

Summary

Dothan City School Board June Board Meeting 2019

Construction has begun. Honeysuckle, Dothan Prep and Northview will be very active sites. The crews have hit the ground running, even though, some Principals did not follow directions and get furniture and other items out of the way. It has taken this past week to ask Maintenance and several others to come in and do what should have been done prior to the end of the year.

Next week, at my request, several AP's from the high schools will be helping Sharla and Tim out to make sure everything is out and categorized for WIRED to move. We have been meeting regularly with them and I am confident that we will be in excellent shape after they are finished. Following that work, we will reassess and use the rest of the summer to finish the work.

Several elementary schools will also get classroom changes but these will be minimal. Almost all schools will have the front halls painted and pressure washing of the front of the building to start.

There are a lot of water issues at Dothan Prep which must be addressed and will be. After that we will be redoing the parking lots and a road is going to be put into place, with the city.

Roof estimates are in and we will ask you to approve on the 13th if there are any bids or orders.

You know that I have been working on these plans for months and executed in a timely manner. We are on the way to correcting many, many issues at schools. It is not appropriate, at this point, for outside people to try to make any changes.

In July, Jeff and I will plan a date when you will be able to walk through and see the changes. We will have hard hats for you. Please do not go through the schools until then. Construction crews, for safety reasons, do not want people walking through sites.

Schools that need the most attention are Dothan Prep, Northview, Selma, Honeysuckle and Carver. Girard also has water issues and many of these are not ADA acceptable and need elevators.

To date, our bids are coming under budget, which is good and we will turn around and include other things, as we can.

On the 13th, you will hear a presentation from Trane which is about Performance Contracts. We have gotten them down to a reasonable yearly cost and if you approve, which I urge you to do, there will be another 10 million applied to the needs of the school system in the areas of lighting, water and HVAC; which yields the most energy savings. You have done performance contracts before. I can't say what you have to show for it in the past, as I was not here, but I guarantee you, you will know what you are getting and saving.

Again, I am shocked by the amount of work that has not been done or the way things were not

kept up. That also includes the various parking lots at the schools. People cannot complain with what we are doing, when nothing has been done in the past.

Just cleaning out the buildings has turned up additional textbooks that were unopened, more STEM materials than people knew were available, technology not used and just sitting in closets and so on. The buildings have not been cleaned as they should have been. Honeysuckle, in particular, is a mess. I believe in helping our people and encouraging staff to do a good job. However; not much has been done over time.

When we reopen, the schools will be better and look better than they have in quite some time. Darius and I walked Dothan Prep last week. It is sad to see the garbage all around the school, the rusted equipment and rough field spaces, the back rusted stairs. Much of that will be cleaned or fixed but for students to feel pride in their buildings they have to see that we care about spaces we put them in to learn.

The Retirement Celebration was very nice. People appreciated the effort. Thank you if you were able to come. The backyard picnic for staff at my house, was also very nice and appreciated. Teacher of the Year Event was great and appreciated. Now, I am working on the Opening Day Celebration, which will be August 16th in the am. Please mark your calendar and attend. It is meaningful for you to be there.

We have a speaker and I have sent out letters asking for donations from our vendor list to offset the cost of lunch. The event will be at the Wiregrass Church and start about 9 and end around 12. Now, I am looking for dollars to buy lunch for the staff. I am trying to get about 10 food trucks and give everyone a ticket to go out and get something from whatever truck vendor they want. We will also be giving teachers a purchasing card with about 700.00 loaded on it for school supplies and set up.

You should have the recommendations for Basketball Coach, boys and Baseball, boys, by the 13th of June.

We have Jayne Williams coming to do our whole board training this summer on June 20th. I am putting it at 2 p.m. until 4 p.m. You must have whole board training. Please clear your schedule so you can attend. That night is the regular board meeting starting at 5:00. I will have dinner for you at 4:15 so you will eat before you go into the board meeting. If we do our work at the work session and you spend some time talking with me before the meeting, the meeting should go quickly as you will already have the information.

I read through the applications for the Turner Scholarships for medical school tuition. It will be me, David and the head doc at SE Medical Center, making the decision that is planned for the 5th. I read through them last weekend.

We are on 4-day work weeks. This was in place before me, so I guess you are used to it.

Mike Manuel will give you a financial report this June meeting.

After our meeting on the 20th, I will take a few weeks off and go to Florida to see my child. As always, I continue to work - taking my phone and computer.

Teachers are going off to training. Your entire workforce will be trained extensively this summer. We should expect good teaching at every level and if not, we have to provide professional support and then have tough conversations.

I am planning a leadership training for Principals and AP's for next year, which will run over the course of the year. As the details come together, I will let you know what we are doing and when we are meeting. You are always welcome to attend any of the leadership meetings.

In the next week or so, you will receive the Evaluation, you agreed to provide me for this year. I will also get you a snapshot of items that I have completed, related to each goal. I am pretty sure that you are well-aware of everything I have done here in Dothan, since arriving last March. All of my effort and time has been spent on flipping this system. There is virtually not an area, that I haven't reviewed or worked on to make function better for students and teachers.

I am still attending meetings, when asked. I met with the Pastors in May. I don't believe anyone that asked has been turned down.

Thank you. I am available to meet with anyone as you wish.