The DeKalb School Board elected Dr. Melvin Johnson as chair in a 7-2 vote. Board members Nancy Jester and Dr. Pamela Speaks cast the dissenting votes.

David Schutten, President of the Organization of DeKalb Educators(ODE), said he hopes the board can move forward with the new leadership but added that Johnson must do more to change negative perceptions.

"There are a lot of parents and employees who are concerned about his ties to the previous administration(former Superintendent Dr. Crawford Lewis), said Schutten. "He's going to have to make sure that a nepotism which has run rampant in the district is not upheld."

DeKalb School Board names new chairman today, will head to state hearing Thursday

The DeKalb County School Board will go before the state Board of Education on Thursday at 8 a.m. as scheduled. Fulton County Superior Court Judge Kelly Amanda Lee today rejected DeKalb's request for a temporary restraining order that would have halted Thursday's hearing. The board lost the right to stop the meeting because it failed to meet a five-day notification requirement to the state, Lee said.

The DeKalb School Board had said in lawsuit filed Tuesday that voters would be deprived of their rights if the state is allowed to step in and remove the district's nine-member school board, who were elected to office by their constituents.

Although the school board was denied a restraining order to stop Thursday's meeting, the board may still get one. Judge Lee has scheduled a hearing for Feb. 28 at 8:30 a.m.

School Board member Jay Cunningham said he respects the judge's decision today to deny the restraining order the board sought for Thursday. He said the board will meet with its attorneys to discuss what impact the Feb. 28 hearing might have.

"We're moving forward to address SACS concerns," Cunningham said. "I think it's important to point out that DeKalb has not lost its accreditation. We still have our accreditation and we plan to do everything to keep it."

[redacted] here [redacted]