

Local Development Council March *Special Session* Meeting

March 25, 2026 *Special Session*

Attendance: Chair Kendal Wade, Kimberly Harris, Sheila Curry, Christna Jackson, Lawmont Green, Betel Worku, Ernest Lewis, Earl O'Neal, Rhonda Dorsey, Paula Noble, Brandon Johnson, Keyanna Morant, and Mikel Mikell (Guest).

Meeting called to order at 7:10 p.m.

- Opening Prayer Chair Kendal Wade

LDC Budget Allocation Discussion

- Chair Wade opened the conversation with a breakdown on how the schools could get the funding. Acknowledging Council Member Morant's childcare suggestion, Chair Wade proposes a sub-committee (ESF) Emergency Surplus Fund, with an allocated budget each year that would disburse funds to those experiencing emergency circumstances, especially during government shutdowns.
- The breakdown would be four high schools, eight students, each student 3,700. Then ten schools, 5 elementary, 5 Middle schools, each receive 10,000. For a total of \$400,000

Open Discussion

- Dr. Mikell suggests funding go to all schools, not just elementary and middle. 14 schools are funded evenly. Because of time constraints, distributing funds evenly is the fairest way to disburse them.
- Dani Moore King concurs with Dr. Mikell, but does see the need for some schools needing more funding than others, like Valley View Elementary.
- Chair Wade recaps the two options, option one being college scholarships, and option two being a sponsorship to all the schools in the 6-mile radius, evenly.
- Council Member Paula Noble wants to get a better understanding of how the county disburses funds. We should support the students directly.
- Council Member Keyanna Morant would like to create sub-committees who would be willing to get the needs of schools because while all schools can get something, let's consider schools like Colin Powell vs. Valley View.
- Dr. Mikell shared that when giving direct support to schools, you are allowed to set a criterion in which the funds should be used.
- Chair Wade wants to find out how to give direct support to teachers who come out of pocket for school supplies. Every teacher will need some support.

Next Steps:

Email to be sent to LDC summarizing the three proposals: first, direct payment to students for scholarships, selecting 10 specific schools to receive 10,000 in direct support; second, funding all schools equally; and third, funding all schools equally.

Establish criteria for funding to be directly disbursed to the student. GPA, scholastic scores, essays, etc?

Subcommittees need to be established, and a strategic plan developed.

The email will be how we vote, so we don't have to meet again.

Ms. Curry will research the process of how the LDC can pay schools directly.

The Vice Chair motioned to close the special session and to close in prayer.

- All in favor
 - Approved and passed with unanimous consent

Chair Wade closes in prayer.

The Meeting adjourned at 7:46 pm