



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

City Schools of Decatur and Decatur Housing Authority Reach Agreement on Property Purchase

Decatur, GA (2017) - City Schools of Decatur (CSD) and Decatur Housing Authority (DHA) are pleased to announce that an agreement has been reached on the purchase and sale of DHA's property between Commerce Drive and Electric Avenue, south of Trinity Place, and north of DHA's Allen Wilson and Oliver House properties. CSD is purchasing this 2.88-acre property from DHA for \$4.4 million. The CSD Board of Education and DHA Board of Commissioners have approved the attached purchase agreement, and the CSD Board has passed the attached resolution. Pending approval from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, the purchase will close in approximately three to six months.

We are excited about the potential that this property offers to the community. CSD intends to use the property for an early childhood center if College Heights is needed as an elementary school. This use will assist CSD in returning to one of the core purposes of our early childhood program--preparing economically disadvantaged students for a successful experience in kindergarten and beyond. Additionally, we recognize the need for green space in the vicinity of downtown Decatur and look forward to working with the City to develop outdoor space that can serve the needs of the school during the school day and the needs of the community outside school hours. Until the property is needed for a building, CSD will work with the City to provide basic park amenities, such as benches, picnic tables, and trash cans, so the community can begin using the space immediately.

As student enrollment continues to grow, the CSD Board of Education and staff continue to seek out land to proactively plan for future buildings and additions to existing buildings. In the last year, the Board has purchased land at Talley Street, houses adjacent to College Heights and Westchester, and the Board is still in discussion with Columbia Ventures and DeKalb County about land at the Avondale MARTA site.

CSD and DHA have a long history of partnering to serve the best interests of our shared stakeholders, and we look forward to continuing such partnerships into the future. The economic, racial, and cultural diversity that DHA brings to the community is part of what makes the school district great. DHA plans to utilize the proceeds from the sale of this property to invest and support DHA's affordable housing efforts in Decatur, including the potential revitalization of the Swanton Heights community in the future.

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