

City of Stonecrest Education Committee Meeting Minutes August 21, 2018

Stonecrest City Hall
3120 Stonecrest Blvd.
Stonecrest, GA 30038

The meeting was called to order by the Chairperson, Barbara Lee. There were no guests present.

Members in attendance were: Ms. Pam Childs, Mrs. Sandra Harris, Dr. Barbara Lee, Ms. Nicole Prater, Mr. Andrew Wells, and Mrs. Vickie Turner.

There was no old business to be discussed since the presenting member was not present. The discussion went directly to the next agenda item which was a report by Dr. Lee and Mrs. Turner on the meeting presented by Dr. Stephen Green, Superintendent of DeKalb Schools, and his cabinet members on August 14, 2018. A copy of the notes taken from the meeting was given to all members present and the robust discussion began. Some items covered by Dr. Green and his cabinet had already been discussed in prior meetings with the Stonecrest Education Committee. These items include the growth of the Stonecrest area, especially around Flat Rock Elementary School, Parks at Stonecrest, Covington Highway and Miller Road. They reported that 15 mobile units are already in place at the following elementary schools in Stonecrest: Fairington Ele has 3 mobile classrooms, Flat Rock has 1 mobile classroom, Panola Way has 3 mobile classrooms, and Stoneview has 8 mobile classrooms. This data was disturbing because Stoneview and Fairington have already experienced decades of mobile units which contributed to their academic struggles for decades. Many of the 1,000 students at Flat Rock came from the Stoneview, Fairington, Murphy Candler areas where there were as many as 19 mobile classrooms for decades. We need a new elementary school and another middle school. Martin Luther King had as many as 45 mobile classroom units at one time. We need parents to attend School Board meetings and voice their concerns that we will slip back into decades of mobile classrooms again. If we have to wait five years until another SPLOST, we will be definitely overcrowded by that time.

There was also a robust discussion of the PBIS Program that is being implemented at Salem Middle School and in two schools in APS where two of our members work. The program has a great success rate based upon research, but much depends on the implementation by the leadership of the school. Discussed briefly were the restorative practices program and training implemented at Lithonia Middle School. Other topics being implemented in the Stonecrest schools were mentioned briefly such as State Reading Mentor Grant at Stoneview and Flat Rock schools, Personalizing Work (Learning) at several elementary schools, but the committee felt that we needed more specific information on the progress of the schools in Stonecrest and the expectations of the new programs. Therefore, the committee decided to invite Ms. Stacy Stepney, Deputy over the Curriculum and Instruction Department to come to

our next meeting to answer our specific questions about the plan for improving the schools in Stonecrest City. We are waiting on her response. We also discussed inviting Mr. Quinn Green, President of the DeKalb Board of Realtors to our meeting after Ms. Stepney. We need realtors to market our city and our schools. There are great things going on in our schools as we improve them. Their stories need to be told and we will help spread this good news.

Dr. Lee will get with the Director of Stonecrest Library to see how the committee can help with the ACT and SAT program they offer online. Perhaps to add some onsite sessions also would strengthen the existing program and meet the needs of the students needing support by a live tutor. Also how we can help with the homework and online tutoring plans. Ms. Harris and Mr. Wells will check on tutoring offered through local businesses in the City of Stonecrest. Mr. Wells and Ms. Moore will continue their efforts with Georgia Piedmont College.

The DeKalb School System has many partnerships that will advance opportunities for our students to leave high school and go directly into the workforce with great salaries or directly to higher learning institutions with having earned at least a two-year degree in certain areas as well as nursing CNN certification, firefighters certification completed and many others. Two Institutions involved in these partnerships are Georgia State University- Nursing Program, Georgia Piedmont Technical College – GED Program. Talks will begin with the two Area Superintendents that serve schools in the City of Stonecrest. Support of the schools will be discussed with the Area Superintendents and the local principals. PTAs and School Councils are invited to meet with us for input as to what their concerns are or their schools. Parent Liaisons are encouraged to reach out to this committee.

Submitted by

Chairman

Dr. Barbara Lee