REGULAR SESSION
BULLOCH COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
WILLIAM JAMES EDUCATIONAL COMPLEX
CENTRAL OFFICE BOARD ROOM
APRIL 11, 2019
6:30 P.M.
AGENDA

(The Board requests all cell phones be silenced.)

CALL TO ORDER
MOMENT OF SILENCE/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS
Portal Elementary and Portal Middle/High School
BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION
The public may address the Board of Education concerning issues other than specific student or individual matters. A three-minute time limit will be imposed for each speaker. A timer will be set and appear on the SMARTBoard and a buzzer will sound when time expires. At this point, the speaker will have 10 seconds to conclude remarks. If remarks are not concluded, the speaker will be thanked for their comments and asked to yield the floor. Passing of time to another person is not allowed.

No speaker shall indulge in personal attacks while speaking. All comments are to be addressed directly to the Board of Education. Personnel concerns may be addressed in writing to the Superintendent or Chairman of the Board of Education. The board cannot vote, comment or respond to issues or comments made during public participation.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT
Middle School Gifted Program Follow-Up
FY20 General Fund Budget Discussion
Principal Hiring Process
School Improvement Process Update

AMEND/ADOPT AGENDA

A. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Board Minutes: March 14, 2019 Regular Session
   March 18, 2019 Special Called Sessions (4:00, 5:00, 6:00)
   March 26, 2019 Work Session
2. Board Member Payroll for March 2019

B. OLD BUSINESS
1. GSBA Legislative Positions Suggestions (Nothing needs to be done if there aren’t any suggestions)
2. GSBA Delegate and Alternate Selection

C. NEW BUSINESS
Cedarwood Bid Approval

D. EXECUTIVE SESSION

E. RETURN TO OPEN SESSION
   Personnel Recommendations

F. ADJOURNMENT

The Bulloch County Board of Education does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age in its programs and activities. Inquiries regarding nondiscrimination policies should be sent to 180 Williams Road, Statesboro, Georgia 30458, 912-217-8500.
Consent Agenda
The Bulloch County Board of Education met in a Regular Session Meeting on Thursday, March 14, 2019, at 6:30 p.m. in the Board Room at the Central Office. Board Members present were as follows: Jay Cook, April Newkirk, Glennera Martin, Dr. Stuart Tedders, Cheri Wagner, Heather Mims, Mike Sparks, and Maurice Hill. Superintendent Charles Wilson was also present.

Board Chairman Mike Sparks called the meeting to order and led the Moment of Silence and Pledge of Allegiance.

After review and recommendation by the Superintendent, upon motion by Glennera Martin, and second by Jay Cook, the revised agenda was approved as presented. (8:0) Yes - Cheri Wagner, Stuart Tedders, Maurice Hill, Jay Cook, Glennera Martin, April Newkirk, Heather Mims and Mike Sparks

During School Highlights Tim Rountree, Administrator of Transition Learning Center (TLC) provided an update regarding the TLC and Federal Programs Director Georgi Darsey provided information regarding the Graduation Performance Academy.

Following Board Member Comments, there was no public participation.

During the Superintendent’s Report, Board members were recognized for School Board Member Appreciation Week, Executive Director Dr. Deborah Mangum and School Social Worker Keith Wilkey provided a presentation regarding School Social Workers, Mr. Wilson provided information regarding HB763/Student Attendance and School Climate Committee, Strategic Plan Update and mentioned the March Work Session would cover School Capacity/Enrollment.

After review and recommendation by the superintendent, upon motion by Cheri Wagner, and second by Stuart Tedders, the Board unanimously approved the Consent Agenda that consisted of the following: Board Minutes: February 14, 2019 Regular Session, February 28, 2019 Speak Up for Education; Board Member Payroll for February 2019, and the Financial Report for January 2019. (8:0) Yes - Cheri Wagner, Stuart Tedders, Maurice Hill, Jay Cook, Glennera Martin, April Newkirk, Heather Mims and Mike Sparks

After review and recommendation by the Superintendent, upon motion by Glennera Martin, and second by Cheri Wagner, the Board unanimously approved the ESPLOST IV Project – Nevils Elementary School Re-Roofing of the old wag bid by Southeast Roofing Solutions (SRS) of Statesboro with a low bid of $122,000. Approximately $99,000 of that amount will be funded by state money, with only $23,000 being paid by ESPLOST IV dollars. (8:0) Yes - Cheri Wagner, Stuart Tedders, Maurice Hill, Jay Cook, Glennera Martin, April Newkirk, Heather Mims and Mike Sparks

