



Clayton County Public Schools

"Building A Better Tomorrow, Today!"

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ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Division of Communications, Public Relations, & Marketing

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Dr. Anthony W. Smith Unveils Vision and Priorities for Clayton County Public Schools at Inaugural Reception

JONESBORO - The evening of August 10, 2023, presented an aura of enthusiasm and excitement as Clayton County Public Schools proudly hosted the inaugural reception for its esteemed Superintendent of Schools and Chief Educational Officer Dr. Anthony W. Smith at the Morrow Center. Elected and appointed dignitaries, community members, partners in education, district and school leaders, and event staff gathered to mark this momentous occasion, demonstrating their unwavering support for the future of education in Clayton County.

As of July 1, 2023, the Clayton County Board of Education voted to appoint Dr. Smith as the full-term Superintendent, removing the interim designation. "It is an honor and a privilege to continue serving our community in this capacity, and I thank the members of the Board of Education for their collective investment of confidence and belief in the plans set forth by this administration," said Superintendent Smith. He also expressed his appreciation for the Board's unwavering confidence and support in his vision for the district.

During the reception, Superintendent Smith took the stage to share his compelling vision for Clayton County Public Schools - a vision that encapsulates innovation, collaboration, and excellence in education. He highlighted his profound commitment to "Building a Better Tomorrow, Today" in Clayton County Schools, a mantra that reflects his dedication to shaping an educational environment that empowers students to excel academically, social-emotionally, behaviorally, and personally.

One of the evening's highlights was the sharing of Dr. Smith's Five District Priorities, which will serve as the cornerstones of his transformative leadership for Clayton County Public Schools:

Priority #1 - Cultivate a School Safety Culture - Feeling safe is paramount to successful teaching and learning. The district has approached our safety plan with the thought that it is the responsibility of all school stakeholders and partners in education to ensure that safety and discipline are prioritized to promote the continuity of teaching and learning.

Priority #2 - Increase Academic Achievement - To support the district's core business of educating scholars, we are emphasizing Back to the B.A.S.I.C.S. - Building Academic Success through Intentional Classroom Strategies. The district is focused on being future forward by ensuring the fundamentals of effective teaching and learning are implemented in every classroom.

Priority #3 - Maintain Financial Stability and Sustainability - It is important that the taxpayers of Clayton County know that their Board of Education and the school district leadership are constantly working to maintain a fiscally sound operation that gets the most out of every tax dollar collected.

Priority #4 - Strengthen Organizational Structure - The Superintendent/CEO has called upon members of the staff to step outside their accustomed roles and accept the charge of other leadership opportunities. These changes will greatly enhance our efforts to build a better tomorrow, today for our students and our communities.

Priority #5 - Enhance Infrastructure and New Facilities - Superintendent/CEO Smith graciously thanks nearly 80 percent of the registered voters in Clayton County who cast their ballots during the March 2023 Special Election for Educational Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax VII. As a result, 36 schools will be either modernized or rebuilt. Our robust facilities plan focuses on pre-kindergarten facilities, new STEM-based schools, our transportation system, technology infrastructure, and athletic facility upgrades that will establish the district as the regional leader.

The evening's program was further enriched by the presence of the Morrow High School AFJROTC, who stood as greeters, embodying discipline and dedication, and the Martha Ellen Stilwell School of the Arts Jazz Ensemble, whose musical stylings resonated with creativity and talent, adding a touch of artistry to the event.

As a physical representation of this pledge of support, attendees signed blueprints symbolizing their commitment to our district and scholars. In addition, prior to departing, guests were presented with a call to action in support of Building a Better Tomorrow, Today. The call to action asked stakeholders to 1. Build better partnerships with schools; 2. Reinforce and support learning and literacy beyond the classroom; 3. Communicate and stay connected with the district and staff; 4. Take advantage of all resources and supports available in the school system; 5. And most importantly, stay connected via our platforms, and promote positive messaging about the school district and Clayton County communities at large.

Dr. Smith expressed his gratitude to all attendees for their support, remarking, "Together, we have the opportunity to shape the future of our students and our community. With your partnership, Clayton County Public Schools will emerge as a model of educational excellence."

As the reception concluded, attendees left with a sense of optimism and anticipation, ready to collaborate with Dr. Smith and his visionary leadership, along with his newly formed administrative team, to transform Clayton County Public Schools into a beacon of educational innovation and student success.

Superintendent/CEO Smith's Inaugural Reception Photos:

<https://ccpscommunications.client-gallery.com/gallery/dranthonysmithinauguration>

-An official document from the Clayton County Public School System-

About Clayton County Public Schools: Clayton County Public Schools (CCPS) is fully accredited by Cognia. The district offers a focused world-class program based on a challenging curriculum which is taught from pre-kindergarten through 12th grade. Serving over 50,000 students, Clayton County Public Schools is ranked among the 100 largest school districts in the U.S. and is the sixth-largest school system in Georgia.

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