



DESOTO COUNTY SCHOOLS

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"EXCELLENCE IS A COMMITMENT"

October 17, 2025

To the Students, Parents, Staff and Stakeholders of DeSoto County Schools,

On Tuesday, the members of the DeSoto County Board of Education were made aware of a letter of support by one of its Board Members. The letter of support was for an individual that pled guilty to sexual battery of a child. For the sake of Desoto County Schools, it was our hope that the Board Member would resign voluntarily and allow healing to begin; however, that did not occur.

As elected officials of the DeSoto County School Board, we are called to serve as stewards of this vital organization. One of the primary responsibilities is to ensure the safety and well-being of every student in our district. As a public servant, our words carry significant weight and responsibility and often shape public trust and perception. As members of the DeSoto County School Board, we unequivocally denounce any expression of support for individuals who harm children. At its core, that is in direct conflict with our mission to educate, protect, and grow our students.

We believe that DeSoto County Schools are the heartbeat of our community. There is no doubt that we are facing some unprecedented and challenging issues. We assure you that we are actively addressing these challenges and will continue to support our Superintendent as we all remain committed to our students, families, staff, and stakeholders.

Charles Barton

Sheila Riley

Josh Sullivan

Jerald Wheeler