GSBA Delegate Appointments and Proposed Changes to the GSBA Legislative Positions for 2020 will be done at the April 11th meeting.
Upon motion by Stuart Tedders, and second by Heather Mims, the Board unanimously voted to enter into executive session to discuss or deliberate upon the appointment, employment, compensation, hiring, disciplinary action or dismissal, or periodic evaluation or rating of a public officer or employee or to interview applicants for the position of superintendent; (O.C.G.A. § 50-14-3(b)(2)); and to discuss or vote to authorize negotiations to purchase, dispose of, or lease property; authorize ordering an appraisal related to the acquisition of disposal of real estate; enter into a contract to purchase, dispose of, or lease property subject to approval in a subsequent public vote; or enter into an option to purchase, dispose of or lease real estate subject to approval in a subsequent public vote; (O.C.G.A. § 50-14-3(b)(1)).

(8:0) Yes – Cheri Wagner, April Newkirk, Maurice Hill, Glennera Martin, Jay Cook, Stuart Tedders, Heather Mims and Mike Sparks. Board Members present at the time of executive session were as follows: (8:0) Yes - Cheri Wagner, Stuart Tedders, Maurice Hill, Jay Cook, Glennera Martin, April Newkirk, Heather Mims and Mike Sparks.

Upon motion by Cheri Wagner, and second by Stuart Tedders, the Board unanimously voted to return to open session. Board members present at the time of the return to open session were as follows: (8:0) Yes - Cheri Wagner, Stuart Tedders, Maurice Hill, Jay Cook, April Newkirk, Mike Sparks, Glennera Martin and Jay Cook.

After review and recommendation by the Superintendent, upon motion by Cheri Wagner, and second by Jay Cook, the Board approved the Regular Personnel Recommendations as presented and made a part of these minutes by reference. ( Classified employees are employed at the will of the Board; certified employees are employed contingent upon the receipt of criminal background checks satisfactory to the Superintendent and Board. ) (8:0) Yes - Cheri Wagner, Stuart Tedders, Jay Cook, Glennera Martin, April Newkirk, Heather Mims, Mike Sparks and Maurice Hill.

After review and recommendation by the Superintendent, upon motion by Stuart Tedders, and second by Glennera Martin, the Board approved the Contract Recommendations as presented and made a part of these minutes by reference. ( Classified employees are employed at the will of the Board; certified employees are employed contingent upon the receipt of criminal background checks satisfactory to the Superintendent and Board. ) (8:0) Yes - Cheri Wagner, Stuart Tedders, Jay Cook, Glennera Martin, April Newkirk, Heather Mims, Mike Sparks and Maurice Hill.

After review and recommendation by the Superintendent, upon motion by Stuart Tedders, and second by April Newkirk, the Board approved the Purchase of twenty-one (21) acres of land in the amount of $262,500. for the expansion of Southeast Bulloch Middle School’s Athletic Facilities. (8:0) Yes - Cheri Wagner, Stuart Tedders, Jay Cook, Glennera Martin, April Newkirk, Heather Mims, Mike Sparks and Maurice Hill.

There being no further business, upon motion by Glennera Martin, and second by Heather Mims the Board unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting. (8:0) Yes - Cheri Wagner, Stuart Tedders, Maurice Hill, Jay Cook, April Newkirk, Mike Sparks, Glennera Martin and Heather Mims.

Charles G. Wilson, Jr., Superintendent

Michael Alan Sparks, Board Chair
Bulloch County Board of Education
Minutes of Board Work Session
March 26, 2019

The Bulloch County Board of Education met in a Work Session Meeting on Tuesday, March 26, 2019, at 6:30 p.m. in the Board Room at the Central Office. This meeting was moved to Tuesday the 26th from Thursday the 28th due to a scheduling conflict. Board Members present were as follows: April Newkirk, Dr. Stuart Tedders, Heather Mims, Mike Sparks, Cheri Wagner, Maurice Hill, Glennera Martin, Jay Cook and Superintendent Charles Wilson.

Chairman Sparks called the meeting to order and led the Moment of Silence and Pledge of Allegiance.

After review and recommendation by the Superintendent, upon motion by Glennera Martin, and second by Heather Mims, the Board unanimously voted to approve the agenda as revised to add Personnel Actions before Executive Session. (7:1) Yes – Cheri Wagner, April Newkirk, Glennera Martin, Jay Cook, Stuart Tedders, Heather Mims and Mike Sparks; No – Maurice Hill

Director of Data, Nora Lee Edwards and Chief Operations Officer Paul Webb provided an update regarding School Capacity and Student Enrollment. Following the presentation, the consensus of the Board is to move on to the next steps. To schedule a brainstorming meeting/work session to capture key issues and bring back to another meeting to discuss solutions. Schedule additional meetings to discuss school capacity as needed.

