

New Early Childhood Learning Center and DHS Expansion Update

Jennifer Burton
Assistant Superintendent of
Teaching and Learning
Jarvis I. Adams
Chief Operations Officer

Regular Board Meeting
April 14, 2026





**Student
Success in All Areas**

**The CSD Student
Experience: Preparing to
Lead a Better World**



**Building and
Sustaining an Engaging
and Inclusive Culture**

**The CSD Cultural
Experience: Connections,
Culture, and Community (C3)**



**Cultivating and
Retaining High-Quality
Professionals**

**The CSD Staff Experience:
From Hire to Retire**



**Organizational
Effectiveness and
Excellence**

**The CSD Sustainable
Experience: Future Ready
Classrooms**



- **Project Overview**

- Reorientation & Clarity on Progress to Date

- **Historical Acknowledgement**

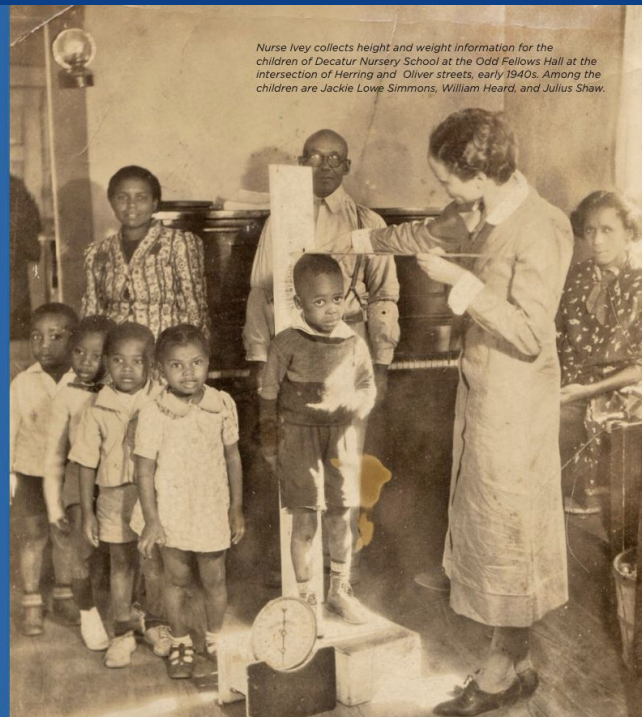
- Early Efforts to Honor Legacy of Beacon Hill
- Future Opportunities for Placemaking

- **New ECLC Campus Design**

- PATH Sessions → Vision & Design Principles
- Joint CSD/City of Decatur Commission Retreat
- Additional Collaboration & Public Input
- Building Footprint & Instructional Spaces

Decatur's Beacon Municipal Center, at West Trinity Place and Electric Avenue, stands where the city's African-American public schools — Herring Street School, Beacon Elementary, and Trinity High — once stood.

This site remains an important landmark for the city's African-American community. The doorway (highlighted on the cover) in the corner of the Ebster Recreation Center is the last vestige of Herring Street School. Aside from memories and photographs, it is all that remains of Decatur's African-American Beacon community.



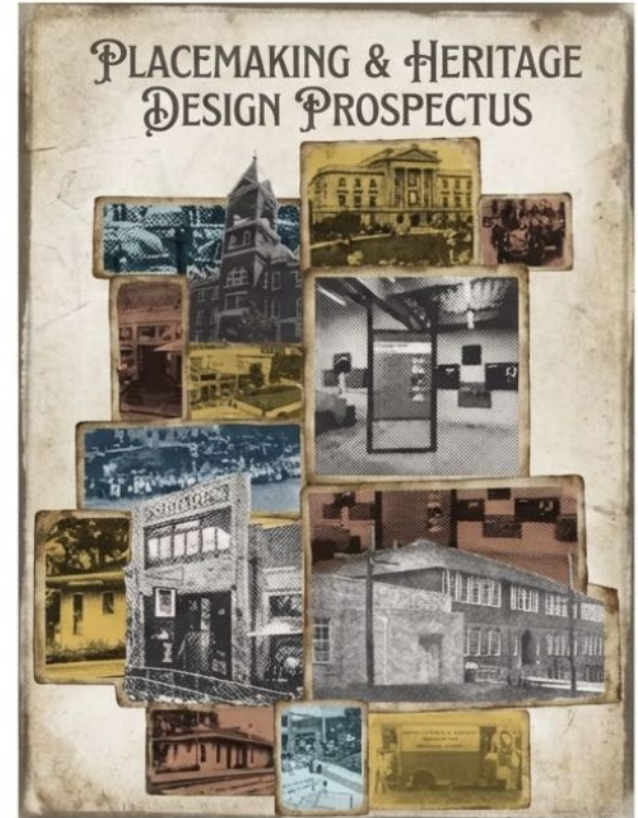
Nurse Ivey collects height and weight information for the children of Decatur Nursery School at the Odd Fellows Hall at the intersection of Herring and Oliver streets, early 1940s. Among the children are Jackie Love Simmons, William Heard, and Julius Shaw.

