May 31st, 2018

Dear Dekalb County Board of Education,

The Lakeside Cluster Summit (LCS) is a group of Principals, Parents Leaders, and Community Members that meet regularly with our Board of Education Member, Jim McMahan, and our Regional Superintendent, Trenton Arnold. The LCS’ purpose is to unify the cluster by improving communication, coordinating academic and social programs, and helping to ensure that the needs of every school throughout the Lakeside Cluster are met [Lakeside HS, Henderson MS, Briarlake ES, Evansdale ES, Hawthorne ES, Henderson Mill ES, Oakcliff Theme School, Oak Grove ES, Pleasantdale ES, Sagamore ES].

The LCS met on Feb 1, 2018 and asked for input from every Principal and Parent Leaders in each school in the Lakeside Cluster. The Principals and Parent Leaders shared their top two strengths and two biggest challenges. Aside from the obvious challenge of overcrowding at our schools, which we recognize the Board is reviewing, there were two key challenges facing the schools in our Cluster:

**1)** **Facilities Improvements needed**, **specifically transparency regarding the status of Work Orders, and 2)** **Staffing Issues with respect to Interpreters, Substitutes, and Nurses.**

The LCS is asking the District for the following:

1. *Provide more transparency in regards to the status of facility work orders and projected completion dates.*
2. *A Reassessment of the metric used to determine how schools qualify for interpretation services. Using school population or even student ESOL numbers does not accurately capture the parent population that is in greatest need of interpretation services.*
3. *Update the system used by schools to enlist Substitute teachers. Also, provide better incentives for Substitutes so that schools can receive adequate coverage when teachers are not able to be in the classroom.*
4. *Provide better incentives for Nurses, including part-time options and benefits, so that all schools will be staffed with qualified medical personnel. Henderson Middle School, one of the largest middle schools in the District, has not had a Nurse for several years. This is unacceptable.*

Thank you for your consideration of our issues. We appreciate the opportunity to work in partnership with you to improve our schools.

The Lakeside Cluster Summit Executive Committee:

Debbie Martin-Gerstle and Sonya Tinsley-Hook: LCS Co-Chairs

Karen Crittenden: Vice Chair/Web Designer: *https://lakesidecluster.weebly.com/*

Weatherly Polinski: Recording Secretary