



Dunwoody Elementary School Principal's Advisory Council  
1923 Womack Road  
Dunwoody, GA 30338

February 19, 2021

Dr. Cheryl Watson-Harris, Superintendent  
DeKalb County School District (DCSD)  
1701 Mountain Industrial Boulevard  
Stone Mountain, GA 30083

Dear Superintendent Cheryl Watson-Harris,

This is our first letter to you since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic. The Dunwoody Elementary School (DES) Principal's Advisory Council (PAC) recognizes the unusual and strenuous challenges that welcomed you to your new superintendent role. We believe you are sincere in your commitment to lead Dekalb's scholars, and for that reason, we now submit this request to you.

**This letter is to formally request you provide clarity on its school reopening plan** for the remainder of the 2020-2021 academic calendar. Please note we, as the DES PAC, are not taking a position on school reopening. Rather, this request is simply asking for clarity on when you will decide and how students may return to classrooms, particularly now that the CDC released an updated operational strategy with guidance for phased COVID-19 mitigation in schools.

As members of the DES PAC, we fielded numerous questions from parents in our school community. We've been asked whether DCSD is waiting for the Covid-19 cases in Dekalb to reach a certain level, and if so, what is that metric. Also, are we still using the % positivity rate as the guiding metric for the option of a choice to return to the classroom. We've been asked if, perhaps, our buildings are not ready for re-entry based on recommendations from CDC as it relates to cleaning, sanitizing, and airflow. Some parents are asking if the District is prepared with recommended cleaning supplies; others are asking if we are prepared on technology and equipment necessary to teach to a remote or on campus setting. Similarly, some parents are concerned about mitigating potential Covid-19 outbreaks and how contact tracing would be implemented during on campus activities such as classroom learning, or district required testing. Other parents asked if the County will even reopen in the Fall of '21. All these concerns and questions are valid and deserve regular communication and updates. Despite attending town hall meetings, visiting the DCSD reopening website, reading your regular email newsletters and updates, and

attending various virtual meetings, we remain unable to answer these questions for our students and families.

Our community shares a critical need for clarity on the District's plans for returning students to classrooms. Many of the above questions are from parents who attended the most recent Board meeting with the expectation of hearing these issues addressed. We look forward to your next townhall update and the next Board meeting, but if neither forum provides the clarity we seek, we kindly request a response to this inquiry by February 26, 2021.

We would greatly appreciate confirmation you received this along with any additional information you can provide about your decisions and the metrics that guide them.

Sincerely,

Wendy Foote, Chair, Dunwoody Elementary School Principal's Advisory Council  
On behalf of the parent and community representatives of the DES PAC

Jenny Rolfes, Co-Chair;  
Erin Thomas, Secretary  
Marissa Evans, Parent Representative  
Lauren Middlebrooks, Parent Representative  
Catherine Rasberry, Parent Representative  
Melanie Taylor, Parent Representative  
Jack Zheng, Parent Representative  
Jim Redovian, Community Representative

Cc: DCSD BoE