervisors jobs in Dekalb County. I suspect a big portion of these jobs are Instructional Support Teachers for Special Education. Many schools either have their own or share one with another school. These individuals do eligibility reports for special education students. Each student has to have one done every 3 years. Fulton County has these positions also. Gwinnett has their teachers complete most of the eligibility reports as they are qualified to do so. More money is apparently going into special education from the new federal bill. Some of this money being spent does come from the federal government. When I was a special education teacher in Dekalb I felt I never had sufficient materials. I felt too much was being spent on IST positions and not enough on our special education students. We also have ESOL Instructional Staff, Math Instructional Staff, Social Studies Instructional Staff, Science Instruction Staff, Fine Arts Instructional Staff, Health and PE Instructional Staff, and Instructional Support Staff on top of that.

[The school system has no control over traffic ligh...](#)

Wednesday, February 04, 2009, 7:38:00 PM | noreply@blogger.com (Dunwoody Mom)

[Go to full article](#)

The school system has no control over traffic lights. This one is the Vernon Jones administration.

[Anonymous, I emailed Ms. Parent and/or Mr. Aldelma...](#)

Wednesday, February 04, 2009, 7:27:00 PM | noreply@blogger.com (Ella) [Go to full article](#)

Anonymous, I emailed Ms. Parent and/or Mr. Aldelman and educate her and him on the renovation and new school needs of DCSS schools not just across the county but RIGHT IN ADELMAN'S OWN SENATE DISTRICT!!!

I tried to be nice but I did suggest he make a trip to some schools like Lakeside High School, Chamblee High School and Cross Keys High School before she or he sent out an email like this again.

[My heart breaks for Cameron's family - especially ...](#)

Wednesday, February 04, 2009, 7:24:00 PM | noreply@blogger.com (Cerebration) [Go to full article](#)

My heart breaks for Cameron's family - especially his sister.

[So - do we REALLY need 473 "Instructional Speciali...](#)

Wednesday, February 04, 2009, 7:00:00 PM | noreply@blogger.com (Cerebration) [Go to full article](#)

So - do we REALLY need 473 "Instructional Specialists" and 72 "Instructional Supervisors" 45 "Graduation Specialists", 295 "Assistant Principals" and countless other "IS Support" types?

[Yes, the driver is at fault, and should spend year...](#)

Wednesday, February 04, 2009, 6:57:00 PM | noreply@blogger.com (Open+Transparent)

[Go to full article](#)

Yes, the driver is at fault, and should spend years in jail and NEVER be allowed to drive again. However,

"Chief Executive Officer Burrell Ellis could not explain what happened in response to earlier requests by both neighbors and the principal of Princeton Elementary School to put a traffic signal at the crosswalk. It has been a concern since the school opened on South DeShon Road in August 2007. "We can't determine what's taken place thus far," Ellis said at a news conference. "But we're going to have an assessment."

NOT GOOD ENOUGH CEO BURRELL ELLIS!

Late Tuesday afternoon, county spokeswoman Sheila Edwards said the department heads that deal with roads didn't have the answers yet. "We've asked them to dig deeper," she said.

Did Deeper??? WTF?? F-ing fire them now!!!

1) DeKalb County had placed a blinking traffic light at Princeton Elementary when the school opened in 2007.

Why was it removed? Which county employee from which dept. made the decision to remove it and why? Did the CEO's office approve the removal? Did the Board of Commissioners know anything about it? Did the county communicate the decision to remove the light to the school system? Which idiot department and idiot administrators allowed a blinking light to be removed from a county public school??? Will people be held responsible? Will people rightfully lose their jobs?

2) When the blinking light was removed, how did the school system administration respond? The principal and parents wanted the blinking light back. Did Crawford Lewis, Pat Pope and David Guillory demand the county return the light? If they did not, why didn't they? Were the Board of Education members made aware of the light's removal? Why didn't the school system do everything in its power to return the light, as the school principal and parents requested, even if it meant taking the county to court?

A bright, full of life seven year old child is gone. Dead.

There is so much blame here. And this is the No. 1 example we have of a county and school system that refuse to work together. And a seven year old is dead because of it.

One last point: Despite the high number of high paid employees in the DCSS Transportation Dept., they do NOTHING except for coordinating buses, buses with high particulate pollution to boot.

Children walk to school. Some even bike to school. Multiple times a year, the DCSS Transportation staff should be auditing the area surrounding every DCSS School, making sure the sidewalks are in good shape, that the crosswalks are properly striped, that there are no impediments to safe passage by our schoolchildren, and their parents. They should be coordinating with the county before each school year to fix problems. Pat Pope and her Sam Moss staff also need to be part of this process.

