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**Editor In Chief**

**Valerie Honeycutt Spears**

Greetings,

Manny Caulk, superintendent of Fayette County Public Schools (FCPS), passed unexpectedly this past Wednesday, the 24th of November, after dealing with an undisclosed illness. Caulk was only 49.

Since being hired in 2016, Caulk had an immediate effect on transforming the Fayette County Public School system for the better. But he was so much more than just an educator and superintendent.

Manny Caulk was a role model, and he was a beacon of light to a community that needed his intuition and drive.

I was lucky enough to work with Manny on the Fayette County Public Schools communications team as an intern in 2018 before I moved to Washington, D.C.

What stood out to me was how eager he was to impact kids in any way possible. It wasn’t about how he could help them for one semester, but how he could change their lives forever.

He exemplified leadership qualities through his will to serve. Event after event, he was on the ground instead of sitting back and watching.

He was the first superintendent I’ve seen get up at 7 AM to ride the FCPS school buses to read to children on their way to school.

I am a product of the FCPS system, and he was the first superintendent I’ve seen that looked like me.

Manny changed the lives of countless students. He changed the lives of his colleagues and co-workers.

A true motivator, and friend.

We will miss you, Manny.