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MEDIA STATEMENT

For Immediate Release

March 6, 2009

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As the community is aware, the district has taken a hard look at the programs, resources and efficiency of every school in Hamilton County as we navigate through the budget process. As part of this process, Central Office staff has had several discussions regarding the future of all schools.

Sequoyah High School, with 344 students and a focus on Career and Technical programs, is the most expensive school to operate in the system, costing us approximately \$10,300 per pupil to run annually. Soddy Daisy High School, with an enrollment of nearly 1600 students, has one of the lowest annual per-pupil costs of about \$6,300.

Throughout our budget discussions, we have looked at how we can better utilize our resources, human capital and facilities.

The motivating factor for our discussions about pairing Sequoyah with Soddy Daisy High School is to provide more educational opportunities for students. Budget is a consideration, but it is not the driving force.

Our discussions have focused on allowing more students the opportunity to access Sequoyah's Career and Technical programs. Likewise, our discussions include the idea of allowing Sequoyah students the opportunity to take advantage of the academic offerings and extra-curricular opportunities available at Soddy Daisy High School. Our goal throughout this process has been to maximize opportunities for our students.

No decisions have been made regarding the potential pairing of Sequoyah High School and Soddy Daisy High School. But no matter what is decided, staffing at both schools should not be affected.

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