

Public Forum: Improving Public Education in Dunwoody

Hosted by Dunwoody Parents
Concerned about Quality
Education, Inc.

A Georgia Nonprofit Corporation

Dunwoody Parents Concerned About Quality Education, Inc.

Steering Committee

Claire Botsch

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Dunwoody Parents Concerned About Quality Education, Inc.

Forum Purpose

- Discussion**
- Information**
- Feedback**
- Communications**

The Dunwoody Cluster

- ◉ Dunwoody High School
- ◉ Peachtree Charter Middle School
- ◉ Austin Elementary School
- ◉ Chesnut Charter Elementary School
- ◉ Dunwoody Elementary School
- ◉ Hightower Elementary School *
- ◉ Kingsley Charter Elementary School
- ◉ Vanderlyn Elementary School

**Outside the city limits.*

The Dunwoody Cluster

Great things are happening
in Dunwoody schools.

The Dunwoody Cluster: Dunwoody High School

- 2013 AP Honors School
- Three 2012 National Merit Scholarship Finalists
- Two 2013 National Merit Scholarship Finalists
- Two 2012 Gates Millennium Scholars
- Eight 2012 Governor's Honors Program Finalists
- 510 students took 1,005 AP courses in 2011-2012

The Dunwoody Cluster: Peachtree Charter Middle School

- Parents contributed 11,000 volunteer hours in 2011-2012
- First place win at the 2013 DeKalb County Social Studies Fair
- DeKalb County School District (DCSD) Spelling Bee winner
- Prestigious Peachtree Drama program

The Dunwoody Cluster: Elementary School Accolades

- ◉ **Austin:** Gold Award for Outstanding Student Achievement from the Governor's Office
- ◉ **Chesnut:** Five students won during this year's district-wide Technology Fair; next compete in the GaETC State Technology Fair
- ◉ **Dunwoody:** Seeking to become a STEM school (Science, Technology Engineering and Math)
- ◉ **Hightower:** Title 1 School – consistently meets AYP
- ◉ **Kingsley:** Premier Accelerated Reading Program (national recognition)
- ◉ **Vanderlyn:** Platinum Award from Governor's Office of Student Achievement

Accreditation

- ◉ Current status for DeKalb School System: Probation by SACCS (Southern Association of Colleges and Schools)
- ◉ What probation means
- ◉ What loss of accreditation means

Accreditation

Options:

- Ask SACCS to accredit Dunwoody High School individually.
- Seek dual accreditation by Georgia Accrediting Commission (GAC).
- Challenges and opportunities.

Legislation

Representative Tom Taylor

◎ HR 486:

- "...to authorize any municipality created on or after January 1, 2005, and any municipality which is contiguous to a municipality created on or after January 1, 2005, irrespective of whether such municipalities may be in different counties, to establish individually or collectively by local law an independent school system..."

Legislation

Representative Tom Taylor

○ HR 486:

- If approved by legislature and voters via state constitution amendment ballot, any of the newer cities created could form a new school district either alone or in combination with a contiguous city, even if the contiguous cities are in different counties.

City Council Initiative

Councilman Terry Nall

⦿ Legislative Priority (Adopted Fall 2012)

"Explore potential legislative solutions to enhance and improve K-12 educational opportunities in Dunwoody, which may include a constitutional amendment to allow for the creation of a separate school district."

City Council Possible Actions

Councilman Terry Nall

- ⦿ Initial support needed for HR 486
 - Feasibility study of representative new school district
 - Impact study on effect to underlying county school district
- ⦿ Completion deadline: October 2013

City Council Possible Actions

Councilman Terry Nall

- ◉ Feasibility and Impact Study providers recognized by General Assembly
 - Carl Vinson Institute at UGA
 - Georgia State University
 - Choice depends on available capacity of each provider
- ◉ Cost of Studies
 - Awaiting estimates to discuss with individual City Council members for funding support

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** Application to the IRS for 501(c)(3)
tax exempt status in process.*

Purpose of Nonprofit Group

- Mission: Explore options for improving public education in Dunwoody and to educate the residents of Dunwoody on these options.

Options for Public Education

- ◉ Maintain status quo and network with DeKalb School Board and Superintendent to improve education quality in our community.
- ◉ Form a Conversion Charter Cluster.
- ◉ Advocate for individual clusters to have independent budget responsibility (based on per capita student funding), with the County responsible for auditing expenditures.
- ◉ Form a City of Dunwoody School System.

Next Steps

- ⦿ Professional study of feasibility of independent school system for the City of Dunwoody.
 - Includes projected costs.
- ⦿ Town Hall style meetings and Public Forums for citizen input.
- ⦿ Establish working committees to assess costs, facilities, curriculum, human resources, and other factors.

Get Involved

- ◎ Under construction:
 - Website - www.dunwoodyparents.org
- ◎ For updates and information:
 - Google Groups:
“Dunwoody Parents Concerned”
 - dunwoody.parents.concerned@gmail.com