



January 22, 2026

Greetings City Schools of Decatur Parents, Staff, and Community,

City Schools of Decatur is a special place, defined by a diverse community of learners, dedicated educators, engaged families, and shared pride in our schools. As a proud parent and longtime Decatur resident, I understand how deeply personal our schools are to our families. It is with that perspective that I share an important update regarding the Board's recent K–2 utilization work.

After careful reflection and listening to parents, teachers, and community members, I will take formal action to pause the K–2 utilization work until 2028, following the completion of our 2023-2028 [All In Decatur](#) strategic plan. Further, this pause will allow us to better align with our long-term vision, strengthen community engagement, and ensure enhanced clarity and trust in the future.

I sincerely thank the many parents, caregivers, and community members who joined us for Wednesday's community meeting and contacted us in recent weeks. Your questions, collective voices, and passion reflect a deep commitment to student success and help inform our Board's direction.

The K–2 utilization study was developed to better understand enrollment trends, space, staffing, and resources. Like many school districts across Georgia and the country, City Schools of Decatur is navigating the effects of shifting demographics and declining enrollment in early grades. While these data points and insights are important, it has become clear that the timing, process, and communication surrounding this effort require greater alignment with community expectations.

Pausing this work will allow our Superintendent to integrate K–2 utilization considerations into the district's next five-year strategic planning process and ensure a transparent approach with meaningful public input.

While fiscal accountability and operational efficiency remain essential, they must always be balanced with trust, thoughtful engagement, and a shared focus on what matters most: the academic success and well-being of our students.

As the mother of a soon-to-be K–2 student, I share the deep appreciation many families have for the nurturing, foundational learning experiences our early grades provide. I look forward to continuing to work collaboratively with our Superintendent, district leaders, parents, educators, and the broader community to advance educational opportunities for all City Schools of Decatur students.

Thank you for your partnership, your advocacy, and your continued commitment to our schools.

Yours in Service,

Dr. Carmen Sulton

Chair, City Schools of Decatur Board of Education

Dr. Carmen Sulton
Chair

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