Source: [Beacon Hill Brochure City of Decatur](#)

Placemaking and Historical Acknowledgement



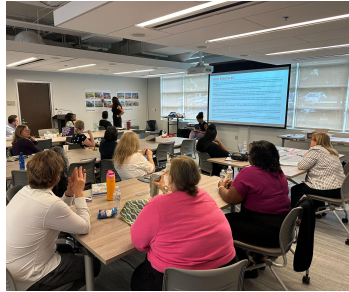
- Placemaking was identified early in project development as an opportunity to honor the history and identity of the Beacon Hill site alongside the new Early Childhood Learning Center.
- Early planning documents describe placemaking as a way to reflect local history through meaningful and functional design, with opportunities across green spaces, walls, walking zones, and the historic alley area.
- Early exploratory conversations included **NOMAS (National Organization of Minority Architecture Students)** at Kennesaw State University as one potential student engagement partner, alongside future community, artist, and organizational involvement.
- GMC indicated that mural and installation concepts were not predetermined and were intended to be informed through future community participation.



Timeline & Engagement: New ECLC

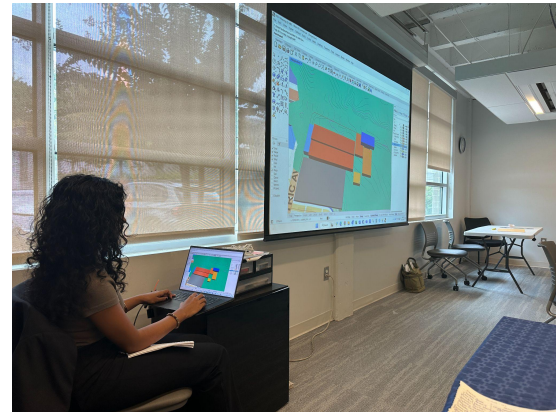
PATH 1 - August 21, 2024

- “Understand and Validate”
- Questionnaire
- 7 First Principles
- Architectural Visioning



PATH 2 - September 11, 2024

- “Manifest”
- Vision Statement
- Massing and Blocking



PATH DELIVERABLE - October 15, 2024



October 2024 Joint CSD & City of Decatur Commission Retreat



CITY SCHOOLS OF DECATUR + GOODWYN MILLS & CAWOOD

EARLY LEARNING CENTER, W TRINITY PL FIRST PRINCIPLES + VISION STATEMENT

VISION STATEMENT

With a focus on child development, the project envisions an inclusive, accessible, safe, and sustainable campus. This design will embrace community diversity and foster a sense of belonging and well-being for all children, families, caregivers, and educators. The campus will serve as a vibrant and adaptable community asset for current and future generations.

FIRST PRINCIPLES

Principle 1: Inclusive and Accessible Design

Principle 2: Safety and Security

Principle 3: Sustainable and Environmentally Friendly Design

Principle 4: Natural Light and Comfort

Principle 5: Architectural Harmony and Fit

Principle 6: Flexible Community Spaces

Principle 7: Child-Oriented Design and Standards



Robust Collaboration & Public Input:

Over 35+ Public Meetings, Updates, & Listening Sessions



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**CSD BOE
Community
Meetings**

**CSD BOE
Community Meeting
Oakhurst
Elementary School
March 25, 2026**



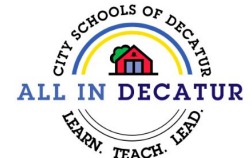
**CSD BOE
Community Meeting
Beacon Hill
Middle School
September 15, 2025**



**CSD BOE
Community Meeting
Decatur Housing
Authority
August 27, 2025**



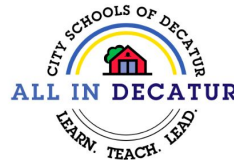
**CSD BOE
Community Meeting
Virtual
(Inclement Weather)
January 22, 2025**



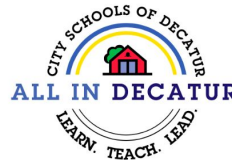
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**CSD
Superintendent
Listening
Sessions**

