



Rotary Club of Dalton Newsletter

<http://www.daltonrotaryclub.org>

This Week:

April 5
Tray Brantley
Rotary District 6910
Membership Team -
Scott Yochum & Pepper
Pettit

Upcoming Meetings:

April 12
Mel Abernathy
GRSP Student

April 19
Rotary Golf Tournament

April 26
Director Program

Club Officers:

Jason Parker
President
Bruce Satterfield
President-Elect
Frank M. Hogshead
Secretary, Treasurer
David Aft
Immediate Past President
Teresa Carter
Club Administration Chair
John Hutcheson
Public Image Chair
Tray Brantley
Membership Chair
Janice Kiker
Community Service Chair
Scott Rhoden
Youth Service Chair
Kevin Brunson
Vocational Service Chair
Archana Srivastava
International Service
Chair
Greg Dent
Foundation Chair

The Opportunity School District: An Overview

By: John Hutcheson



Rotarian Larry Winter, who has been our area's member of the Georgia Board of Education for more than ten years, gave a presentation on the proposed establishment of the Opportunity School District (OSD), a statewide structure which will focus on the state's lowest performing schools.

Establishment of the OSD will require an amendment to the Georgia Constitution, to be voted on this coming November. If it is approved, the OSD will become a division of the Governor's Office of Student Achievement (rather than the Department of Education) and the Governor will appoint the OSD's Superintendent. This does not represent a state takeover of schools or an expansion of the state bureaucracy but rather an opportunity for authentic engagement of parents and communities to exercise the truest form of local control and make decisions that will best meet the needs of their own students.

To be eligible for inclusion in the OSD, a school will have received a rating of "F" under the state's accountability system, the College and Career Readiness Performance Index (CCRPI), for three consecutive years. Currently 139 schools (6% of the state total), located across 24 local school districts, meet this criterion. Comparative socio-economic and financial data indicate that neither poverty nor lack of money lies at the root of the issue; the key involves wise use of resources to maximize a school's ability to meet student needs.

No more than 20 schools per year will be selected for inclusion in the OSD, which will never have more than 100 schools under its supervision. Prior to a school's selection for OSD inclusion, the law will require a public hearing to inform and enlist parent and community input, in addition to meetings with the school's principal, the local district superintendent, and local school board members. Final selection would be decided by the OSD superintendent.

OSD's intervention methods will be determined on a school-by-school basis and may incorporate any of four models. These include shared governance, in which the OSD superintendent enters into a contract or memorandum of understanding with the local district; direct management, whereby the OSD superintendent will select the principal, with the local school governance council exercising an advisory role; a charter school arrangement with a non-profit governing board made up of community members selected by the OSD superintendent in consultation with community members and leaders; and closure of a failing school not enrolled at full capacity, with its students reassigned to a higher-achieving district school where space is available.

Selection of a model must include community input and analysis of past improvement efforts and reasons for low performance, and in any event the school will continue to serve its existing attendance zone and student population and maintain open enrollment. Since a key intention is to push authority to the local level, OSD's primary role would be provide appropriate support and training to develop effective leadership.

Selected schools would remain in the OSD for no less than five nor more than ten years. A school performing above an "F" on the CCRPI for three consecutive years will be removed from the OSD in accordance with a transition plan determined by negotiations with the school, the local district, and community representatives. A charter school will remain under OSD auspices for the term of the initial charter, with any renewal occurring under the authority of the State Charter School Commission or local school authorities. During the period of OSD supervision, a school will continue to receive all local, state, and federal funds for which it is currently eligible. The OSD superintendent can withhold up to 3% of such funds for administrative operations, but 90% of these monies must be spent on teaching and program improvements. While the OSD will have rights to facility usage and be responsible for routine maintenance and bonded indebtedness, the local district retains ownership and responsibility for extensive repairs.

When reading and other basic skills fall behind in the early grades, students are unlikely to catch up, graduate, and become contributing members of society—low graduation rates and high incarceration rates are strongly related. The OSD project promises to be an effective tool for ensuring that all Georgia students receive equal educational opportunities, regardless of where they may live, and for guiding them toward socially constructive and personally fulfilling lives.

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Member Birthdays

Trivino, Jessica K. (JESSICA)	5-Apr
Lindsey, Robin Lee (ROBIN)	10-Apr
McClurg, Charles R. (RONNIE)	11-Apr
Sellers, Kathryn O. (KATHRYN)	11-Apr
Poehlman, John H. (JOHN)	11-Apr

Birthday

Partner Birthdays

McDonald, Frances

Member Name

McDonald, David L

Birthday

5-Apr

Member Anniversaries

Blackman, Linda T (LINDA)
Carter, Teresa (TERESA)

Start Date

4/9/2013
4/9/2013

Years

3
3

Wedding Anniversaries

Fultz, Arthur Paul (ARTHUR)
Smith, Ralph (RALPH)
Brunson, Kevin M (KEVIN)

Partner's Name

Diane
Sandra
Cindy

Anniversary

6-Apr
7-Apr
8-Apr

Years

42
33
16

ROTARY



THE FOUR-WAY TEST

of the things we think, say or do

first

Is it the TRUTH?

second

Is it FAIR to all concerned?

third

**Will it build GOOD WILL
and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?**

fourth

**Will it be BENEFICIAL to
all concerned?**

INTERNATIONAL

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