After review and recommendation by the Superintendent, upon motion by Cheri Wagner, and second by Jay Cook, the Board approved the Regular Personnel Recommendations as presented and made a part of these minutes by reference. (Classified employees are employed at the will of the Board; certified employees are employed contingent upon the receipt of criminal background checks satisfactory to the Superintendent and Board.) (7:0) Yes – Cheri Wagner, April Newkirk, Maurice Hill, Jay Cook, Stuart Tedders, Heather Mims and Mike Sparks; Glennera Martin did not vote.

After review and recommendation by the Superintendent, upon motion by Glennera Martin, and second by Cheri Wagner, the Board approved the Personnel Contract Recommendations as presented and made a part of these minutes by reference. (Classified employees are employed at the will of the Board; certified employees are employed contingent upon the receipt of criminal background checks satisfactory to the Superintendent and Board.) (7:0:1) Yes – Cheri Wagner, April Newkirk, Maurice Hill, Jay Cook, Glennera Martin, Heather Mims and Mike Sparks; Abstention - Stuart Tedders

Upon motion by Stuart Tedders, and second by Glennera Martin, the Board unanimously voted to enter into executive session at 7:39 p.m. To discuss or deliberate upon the appointment, employment, compensation, hiring, disciplinary action or dismissal, or periodic evaluation or rating of a public officer or employee or to interview applicants for the position of superintendent;(O.C.G.A. § 50-14-3(b)(2)). (8:0) Yes—Cheri Wagner, April Newkirk, Maurice Hill, Glennera Martin, Jay Cook, Stuart Tedders, Heather Mims and Mike Sparks. Board Members present at the time of executive Session are as follows: Cheri Wagner, April Newkirk, Maurice Hill, Glennera Martin, Jay Cook, Stuart Tedders, Heather Mims and Mike Sparks
Upon motion by Cheri Wagner, and second by Maurice Hill, the Board unanimously voted to return to open session at 9:07 p.m. (8:0) Yes – Cheri Wagner, April Newkirk, Maurice Hill, Glennera Martin, Jay Cook, Stuart Tedders, Heather Mims and Mike Sparks

Board members present at the time of the return to open session were as follows: Cheri Wagner, April Newkirk, Maurice Hill, Glennera Martin, Jay Cook, Stuart Tedders, Heather Mims and Mike Sparks

After review and recommendation by the Superintendent, upon motion by Stuart Tedders, and second by Heather Mims, the Board approved Chad Prosser as Principal at Statesboro High School for the 2019-2020 school year. (7:1) Yes – Cheri Wagner, Maurice Hill, Glennera Martin, Jay Cook, Stuart Tedders, Heather Mims and Mike Sparks; No – April Newkirk

There being no further business, upon motion by Glennera Martin, and second by Heather Mims, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 9:09 p.m. (8:0) Yes – Cheri Wagner, April Newkirk, Maurice Hill, Glennera Martin, Jay Cook, Stuart Tedders, Heather Mims and Mike Sparks

Charles G. Wilson, Jr., Superintendent

Michael Alan Sparks, Chairman
BULLOCH COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION  
BOARD MEMBER PAYROLL  
FOR THE MONTH OF: MARCH 2019  
April 2019 Payroll  

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TOTAL 2,600.00

100-9990-2300-111-8010-0-06-000-00000

March 12, 2019 - GSBA Board Chair Workshop  
March 14, 2019 - Regular Session  
March 18, 2019 - Special Called Session - Student Disciplinary Hearing Appeals  
March 26, 2019 - Speak Up For Education
Bulloch County Board of Education
Board-Meeting Attendance Form
(Regular/Called/Work Session)

Date  March 14, 2019

Jay Cook

Maurice Hill

Glenerra Martin

Heather Mims

April Newkirk

Mike Sparks

Stuart Tedders

Cheri Wagner
Bulloch County Board of Education
Board Meeting Attendance Form
Regular/Called/Work Session

Date March 18, 2019

Jay Cook

Maurice Hill

Glennera Martin

Heather Mims

April Newkirk

Mike Sparks

Stuart Tedders

Cheri Wagner
Bulloch County Board of Education
Board Meeting Attendance Form
Regular/Called/Work Session

Date Tuesday, March 26, 2019

Jay Cook

Maurice Hill

Glennera Martin

Heather Mims

April Newkirk

Mike Sparks

Stuart Tedders

Cheri Wagner
Old Business for Approval
**REMINDER** Delegate Appointments and Proposed Changes to Legislative Positions

Valarie Wilson <GSBA@embrams-mail.com>
Reply-To: rstewart@gsba.com
To: mhenley@bullochschools.org

Mon, Mar 4, 2019 at 4:07 PM

March 4, 2019

TO: School Board Chairs
School System Superintendents

FROM: Valarie Wilson, Executive Director

RE: Requests for: 1) Any Proposed Changes to Legislative Positions for 2020
2) Delegate and Alternate Appointments

This is a request for two school board actions.