**CSD Superintendent
Winter 2026 - Virtual
Listening Session
January 22, 2026**



**CSD Superintendent
Fall 2025 - Virtual
Listening Session
October 16, 2025**



**CSD Superintendent
Fall 2025 - Talley ES
Listening Session
October 9, 2025**



**CSD Superintendent
Fall 2025 - DHA
Listening Session
October 2, 2025**



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Over 35+ Public Meetings, Updates, & Listening Sessions



12⁺

City of Decatur Public Meetings



5

Approvals



**City of Decatur
Planning
Commission Meeting**
June 10, 2025

[CLICK HERE FOR DETAILS](#)

The vote was 3 in favor and 1 abstention. Mr. Friedlander, Mr. Brambrut, and Mr. Sciarrone voted in favor. *Note: Mr. John McFarland abstained due to a conflict of interest.



**Decatur Downtown
Development Authority
Meeting**
June 13, 2025

[CLICK HERE FOR DETAILS](#)

On a motion by Mr. Peeters, second by Mr. Leung; a resolution of support for the proposed project was unanimously approved.



**Public Facilities
Authority
Work Session**
July 30, 2025

[CLICK HERE FOR DETAILS](#)

On a motion by Mr. Axam; second by Ms. Schwartz; and, all present voting "aye," the meeting was adjourned at 5:25 p.m.



**Public Facilities
Authority (PFA)
Meeting #2**
October 15, 2025

[CLICK HERE FOR DETAILS](#)

On a motion by Mr. Axam; second by Ms. Blackmon Adams; and, all present voting "aye," the meeting was adjourned.

**Historic Preservation
Commission
Special-Called Meeting**
February 11, 2026

[CLICK HERE FOR DETAILS](#)

**Historic Preservation
Commission
Meeting #2**
February 24, 2026

[CLICK HERE FOR DETAILS](#)

**Historic Preservation
Commission
Meeting #3**
March 17, 2026

[CLICK HERE FOR DETAILS](#)

**Historic Preservation
Commission
Meeting #4**
April 21, 2026

SCHEDULED



**City of Decatur
Commission Meeting**
March 16, 2026

[CLICK HERE FOR DETAILS](#)

**City of Decatur
Commission Meeting**
April 6, 2026

SCHEDULED

**City of Decatur
Commission Meeting**
April 20, 2026

SCHEDULED

On a motion by Commissioner Kortemeier; second by Commissioner Dusenbury; and, Mayor Powers; Commissioner Dusenbury and Commissioner Kortemeier voting "aye" and Mayor pro tem Frank and Commissioner Arnold voting "nay," the option to accept the City Schools of Decatur's request to extend the Historic Preservation Commission's review and comment period through April 17, 2026 and to forbear receipt of the requested land disturbance and building permits until after April 20, 2026 for the purpose of exemption from moratorium was approved.

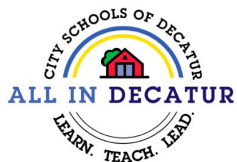
Robust Collaboration & Public Input:

Over 35+ Public Meetings, Updates, & Listening Sessions



15⁺

CSD Monthly BOE Meeting Work Session Updates



Monthly CSD
BOE Meeting
Work Session
April 14, 2026

SCHEDULED

Monthly CSD
BOE Meeting
Work Session
October 14, 2025

[CLICK HERE FOR DETAILS](#)

Monthly CSD
BOE Meeting
Work Session
March 11, 2025

[CLICK HERE FOR DETAILS](#)

Monthly CSD
BOE Meeting
Work Session
March 10, 2026

[CLICK HERE FOR DETAILS](#)

Monthly CSD
BOE Meeting
Work Session
September 9, 2025

[CLICK HERE FOR DETAILS](#)

Monthly CSD
BOE Meeting
Work Session
December 10, 2024

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Monthly CSD
BOE Meeting
Work Session
February 10, 2026

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Monthly CSD
BOE Meeting
Work Session
August 12, 2025

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Monthly CSD
BOE Meeting
Work Session
October 8, 2024

[CLICK HERE FOR DETAILS](#)

Monthly CSD
BOE Meeting
Work Session
December 9, 2025

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Monthly CSD
BOE Meeting
Work Session
June 10, 2025

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Monthly CSD
BOE Meeting
Work Session
September 10, 2024

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Monthly CSD
BOE Meeting
Work Session
November 11, 2025

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Monthly CSD
BOE Meeting
Work Session
April 15, 2025

