

****Update from the Oak Grove Elementary School Council****

Dear OGE Parents,

The School Council has been working hard this year to address issues of concern for OGE's parents, teachers and staff. Please see below for updates on some of these issues:

Building Repairs and Improvements – The Council has been communicating with DeKalb County School District (DCSD) all year to ensure that OGE receives the improvements it was allotted under E-SPLOST IV and to request additional funds from E-SPLOST V to make critical repairs and improvements to our facilities. Our facilities are aging and in need of TLC in order to keep them safe for our children. We are doing what we can from our end and welcome any additional input you have regarding the needs of our facilities, but we also encourage you to reach out to DCSD officials directly with photos, experiences, and other concerns.

HVAC/Ceiling Leaks

The Council met with several DCSD Operations official in November 2016 to discuss, among other issues, the HVAC system and ceiling leaks in the lower grade hall. John Boyd informed us of DCSD's plan to fix the leaks. When the A/C is turned on this spring, DCSD plans to place tablets in the water source of the leaks (a pan that is part of the HVAC system) that will dissolve the "cold water slime" – which is what DCSD has said is the source/cause of the leaks. We have recently been in communication with Mr. Boyd to ask when the tablets will be placed in our HVAC system and to request information about a back-up plan should the tablets not stop the leaks.

E-SPLOST IV

We met with DCSD officials in November 2016, and they confirmed that OGE is slated for the following E-SPLOST IV repairs to be completed in 2017:

- Roof replacement on 1958 and 1963 buildings;
- Replace roof openings;
- Structural column repair;
- Kitchen remodel;
- Grease trap replacement;
- 20 ton HVAC package in the gym;
- Install a roof hatch and ladder in 1958 and 1963 buildings as appropriate.

E-SPLOST V

We recently received more information regarding improvements that OGE is expected to receive under E-SPLOST V. On Monday, March 20, The DeKalb Board of Education voted to approve the "E-SPLOST V project listing and associated cash flow sequencing" that was presented in the document titled "Proposed E-SPLOST V Project Listing and Anticipated Start/Finish Dates" (attached below). The associated presentation, titled "E-SPLOST V Project Listing and Cash Flow Sequencing Presentation" is also attached below.

The "Proposed Project Listing with Anticipated Start/Finish Dates," includes the following projects which are specific to OGE along with the following estimated start and finish dates:

1. We're slated to receive a fence (presumably a perimeter fence). Item "112. Fence installation B" lists the anticipated start of construction in Oct. 2020 with an overall finish date of Jan. 2022. (p. 2)

2. We're slated to receive a security vestibule. Item "116. Security Vestibules B" anticipates the start of this construction in July 2021 an overall finish date of Oct. 2022. (p. 2)
3. We are slated to receive bathroom improvements. Item "321. Plumbing fixture replacement" states that our anticipated start of construction is Oct. 2021 and overall finish is January 2023. (p. 5)

The "E-SPLOST V Project Listing & Cash Flow Sequence Presentation" PowerPoint provides:

1. "It is assumed that the new Cross Keys HS will be built on a future site (not yet known) in the City of Brookhaven (north of I-85), closer to the students and families it will serve". (p. 13). This is a shift from similar DCSD project lists published in the fall (and discussed heavily in our community meeting at OGE in December) which stated that the new Cross Keys HS would be built at the old Briarcliff HS site or an alternative, cost-neutral location. Page 13 of this new document also states that the construction of the new Cross Keys HS will "[r]equire sale of the Briarcliff and other properties" and that "if land acquisition seems unattainable by 2018, District may re-sequence start dates for several "Facility Condition Improvement" projects to begin sooner.

To view updated information about projects that will affect all DeKalb schools (for example, buses and technology) or other projects at individual schools (for example, the addition at Lakeside High School) check out these documents:



Proposed E-SPLOST E-SPLOST V Project
V Project Listing with Listing and Cash Flow

Redistricting and School Cluster Happenings – School Council Co-Chair, Beth Haynes, has joined a grassroots group of parents from around the county who plan to request more information from DCSD with respect to Board Policy AD and the manner in which it is implemented. Board Policy AD pertains to School Attendance Areas and includes the criteria to be considered when altering these areas (i.e., redistricting). The group had a productive meeting with DCSD Planning Department officials on 3/27/17, and will request the development of a set of administrative regulations (pursuant to Board Policy BDF) that contain more specific information regarding how DCSD implements Board Policy AD to define or alter school attendance zones. The group may also request the review and/or revision of current policies and guidelines for altering school attendance areas.

One useful piece of information DCSD officials shared during the meeting on 3/27/17 was that DCSD does not measure the distance from a residence to a school in a direct line (i.e. "as the crow flies") from that residence to a school, but rather using GIS that accounts for the "networks" (i.e. roads/streets/paths) that a student must travel to get to school. DCSD also measures from the middle of a "planning unit," or neighborhood, to a school rather than from an individual residence. To view information and maps used by the planning department, please see <http://www.dekalbschoolsga.org/planning/>. To view current DeKalb Board of Education policies, please see: https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/SB_ePolicy/SB_PolicyOverview.aspx?S=4054

Nutrition – Last spring, OGE families' responses to the Council survey indicated that there is some dissatisfaction with the lunch and snack choices available in the cafeteria. The Council met with Janet Stone, DeKalb County Region II Nutritionist, Registered Dietician and Sheila

Mapp, Nutrition Manager responsible for OGE and other schools in the area, to discuss the available food options. We learned a lot about the daily operations of School Nutrition, including the nutrition guidelines. The Department of Nutrition has weekly, not daily, dietary guidelines to follow. The school menu is reflective of these guidelines – if one day has a particularly high caloric meal, the remaining days of the week will be lower in calories across the board. Additionally, the al a carte items are not included or considered in the dietary guidelines, therefore, based on the parental input we received, Ms. Stone and Ms. Mapp offered to remove some of the high sugar content items, like vanilla and strawberry milk for example, and to limit other high sugar al a carte items, like ice cream, to once per week.

Additionally, Ms. Mapp offered parents the opportunity to request that their child not be able to purchase certain food items by communicating with the cafeteria directly. You may do this by going to the cafeteria in person or by sending a note in with your child.

School Council Elections Coming Up – The OGE School Council brings the community and school closer together in a spirit of cooperation to solve education problems, improve academic achievement, provide support for teachers and administrators, and bring parents into the decision making process. School-based decision making is designed to increase the involvement of teachers, parents, and the community in the important decisions about how the school operates and performs. The Council must have a minimum of seven members: four parents/guardians, two certified teachers, and the principal. Councils provide an opportunity for local school decisions by representing the interests of the school community to the principal, who in turn conveys the information to the Regional Superintendent, Superintendent, and, if necessary, the Board of Education.

We will have 3 vacancies on the School Council that we will need to fill. The School Council election will take place on **May 5th**, via electronic means. Interested candidates should submit a short bio and statement (no more than 100 words) about why he or she would like to serve on the Council by **April 21st**.

Upcoming Meetings - The Council typically meets monthly and all Council meetings are open for anyone to attend. The upcoming meetings are scheduled as follows:

April 19th – 9 a.m.
May 10th – 9 a.m.
May 17th – 9 a.m.

Contact us with any questions or comments at: OakGroveSchoolCouncil@gmail.com