Prepared by:
Kristin Rodgers, Ethics Administrator
Edited by:
Elisa Murphy, Ethics Officer

Draft

DeKalb County Board of Ethics
Regular Meeting
Thursday, December 18, 2025
6:00 p.m.
178 Sams Street

Minutes

Board Members Present:
Robert Dallas, Board Chair
Chiquita Wright, Board Vice Chair
Scott Mathews
George Ference
Rosa Waymon
Micah Dial

Alternate Board Members Present:
Cathea Simelton-Treminio
Jason Cecil

Board Staff Present:
Elisa Murphy, Ethics Officer
Kristin Rodgers, Ethics Administrator
Maiysha Rashad, General Counsel

County Technology Personnel Present:
DeKalb IT/DCTV

Agenda

I. Call to Order

Ethics Board Chair Dallas called the Board of Ethics (BOE) public meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

II. Adoption of Agenda

Motion: Board Member Ference moved to adopt the agenda of the Regular Board of Ethics Meeting of December 18, 2025. Board Member Mathews seconded the motion. Board Member Clements and Dial (arrived later) were absent from the meeting. The motion passed by a 5-0 vote.

III. Administrative Items

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A. *Approval of the Minutes*

- Regularly Scheduled Board Meeting of October 16, 2025

  Motion: Board Member Ference moved to approve the Minutes of the Regular BOE Meeting of October 16, 2025. Board Member Waymon seconded the motion. Board Member Clements and Dial (arrived later) were absent from the meeting. The motion passed by a 5-0 vote.

- Special Called Board Meeting of November 25, 2025

  Motion: Board Member Ference moved to approve the Minutes of the Special Called BOE Meeting of November 25, 2025. Vice Chair Wright seconded the motion. Board Member Clements and Dial (arrived later) were absent from the meeting. The motion passed by a 5-0 vote.

B. *Committee Report*

Vice Chair Wright/Chair to the Budget Committee and Ethics Officer Murphy provided an update on the Proposed BOE Budget for the year 2026.

Motion: Vice Chair Wright moved to accept the Proposed BOE Budget for the year 2026. Board Member Mathews seconded the motion. Board Member Clements was absent from the meeting. The motion passed by a 6-0 vote.

C. *Approval of 2026 Meeting Schedule*

Motion: Board Member Ference moved to accept the 2026 DeKalb Board of Ethics Meeting schedule. Vice Chair Wright seconded the motion. Board Member Clements was absent from the meeting. The motion passed by a 6-0 vote.

D. *Ethics Officer's Monthly Report*

Ethics Officer Murphy provided a monthly report of the Ethics Office.

IV. Probable Cause Cases

Ethics Officer Murphy explained the Probable Cause process before providing a recommendation for each case.

A. Asya Perrymond v. Vanessa Collins, Case No. 2025-7

Ethics Officer Murphy presented the case. The respondent, Vanessa Collins, was allowed to speak. Ethics Officer Murphy recommended dismissal of this case.

Motion: Board Member Ference moved to dismiss this case. Vice Chair Wright seconded the motion. Board Member Clements was absent from the meeting. The motion passed by a 6-0 vote.

Motion: Board Member Waymon moved to admit the Probable Cause Report

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into evidence for this case [with attachments]. Vice Chair Wright seconded the motion. Board Member Clements was absent from the meeting. The motion passed by a 6-0 vote.

B. Felicia Jones v. Benita Ransom, Case No. 2025-9

Ethics Officer Murphy presented the case. The attorney for Benita Ransom, Attorney Jamala McFadden, was allowed to speak. Ethics Officer Murphy recommended dismissal of this case. The complainant requested dismissal after the release of the Probable Cause Report. Additionally, the respondent did not contest this matter.

Motion: Board Member Ference moved to accept the Ethics Officer's recommendation of dismissal and move into evidence the Probable Cause Report with attachments. Board Member Dial seconded the motion. Board Member Clements was absent from the meeting. The motion passed by a 6-0 vote.

V. Preliminary Cases

Ethics Officer Murphy explained the Preliminary process before providing a recommendation for each case.

A. J.R. Ewing v. Virgil Knox and Arre Kennedy, Case No. 2025-10

Ethics Officer Murphy presented the case and recommended dismissal.

