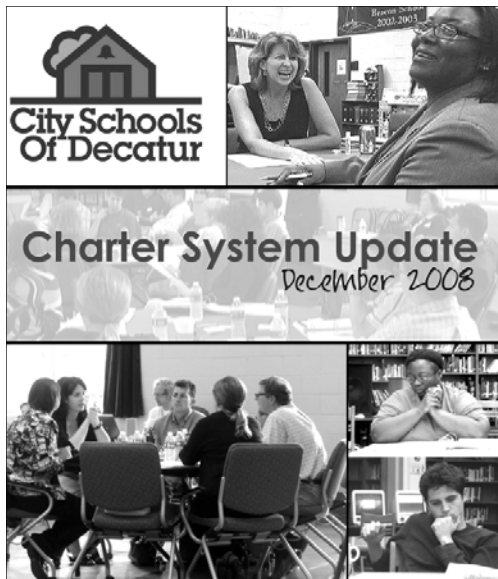


JANUARY 2009 CharterCSD

News & information about the City Schools of Decatur System Charter

Charter info will be available at Library, School Media Centers



Decatur residents will soon be able to go to the Decatur Public library or a local school media center check out DVDs produced by Decatur EDtv over the past 6 months about the work of the City Schools of Decatur's (CSD) System Charter.

The DVDs highlight the School Leadership Teams' efforts to increase flexibility and accountability in the City Schools of Decatur. "We want to give the community another way to learn about the hard work that's being done by these teams," said Decatur EDtv Executive Producer Andrea Berry. Decatur EDtv is an initiative of Decatur eLIFE Magazine and a partner of the City Schools of Decatur. ■

Six months later: A CSD System Charter Report Card

Things are going well. That's the assessment by CSD governance consultant Debbie Pepin of the overall work of Decatur's School System Charter six months after the Charter began. "I wanted to tell the [Decatur] Board of Education, who took a leap of faith on this innovative initiative, that things are going well," she said. Pepin (right) gave a special report to the Board at its work session in November 2008. To see more of Pepin's assessment, visit www.elifemagazine.net/charter.htm. ■



**"This is not easy work.
This is a major systemic change for
Decatur schools."**

- Debbie Pepin



Did You Know. . .

- all CSD School Leadership Team Members' names, bios and emails are listed on each school's website?
- Decatur is one of the first Charter School Systems in the state of Georgia?
- every CSD school has a designated place where you can access information about the work of that School's Leadership Team (SLT) ?
- each SLT has a nonvoting Central Office staff member who can provide resource information for team members?

Right: Eve Wyatt, Parent member, Winnona Park Elementary School



How YOU can keep up with Decatur's System Charter

Here are some easy ways to find out with what's going on with Decatur's System Charter and the work of the School Leadership Teams:

- ❖ Attend a School Leadership Team meeting or work session. Dates and times for the monthly sessions are posted on each Decatur school website and on the district website at csdecatur.org.



Left: David Hughes and John Robinson, two parent members of the Decatur High School Leadership Team.

- ❖ Talk to your School Leadership Team members about issues that concern you. Sign up for the Public Comment section of the meeting to get your views and opinions heard.

- ❖ Keep up with information posted on the local yahoo groups and local blogs like indecatur.org, decaturmetro.com, communityradar.com



Charter Snapshot: **Lexie Parker**

Leadership Team, Renfroe Middle School

Lexie Parker was elected to the Renfroe Middle School Leadership Team in September 2008. She has lived in Decatur since 1986 and has two children at Renfroe Middle School. Lexie has served as PTO President at Winnona Park Elementary School

“Parents can provide a window into home dynamics and can support educators’ efforts to help all students achieve.”

and Glennwood Academy. She also currently chairs the Grounds Committee at Renfroe Middle School and serves on the City Schools of Decatur Systemwide Discipline Committee. ■

School Leadership Teams get next level of governance training

Decatur’s School Leadership Teams received their next level of governance training on Saturday, January 10, 2009 with Charter Governance consultant Debbie Pepin. Team members shared highlights of their work so far, critiqued individual team meetings and received guidance on taking meeting minutes and setting agendas.

Debbie Pepin will be in Decatur during the week of January 12th to talk with parents and community members

to find out how much they know about the Decatur School District’s System Charter. ■



Debbie Pepin talks with members of the Clairemont Elementary School Leadership Team

School Leadership Team Highlights

The following are some recent decisions made by the City Schools of Decatur School Leadership Teams:

❖ **Clairemont Elementary School**

- Approved a new Saturday School Boot Camp to help reduce the Achievement Gap
- Approved the School Improvement Plan

❖ **Decatur High School**

- Approved School Improvement Plan
- Formed a subcommittee of parents and teachers to review the block schedule concept
- Plans to hold Listening Sessions to get input on community issues

❖ **Glennwood Academy**

- Approved School Improvement Plan
- Plans to schedule a work session on helping parent members understand the monthly school financial reports

❖ **Oakhurst Elementary School**

- Approved School Improvement Plan
- Voted to include information about the SLT's work in its monthly newsletter



Above: Renfroe Middle School Leadership Team Meeting

❖ **Renfroe Middle School**

- Approved School Improvement Plan
- Upcoming School Leadership Team Meeting Spotlights include on legal issues and special education initiatives

❖ **Winnona Park Elementary School**

- Approved School Improvement Plan
- Appointed new members to the School Leadership Team

CharterCSD is produced monthly by Decatur EDtv, an initiative of Decatur eLIFE magazine and a partner of the City Schools of Decatur (CSD). We welcome your ideas and comments and encourage you to share this newsletter with those who may be interested in the work of the City Schools of Decatur System Charter.

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