



**AD HOC COMMITTEE FOR EDUCATION  
REGULAR MEETING  
January 13, 2016**

**MINUTES**

Members Present: Susan Belmonte, Chair  
Mark Joyner, Vice Chair  
Jane Howe  
Carol McCullough  
Pam Ryan

Members Absent: Fred Avett

Guests: Jonathan Elmore, Mayor  
Brian Fisher, Commissioner

Item No. 1 Meeting called to order

Item No. 2 Adoption of Agenda  
Item No. 8 (School Fair Update: Amanda Battle/AE Parents Co-Op) deleted

Item No. 3 Designation of Meeting Secretary -- Mark Joyner

Item No. 4 Welcome Guests -- Mayor Elmore and Commissioner Fisher

Item No. 5 Member Reports

Carol McCullough made contact with Katherine Kelbaugh at Museum School

Susan Belmonte sent letters to DeKalb Elementary School of the Arts -- letters to counselors bounced back

Pam Ryan emailing with and scheduling meeting with Dr. Andrews at Avondale Elementary. Parent Co-op hosting education resource fair Jan 24, 3-5 at Baptist church.

Item No. 6 General Discussion with Mayor Elmore and Commissioner Fisher

How do we support and improve Avondale Estates Elementary School (AEES)? Encourage community support through time and money. Would improving IB program at AEES help it to improve school? Mayor Elmore has had 3-4 contacts with Dr. Andrews and AEES. City to possibly host a field day or forum to help show support for teachers and schools. Ad Hoc will make first contact with school admin with letter and Mayor will follow-up with phone call -- testing the waters for dialogue and possible participation in field day/forum.

Item No. 7 Legislative Update: Jane Howe

Jane is an education advocate. She helped to establish IB program at AEES. She currently works with TRAGIC. TRAGIC has 23K followers on Facebook and they are working against anti-public school legislation.

Jane spoke about Opportunity School District (OSD). Governor Deal wants to set up OSD with an appointed Superintendent who reports only to the Governor. The OSD is made up of failing schools. After 3 years of continued non-performance, the school and all its resources and property is given to a for profit charter company. SB 133 and SR 287 both address the formulation of OSD.

The general assembly continues to hold onto \$4.6B in austerity funding.

The Education Reform Commission (ERC) is pushing for merit pay for teachers and alternative funding for education (lump sums of money from state to districts)

American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) is pushing for privatization of all schools

Professional Association of Georgia Educators (PAGE) pushing "I Promise Campaign" for teachers and stakeholders to call legislators to roll back merit pay and alternative funding.

#### Action Items

Susan -- email latest revision of letter. Email link to education forum

Pam -- continue with Amanda Battle

Mark -- Email addresses for counselors at DESA

Item No. 8 Public Comments -- None

Item No. 9 Meeting adjourned