Motion: Board Member Ference moved to accept the recommendation of the Ethics Officer on the grounds that the complaints referred to have failed to state a claim as required by the rules; even when allowed to correct the defect in the complaint, the complainant failed to do so. Board Member Mathews seconded the motion. Board Member Clements was absent from the meeting. The motion passed by a 6-0 vote.

B. Lexi Morgan v. Lexi Morgan, Case No. 2025-13

Ethics Officer Murphy presented the case and recommended dismissal, and provided the rationale for the recommendation.

Motion: Vice Chair Wright moved to accept the recommendation of the Ethics Officer to dismiss this case. Board Member Ference seconded the motion. Board Member Clements was absent from the meeting. The motion passed by a 6-0 vote.

C. Terrin Watts of Orchard Walk Apartments v. Reginald Wells/Watershed Management, Case No. 2025-17

Ethics Officer Murphy presented the case, recommended dismissal, and provided the rationale for the recommendation.

Motion: Vice Chair Wright moved to accept the recommendation of the Ethics Officer to dismiss this case. Board Member Ference seconded the motion. Board Member Clements was absent from the meeting. The motion passed by a 6-0 vote.

D. Janell Henry v. Shawn Upson, Case No. 2025-11

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Ethics Officer Murphy presented the case, recommended dismissal, and provided the rationale for the recommendation.

Motion: Board Member Ference moved to accept the recommendation of the Ethics Officer to dismiss this case. Vice Chair Wright seconded the motion. Board Member Clements was absent from the meeting. The motion passed by a 6-0 vote.

E. Dequisha Pass v. Vanessa Collins, Case No. 2025-15

Ethics Officer Murphy presented the case and recommended dismissal, and provided the rationale for the recommendation.

Motion: Board Member Waymon moved to accept the recommendation of the Ethics Officer to dismiss this case. Board Member Dial seconded the motion. Board Member Clements was absent from the meeting. The motion passed by a 6-0 vote.

F. Whitney Covington v. Division of Family and Children Services, Case No. 2025-18

Ethics Officer Murphy presented the case, recommended dismissal, and provided the rationale for the recommendation.

Motion: Board Member Ference moved to accept the recommendation of the Ethics Officer to dismiss this case for lack of jurisdiction. Board Member Mathews seconded the motion. Board Member Clements was absent from the meeting. The motion passed by a 6-0 vote.

G. Abigail Cyntje v. DeKalb County School District, Case No. 2025-19

Ethics Officer Murphy presented the case, recommended dismissal, provided the rationale for the recommendation.

Motion: Board Member Mathews moved to accept the recommendation of the Ethics Officer to dismiss this case for lack of jurisdiction Vice Chair Wright seconded the motion. Board Member Clements was absent from the meeting. The motion passed by a 6-0 vote.

VI. Public Comments

Mary Hinkle of DeKalb County, GA, and Stephen Binney of Clarkston, GA, offered public comments.

VII. Comments from the Board of Ethics

Board Members Cecil, Simelton-Treminio, Dial, Mathews, Ference, Waymon, Vice Chair Wright, and Chair Dallas offered comments.

VIII. Executive Session to Discuss Pending Litigation and Personnel Issues

A. Motion to Convene an Executive Session

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Motion: Board Member Mathews moved to convene an Executive Session. Board Vice Chair Wright seconded the motion. Board Member Clements was absent from the meeting. The motion passed by a 6-0 vote.

B. Motion to Adjourn an Executive Session

Motion: Board Member Waymon moved to adjourn the Executive Session. Board Member Mathews seconded the motion. Board Member Clements was absent from the meeting. The motion passed by a 6-0 vote.

C. Motion to Approve the Executive Session Affidavit

Motion: Board Member Wright moved to approve the Executive Session Affidavit. Board Member Waymon seconded the motion. Board Member Clements was absent from the meeting. The motion passed by a 6-0 vote.

IX. Announcement: Next Regular Meeting Date is January 15, 2026

X. Adjournment

Motion: Board Member Ference moved to adjourn the December 18, 2025, Board of Ethics Regular Meeting at 7:22 p.m. Board Member Waymon seconded the motion. Board Member Clements was absent from the meeting. The motion passed by a 6-0 vote.

Approved:

_____ _____

Chair Date