

SCHOOL BOARD GETS DIRECTIONS FOR DRIVERS EDUCATION

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By DON PITTMAN First published in the Sept. 19 edition.
(BELOW RIGHT) CAR DONATED Moss Motors in South Pittsburg, Tenn., is donating a 2007 Ford Taurus to Dade County High School for their driver's ed program.



The Dade County School Board met Monday night and discussed many things, including the driver's education class that will soon be underway at the High School.



First on the agenda, Marshana Sharp from the Dade County Library, shared with the board the success of the story hour program and the recent teen lock-in that the library conducted. Board member Clyde Barton pointed out that they had received good comments from local parents in regards to the library and the work they are doing.

The next person to address the board at the meeting was Alan Brown, the author of Joshua's Law and chairman of the Joshua Brown Foundation. Alan is Joshua Brown's father, and he explained to the Board that he felt commissioned by God to start the foundation and try and change laws in Georgia that govern drivers education after his son was killed in a motor vehicle accident.

"He was going 45 miles per hour in the rain, hydroplaned and hit a tree," Alan Brown said about his son's accident.

Brown spoke about the new driver's education program and explained to the board that his foundation had surveyed the issue extensively.

"We know without mistake what works and what doesn't work," he said. He went on to explain that drivers education was an 'absolute life skill' and how he believes that every person needs good instruction in the subject.

On Brown's encouragement, the school board decided to order more desktop simulators instead of the *--*pit style simulators that they had been considering. The school board hopes to have the simulators ordered and all aspects of the driver's education classes planned out by next semester.

Dade High School Principal Ron Phillips reported that roughly 50-60 students have already shown an interest in taking the class.

Administrators say that the class will be able to handle around 40 students each semester.

The equipment for the drivers education classes, including the simulators, will cost the school \$40,600. The car they will use for real driving will be a 2007 Ford Taurus from Moss Motors in South Pittsburg, Tenn.

Also on the night's agenda, Peter Cervelli discussed the Town Creek Trail and he petitioned the board to make the same decision the county recently made regarding property they own that follows the creek.

"The county didn't want to deal with nuisance law suits so they donated the land," Cervelli said.

Board Chairman Nathan Wooten spoke for the board and said they didn't have a problem donating the land for the trail project as long as it didn't mess up the parking situation at the middle school.

The School Board agreed to make the land available to the Town Creek Trail Project if at all possible, contingent on the advice of their attorney.

Other notes from the meeting

- Wooten presented accreditation certificates to all the area schools.
- The Board voted to sell off outdated kitchen equipment.
- Wooten was designated Dade County's Legislative Liaison for the Georgia School Board Association.