

# March 14 **Red Devil** Task Force FAQ's from Chat



- **Has the Fire Marshall Been Out to DHHS?**
  - Not to our knowledge. This may be a tactic we can use moving forward.
- **Is the DHHS main building designated historic and does it restrict renovation?**
  - DHHS lies within the Emory Grove neighborhood, which was listed in the National Register of Historic Places, as of 2000. The 1927 building itself is not listed, but the surrounding neighborhood is. A thoughtful renovation preserving the integrity of the building should be requested and part of the scope of investing the \$52MM. Overall, we should recommend the tear down/replacement of the gym (old and current), old elementary school and its addition, cafeteria, while renovating the historic main building and keeping science building “as is”.
- **How do Safety Issues factor into the scores?**
  - Facility Condition Assessment (FCA) scores the physical condition only (DHHS = 69). The Educational Suitability Assessment (DHHS = 57) includes Safety & Security scores on page 2. They evaluate outside access to the school. DHHS has many areas that allow direct access to hallways and classrooms (scored 3 of 5). They also evaluate circulation routes (scored 3 of 5)
- **Has a petition been considered?**
  - No, but this is a good idea. Would love a volunteer to organize an online petition supporting DHHS renovation & modernization to present to the board. Contact Tamara or Ken if interested in leading.
- **Have we written a letter to the AJC/contact local media to put pressure on Board to approve?**
  - Volunteers are organizing a media plan including contacting AJC, 11Alive news and Decaturish. We could also use volunteers to write their local community newsletters asking people to support DHHS renovation.

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- **Can we get students to post photos of themselves with the school facility issues?**
  - Great idea. Will work with SGA and organize a campaign. Henderson Middle put together a very effective video in 2014 and got \$2MM approved by the Board for renovation of their locker room. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TH6Yo42SFN4>
- **What is DHHS student capacity right now? Are we overcrowded or have trailers?**
  - Current capacity is 1,395 students. We are at 1,336 for the 2021-2022 school year.
- **Were there specific reasons the Board Members gave for removing DHHS from the facility priority list provided to the state?**
  - Ms Hills referenced the score of 69 and the fact we are not overcapacity. Mr DaCosta referenced the threat of Annexation as the reason to not fund. Ms Turner questioned Mr Orson on the legislation that was passed to protect against Annexation; how it could be reversed “similar to Voting Rights”. Ms Pierce was concerned the vote was binding vs. non-binding based on the language of what they were voting on. These 4 Board Members voted no. 2 voted yes (Orson and Gevertz). 1 was not present (Ms Morley). The board meeting can be viewed in its entirety at this link. Facility discussion starts around minute 12:00.  
[https://view.earthchannel.com/PlayerController.aspx?&PGD=dekalbschga&eID=853&fbclid=IwAR2odw515UnG6UeKv3rUT\\_LpP5\\_Ru6N5Ba6yQE OBJ1XxoUynSv7sHr-Cig8](https://view.earthchannel.com/PlayerController.aspx?&PGD=dekalbschga&eID=853&fbclid=IwAR2odw515UnG6UeKv3rUT_LpP5_Ru6N5Ba6yQE OBJ1XxoUynSv7sHr-Cig8)
- **Any idea what were the politics involved in removing DHHS? It seems politically motivated.**
  - Good point. Not sure of the politics, or if any of this was directed at Marshall Orson personally vs. the school, but there did appear to be eagerness beyond one board member to remove DHHS from the list for various reasons.
- **Is there transparency where the budget is going instead of maintaining the school?**
  - Not clear transparency down to the school level. There is just an overall operations and maintenance line item in the DCSD budget.

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Other Comments & Ideas shared in the chat:

- **We need to post photos of the conditions of DHHS. Need a catchy hashtag like #fixourschoolnow.**
- **We should show up at Board Meetings in matching DHHS t-shirts**
- **Need a campaign at the Middle School and High School**