



**MULLINS**

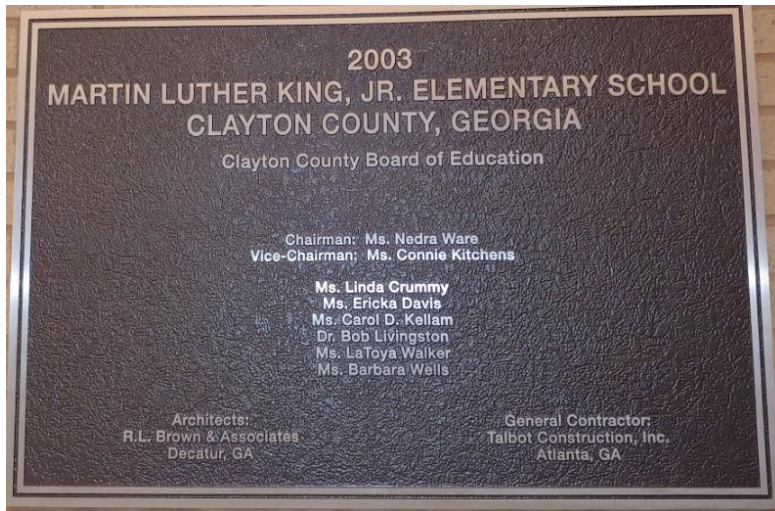
**INTERNATIONAL SOLUTIONS**

THE STRONGEST LINK IN YOUR SUPPLY CHAIN

# Clayton County Chamber of Commerce 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Principal Partner's Day October 17, 2019

By Donna M. Mullins

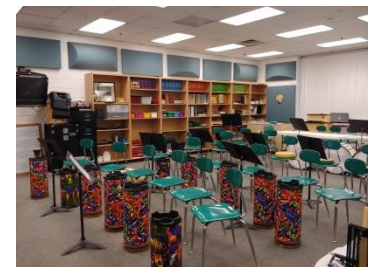




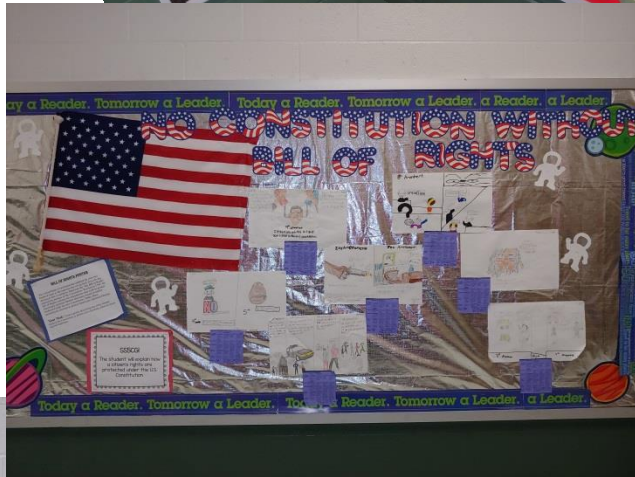
I serve on many boards. I joke sometimes and say, "I volunteer and in my spare time I run Mullins International Solutions." I do enjoy the benefits of volunteering. Through my giving of time as a Committee Member of Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport (HIA) Aviation Education Program, yesterday I had the distinct honor and pleasure to walk the halls of Martin Luther King, Jr. Elementary School, established 2003, on West Lee's Mill Rd. in College Park with Dr. Carl Jackson the Principal and, as he said, "Cheerleader!"

As we walked into his office, he told me, "Every day I come in, go to my office first (I assume to pray), then walk through the school and say good morning to every class and everyone I pass in the halls." After his tall and Godly walk through the halls of the school, he walks along the outside of the school alone (I assume, again, to pray) to reenter at the front of the school.

As we walked through the school he explained to me that he wants the faculty and students to see him and know he is there. There to encourage them, there to support them, and there to make them feel safe.