[CLICK HERE FOR DETAILS](#)

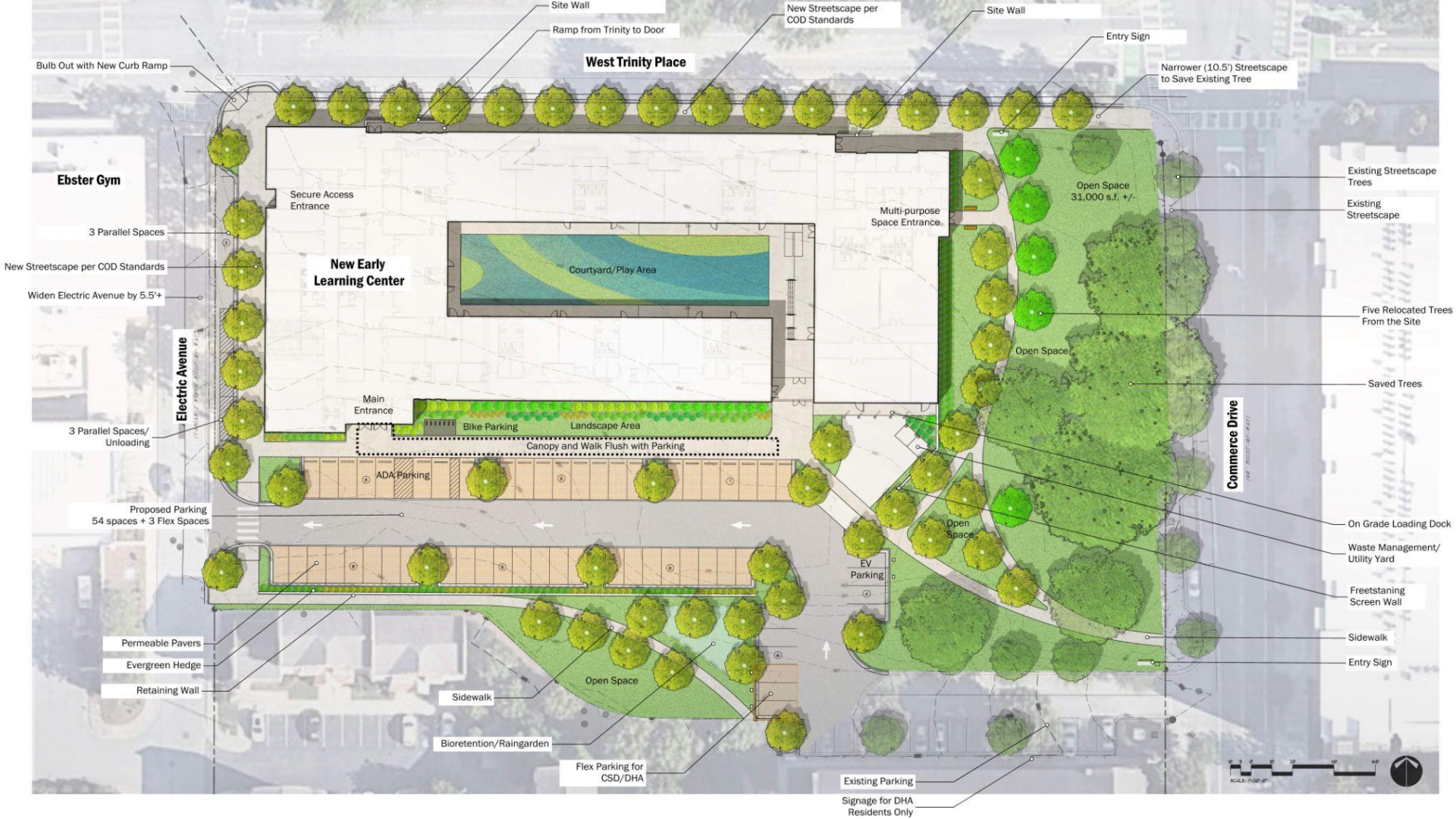
Monthly CSD
BOE Meeting
Work Session
March 12, 2024

[CLICK HERE FOR DETAILS](#)

Pre-Work Session

[CLICK HERE FOR DETAILS](#)

10/8/2024 Early Learning/Philanthropy Panel Members:
Brittany Collins | Betty and Davis Fitzgerald Foundation
Rachel Sprecher | Howard Dobbs, Jr. Foundation
Christine Ramirez | Emily Lembeck Early Learning Center, Marietta City Schools



New Early Childhood Learning Center Design



Questions?

