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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Superintendent of Schools Issues Response to Delta's Notice to Employees

Clayton County Stakeholders and Delta Employees,

As many of you are aware, on Tuesday, February 13, 2018 Clayton County Public School System, District Leadership, school principals, students and I visited Delta Airlines headquarters to voice our concerns with House Bill 821.

During the visit, District Leadership met with Delta Airlines Corporate Executives in the hopes of establishing a mutually beneficial relationship and fostering an environment conducive to working together to achieve an outcome which is beneficial to Delta Airlines, Clayton County and the Clayton County Public School System. While our conversation may have been frank and candid at times, our discussion was cordial, and I was led to believe, that we were on the path of reaching the stated mutual goal and establishing a positive and productive working relationship.

However, since this meeting, we received a copy of the attached communication that was sent to Delta Airlines employees and retirees. The communication seems to intimate that our school system has been sharing falsehoods as they relate to Delta Airlines and their willingness to work with the Clayton County School System. It is disheartening to learn that a corporation that makes billions of dollars in revenue annually would seek to gain additional profits at the expense of Clayton County students, Clayton County residents and the 5,000 Clayton County Delta Airlines employee and retiree residents.

The information we have relayed is an accurate account of the facts in this matter. Any assertion that we have been less than forthcoming is entirely false. We have been transparent in our statements and they have been widely disseminated on the Clayton County Public School System's district website, broadcasted via live stream and shared with all stakeholders via social media. We have nothing to hide and we have no reason to make false statements regarding House Bill 821. We certainly do not wish to be adversarial with Governor Nathan Deal, State Legislators, the Hartfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport, Delta Airlines or its leadership. However, we will not be unresponsive, passive nor will we allow anyone to malign our character while supporting legislation that at its core jeopardizes the educational opportunities of our students and county.

Clayton County as a whole values Delta Airlines and continues to look forward to building a partnership with the company for many years to come. However, it would be a travesty of immeasurable proportion to allow Delta Airlines to remove nearly 20 million dollars from Clayton County's budget, this is in addition to our inability to benefit from an estimated \$111 million in property taxes annually as a result of the airport occupying 3,000 acres of our county. How this injustice to our children and county occurred is an answer that I am researching and working to ascertain.

While we appreciate the hospitality shown to our students yesterday by Delta Airlines, I am truly disappointed that our valued community member would decide to follow this path. We rely on the fact that we are doing what is morally right for Clayton County and our students. We will continue to work to establish a mutually beneficial, positive relationship between Clayton County, the Clayton County Public School System and Executives of Delta Airlines.

Kind Regards,

Dr. Morcease J. Beasley,
Superintendent of Schools