We sat down in his office and he began to recap the walk and how some of the issues at hand would be addressed. He said, "If it's a 'showstopper' situation, we can't wait to do something. We must act immediately so one or two students do not prevent the other 23 in the classroom from learning." He further explained, "We have to address behavioral and learning challenges every day. We know our school is serving many impoverished families and that carries a certain level of challenges in and of its self." He smiled at me and said, "But to help them is why I serve."

Dr. Jackson indeed has a servant's heart and it takes a genuine "giant" like Dr. Jackson to serve and lead MLK Jr. Elementary. He shared some statistics with me. Title I, Part A is a federally funded, supplemental program designed to support students who are failing or at-risk of failing to meet state standards. The entire public school system in Clayton County is considered Title I, and King Elementary is one of them, therefore making it even more challenging for the educators and principals. There are 787 students enrolled, however because of the 54% "churn rate" at the school there 630 students who attend more than half the school year. He also showed me a chart of the number of "homeless" students in Clayton and MLKJ Elementary has the largest population with 112. He advised that "homeless" wasn't just those without a place to live, but includes those who may be living with someone instead of living in a single-family dwelling.





The Clayton County school district is highly diversified with 90 different ethnicities and countries represented. Seventy-two (72) different languages are spoken, with the largest two foreign languages being Spanish and Vietnamese. As of the 2016-2017 school year, over 12,000 students speak a language other than English and over 6,000 are counted as English language learners. Dr. Jackson did not shy away from what we called “real talk” as he knows his challenges and has to address them. Because of the location, there is a very diverse demographic makeup of students. A number of students have been diagnosed with EBD and this can hinder the students learning but Dr. Jackson proudly says, “We can still teach them and help them grow.”

He explained how the CCRPI scores were determined – content mastery, progress, closing the gap, and readiness. MKLJ CCRPI score is a guide for Dr. Jackson and his faculty to see how and where they can improve. He elucidated that education and learning is the basis for a school system, they also have to concentrate on discipline so the students can learn. That can be difficult when a student is just learning English. His concentration, while not dismissing content mastery, is with progress, closing the gaps, and readiness. This, he believes is what will accurately prepare the students for middle school, high school, and college.

*“If you ever wake up without a dream in mind or a goal in your head simply do the world a favor and go back to sleep.”*

Dr. Jackson



During my visit, Major Walker of the Clayton County Police Department stopped by as he was delivering portable emergency safety kits with supplies and instructions to follow depending on the level of an incident to the area schools.





Quickly we forget all the dynamics that goes into ensuring a safe learning environment for our little children.

Dr. Jackson shared “The Blueberry Story” by Jamie Vollmer with me.

It starts, with a businessman addressing a group of teachers, “If I ran my business the way you people operate your schools, I wouldn't be in business very long!” and telling how he only picks the best for his ice cream and sends any deficient products back. A teacher then tells him, “That's right!” she barked, “and we can never send back our blueberries [students]. We take them big, small, rich, poor, gifted, exceptional, abused, frightened, confident, homeless, rude, and brilliant. We take them with ADHD, junior rheumatoid arthritis, and English as their second language. We take them all! Every one! And that, Mr. Vollmer, is why it's not a business. It's school!”

I asked Dr. Jackson for a favorite quote and he said, “Smart is something you can get with enough determination and grit.” Another one he said that he tells his teachers is, “Don't let what you can't do prevent you from doing what you can.” He said one of his favorite books is “Great Leaders Ask Great Questions” by John C. Maxwell. He has a host of other quotes on his door as a daily inspiration. God knows he needs it.



### Daily Thanks

1. Joy & Peace = Choice
2. Sanity & Good Health = Blessing
3. Employment & Autonomy = A Chance

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***"It is not what you do for  
your children. It is what  
you teach your children to  
do for themselves that will  
make them successful  
human beings."***

**Ann Landers**

Thank you to Clayton County Chamber of Commerce for doing this every year. This was my first time to have such a privilege, but it will not be my last time. I feel I walked away a better person after spending time watching a remarkable man like Dr. Jackson lead our future generation with such great passion. **Thank you and God Bless you, Dr. Jackson, the world could use more people like you.**