When a child lives close to a school, we all should want that child to walk or bike to school. But the DCSS Transportation Dept. staff doesn't get it and doesn't care.

As a father, I shed tears when I saw this story on TV. Imagine the last second of Kameron Dunmore's life, seeing a car speed towards him while he was in a crosswalk, with his sister watching as she has just walked him to the crosswalk.

This did not have to happen. While CEP Burrell Ellis is "assessing" the situation and asking the department heads that deal with roads who "didn't have the answers yet" to "dig deeper", Kameron Dunmore is gone.

He's gone forever, but will never be forgotten.

[This is a good example of how the county needs to ...](#)

Wednesday, February 04, 2009, 6:31:00 PM | noreply@blogger.com (Ella) [Go to full article](#)

This is a good example of how the county needs to work with the school system to assure the safety of our children around crosswalks.

I know Mr. Ellis does want to work closer with the school board and the new school board wants to work with Mr. Ellis. Hopefully this incident can open up a dialog of how important it is that they work together for the benefit of the citizens of Dekalb County.

[Patricia Reid is Patricia Pope. Today we were told ...](#)

Wednesday, February 04, 2009, 6:15:00 PM | noreply@blogger.com (Ella) [Go to full article](#)

Patricia Reid is Patricia Pope.

Today we were told in a teachers meeting that Fulton County is dropping its per pupil money from \$120 a student to \$90 a student.

If principals are allowed to run their schools as they see fit from a local level and get the pay they deserve then there is not a need for all these associate super. Principals do have a great deal of responsibility and I have never felt they get paid enough for the responsibilities they have.

The school board last year requested a cut down of the administration.

[Wonder how many non-DeKalb resident students will ...](#)

Wednesday, February 04, 2009, 5:59:00 PM | noreply@blogger.com (Anonymous) [Go to full article](#)

Wonder how many non-DeKalb resident students will lie or rig the system to get into the beautiful new Arabia Mt. High School, which is in the far southeast end of the county.

[Let's see Keith Jones - Asst principal - \\$72,001.2...](#)

Wednesday, February 04, 2009, 5:59:00 PM | noreply@blogger.com (Cerebration) [Go to full article](#)

Let's see

Keith Jones - Asst principal - \$72,001.21

Terrance Dillard - Asst principal - \$64,657.54

Having this showdown happen at Miller Grove instead of Lakeside -- priceless!

[Any good school superintendent in the country woul...](#)

Wednesday, February 04, 2009, 5:54:00 PM | noreply@blogger.com (Anonymous) [Go to full article](#)

Any good school superintendent in the country would have immediately FIRED assistant principal Keith Jones and assistant principal Terence Dillard. It's shameful that our tax money is paying these idiots.

There are some good DCSS assistant principals, but there are many who are not productive. And the system has many more assistant principals than it needs to begin with.

[Cere, can you please start a new post about the de...](#)

Wednesday, February 04, 2009, 5:50:00 PM | noreply@blogger.com (Open+Transparent)

[Go to full article](#)

Cere, can you please start a new post about the death at Princeton Elem?

"208 people making over \$100k, 160 people made in the \$90's, 386 people made in the 80's"

This is unbelievable stuff. I'm guessing most school board members don't know this info. about the incredible waste & bloat. And the ones who know don't mind sticking it to county taxpayers.

And who is Patricia Reid and what does she do? I didn't see Pat Pope's salary on there. And how many freaking Dpt Ast Super's do we need??

IT IS CLEAR THAT CRAWFORD LEWIS WILL NEVER CUT THE ADMINISTRATIVE BLOAT. HE NEEDS TO GO AND GO NOW!

[I would think this mean Central Office Clerk-work ...](#)

Wednesday, February 04, 2009, 5:50:00 PM | noreply@blogger.com (Ella) [Go to full article](#)

I would think this mean Central Office Clerk-work at the Central office-clerical-or something similar to this-secretaries-

Is someone putting this on a spreadsheet? I have not went in and done any work yet but it appears someone has been working hard today.

Instructional Support or Supervisors are individuals like Lead Teachers of Special Education, Instructional Coaches:like the lady who instructs teachers to use the new partheon boards.

I do believe good assistant principal are worth the money they are paid. I do believe we have two many associate supers.

[Here's the organization chart. Just in a quick vi...](#)

Wednesday, February 04, 2009, 5:48:00 PM | noreply@blogger.com (Dunwoody Mom)

[Go to full article](#)

Here's the organization chart. Just in a quick view of the job descriptions there seems to be a lot of overlapping and redundancy.

<http://www.dekalb.k12.ga.us/superintendent/organization/>

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