

Georgia Federation of Teachers

President, Verdaillia Turner



TO: Deirdre Pierce, Chair & Allyson Gevertz, Vice Chair of the DeKalb County School District Board of Education
CC: DeKalb County School District Board Members, DeKalb Legislative Delegation & DeKalb County Coalitions
FM: Verdaillia Turner, President
DT: October 20, 2025
RE: Inquiry per district expenses for superintendents after they are no longer with the district

Prior to your tenure on the Board of Education for DeKalb County School District, the county suffered an embarrassment with former superintendent, Dr. Crawford Lewis. Some current board members were in service during the tenure of the list of superintendents and/or candidates listed below.

DCSD Superintendents/Candidates since 2015

- Michael Thurmond, Interim (2013-2015)
- Dr. R. Stephen Green (2015-2019)
- Ramona Tyson, Interim (2019-2020)
- Dr. Rudy Crew, finalist (2020)
- Cheryl Watson-Harris (2020-2022)
- Dr. Vasanne Tinsley, Interim (2022-2023)
- Dr. Devon Horton (2023-2025)
- Dr. Norman Sauce, III, Interim (current)

Would you please provide the following information?

How much did each superintendent and/or candidate cost the district, upon severing ties with the district for lawsuits, compensation for early termination of the contract, termination, resignation, or other reasons not mentioned?

Please include the amount(s) for each superintendent that the district paid out over and beyond their actual on-the-job compensation, which may or may not have been a part of the contract.

It is our understanding that Dr. Stephen Green did not complete his contract and was paid \$200,000. Dr. Rudy Crew, as a finalist, was provided a contract that the district decided not to honor and sued the district, receiving about \$750,000. Then Ms. Watson-Harris' early termination cost the district \$300,000. The money paid out does not include legal fees incurred by the county. How much did the county pay for legal fees?

We are asking if you would support a forensic audit of the district.

Please be reminded that the State of Georgia, via the Governor's Office, has the power to put DeKalb County under its jurisdiction. We are strong proponents of local control. Therefore, in order to maintain the integrity of this school district and to restore full faith in its governance, we are asking that the members who were on the board when Superintendent Horton was hired consider resigning or letting the public know that they will not seek re-election.

As we are in need of legislation that holds superintendents to higher standards than teachers who have lost their teaching licenses for less severe allegations, be reminded that the DeKalb Board of Education was warned by various entities before the board hired Dr. Devon Horton.

VT/ksf