

# DUNWOODY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL COUNCIL

Womack Road, Dunwoody, Georgia 30338

April 17, 2015

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Dekalb County Board of Education  
Dekalb County School District  
1701 Mountain Industrial Boulevard  
Stone Mountain, Georgia 30083

**RE: Austin Elementary Proposed Rebuild**

Dear Board Members:

Please accept this letter on behalf of the Dunwoody Elementary School Council (DES). We recently read about the District's feasibility study concerning the Austin Elementary School Rebuild presented by Director John Jambro. We appreciate the need for new facilities and renovation throughout the District and support DCSS's capital improvement program and the continuation of ESPLOST.

However, the Austin presentation suggests construction of a new and/or renovated facility to house between 600 and 700 students. As you are aware, the established prototype for District elementary schools consists of 900+ students. By way of example, DES was constructed with a capacity of 973 students in 2009. Presently, DES is over capacity and anticipates adding modular trailers next school year. Similarly, other schools in the Cluster, Vanderlyn and Kingsely, are also over capacity at 124% and 114% respectively. Given the new single family and townhome lots approved and platted in the greater Georgetown area, enrollment will surely increase.

While every community certainly desires a smaller or "neighborhood" elementary school, the District has an obligation to treat its students and to appropriate its resources in an equitable manner. Here, given the already existing imbalance amongst elementary capacity within the Cluster, allowing Austin to be rebuilt at 2/3 of the accepted prototype will only escalate the problem. It would also appear to be an inefficient use of the District's capital funds. Further, future growth patterns and home starts will accelerate a lack of capacity at other Cluster elementary schools.

Austin's future enrollment is projected at 642 in 2015 while peaking at 698 in 2022<sup>1</sup>. Prudent planning would suggest construction of a new Austin as close to the prototype as possible to absorb future growth and prevent over-crowding at nearby cluster schools.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Respectfully submitted,

DES SCHOOL COUNCIL

cc: Michael Thurmond, Superintendent  
Cynthia Bricton, Area Superintendent  
John Jambro, Director of Design and Construction

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<sup>1</sup> Presentation by John Jambro, Director of Design and Construction, Austin Elementary School Council Meeting, March 18, 2015