



**NEWS from the Shelby County Mayor's Office
of Innovation & Performance Analysis**

Lee Harris, Mayor

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**SHELBY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS GIVES NOTICE OF SPECIAL
SESSION FOR WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14 TO APPROVE "3G" SCHOOLS
CONSENSUS AGREEMENT**

The recently released consensus agreement will allow MSCS to build a new \$100 million state-of-the-art high school in Cordova and allow for a multi-year transition for impacted families.

Shelby County, TN – Shelby County Government recently announced a consensus agreement between Memphis-Shelby County Schools, the City of Germantown, and Germantown Municipal School District. As a part of the agreement, Shelby County Government will invest \$72.5 million in building a new Cordova-area high school without a tax increase if approved by the Shelby County Commission. Over the last few weeks, Shelby County Mayor Lee Harris led mediation efforts and one-on-one discussions for this agreement with Memphis-Shelby County Schools Interim Superintendent Tutonial Williams, Germantown Mayor Mike Palazzolo, Chariman Mickell M. Lowery, and Education Committee Chair Miska Clay Bibbs.

The consensus agreement resolves the potentially negative impact of a new Tennessee state law that will go into effect on January 1, 2023. The state law will require MSCS to surrender three schools to Germantown. Without the consensus agreement, there will be over 1,800 displaced students from Germantown High School who currently live in Cordova.

The terms of the agreement include:

- The City of Germantown will pay Shelby County Government \$5 million for two of the “3G” schools, Germantown Elementary School and Germantown Middle School. The transition period for impacted families is 9 years.
- The City of Germantown will forfeit interest in Germantown High School to Memphis-Shelby County Schools so that they may sell the school within 9 years. The building’s estimated value is around \$22.5 million.
- Shelby County Government will provide Memphis-Shelby County Schools \$72.5 million for the construction of a new state-of-the-art high school. This school will be the district’s first new high school in over a decade.
- If approved, MSCS is expected to have \$100 million in resources available for the construction of a new high school in Cordova.

All parties are awaiting final approvals from each of their legislative bodies. **Shelby County’s Board of Commissioners will vote to ratify the agreement on December 14, 2022 during a special-called meeting.**

In addition, the Shelby County School Board is expected to take similar action during a special-called meeting on December 15th. The City of Germantown’s Board of Alderman and Germantown Municipal School Board will vote on the agreement on December 12th and December 15th, respectively.

Shelby County Mayor Lee Harris: “I am happy to see leaders in our community who are willing to put the needs of our next generation at the forefront. This consensus agreement will help us avoid a costly dispute, help build the first, state-of-the-art high school in over a decade, and, more importantly, help our students receive a quality education in a first-rate learning environment. We look forward to making the case to the Shelby County Board of Commissioners.”

Chairman Mickell M. Lowery, Shelby County Board of Commissioners: “I spent a lot of time with these parties and, based on what I saw, everyone operated in good faith and stayed focused on what’s best for our community, students, and families. I’ll be working with my colleagues to get this over the finish line. This is a chance to get our students the investments they deserve.”

Cordova-area Commissioner Shante K. Avant, Shelby County Board of Commissioners: “During my time on the Shelby County School Board, I saw how collaboration and resources can positively impact our students. Thanks to this consensus agreement, our students will continue to have access to high-quality education. I commend the leadership of Mayor Lee Harris, Mayor Mike Palazzolo, Superintendent Tutonial Williams, and Superintendent Jason Manuel who have helped settle this long-running dispute. The Shelby County Board of Commissioners looks forward to providing full support of this agreement.”

David Bradford, Shelby County Board of Commissioners: “I want to give kudos to the Harris administration, Memphis-Shelby County Schools, and the City of Germantown for avoiding a

possible costly lawsuit and for reaching a long-term agreement that will meet the needs of our students and their families. We look forward to supporting our County's students."

Charlie Caswell, Shelby County Board of Commissioners: "I am proud that leaders from across Shelby County have come together for the best interests of the students. Our young people deserve a world-class learning experience. I look forward to supporting this agreement and continuing to advocate at every opportunity for more investment in our schools. All of our kids should have the best and we intend to deliver."