1) Your GSBA Legislative Positions Suggestions

One of the most important responsibilities of your association is to represent the collective resolve of local boards to the state’s governing and regulatory bodies. This is the opportunity for each local board of education to propose changes to the 2020 GSBA Legislative Positions if they wish to do so. Proposed changes can be amendments to current positions, deleting positions, or adding new ones. The current positions can be found here https://gsba.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/2019-Legislative-Positions-3.pdf.

If your board does not wish to propose any changes, you do not need to submit anything. Skip down to task #2.

If your board does want to propose a change, the proposal should reflect the will of the majority of your board. Please submit the proposals to GSBA no later than April 19, 2019.

To submit a proposal, go to https://gsba.com/advocacy-communications/propose-a-position/. Please be clear as to what action you want taken – amend a position, delete one, or add one -- and your rationale for the proposed change so that it is clear why you want the change. If you want to amend a position or add one, please submit it the way you want the position to be stated.

Your suggested change(s) and rationale will be compiled by GSBA staff and forwarded to the GSBA Governmental Operations Committee (GOC) members in advance of their April 29, 2019 meeting in Macon. The GOC members are appointed each year by the GSBA President. The GOC will discuss and vote on each existing and proposed legislative position. If your board does not have a representative on the GOC, we will invite you to send a board member to present your proposed change. Their approved list will then be voted on by the delegates attending the Annual Business Meeting of the Delegate Assembly on Friday, June 7, 2019, at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Savannah, Georgia.

2) Your Delegate and Alternate Appointments

Last year Wagner was the Delegate & Martin was the Alt.

It is important that each local board appoint a "delegate" to represent the board at the Delegate Assembly in Savannah, Georgia. It should be made clear that the delegate is to vote as a representative of the board, not as an individual. We suggest that you have an alternate in case your delegate cannot attend. Once these individuals have been identified, please submit the names of your Delegate and Alternate online by April 19, 2019 at https://gsba.com/advocacy-communications/appoint-a-delegate/

Forms

Please use the online forms on GSBA's website as indicated above. If you have any questions or comments, please contact Riquel at 770.562.6842 or toll-free at 1.800.226.1856, ext. 6842.
2019 Legislative Positions Adopted by the Delegate Assembly
In Savannah, Georgia, on June 8, 2018

GSBA represents the collective resolve of our members, the 180 elected boards of education. These legislative positions determine whether GSBA supports legislation, opposes it, or remains neutral. They are not necessarily issues for which we are seeking immediate legislation.

Members have two opportunities each year to propose additions, deletions, or amendments to the GSBA legislative positions. The Governmental Operations Committee, a large group appointed by the GSBA President, reviews the positions and proposals from local boards and makes its recommendations to the Delegate Assembly. Local boards may also propose changes to the positions directly to the Delegate Assembly. Each school board is asked to select a delegate to represent them at the annual business meeting of GSBA. In this Delegate Assembly, the positions are adopted each June.

I. GOVERNANCE OF EDUCATION

A. Local Board Authority

1.A.1 Statutes Limiting School Board Constitutional Authority
GSBA supports the constitutional authority vesting exclusive control over public schools to local boards of education as the level of government closest and most responsive to the taxpayers and parents of the children being educated. GSBA opposes any legislative measures infringing on that authority.

1.A.2 Sovereign Immunity
GSBA strongly urges the General Assembly not to pass legislation which would waive sovereign immunity of local school systems.

B. Elections and Appointments

1.B.1 Selection of the Georgia Board of Education and State School Superintendent
GSBA supports the non-partisan election by popular vote of State Board of Education members by Congressional District to serve a 4-year staggered term. GSBA further supports the appointment of the State School Superintendent by the elected State Board of Education.

1.B.2 Non-Partisan Elections for School Board Members
GSBA supports legislation calling for the non-partisan election of local school board members.

1.B.3 School Board Member Qualifications
GSBA opposes legislation that imposes qualifications to run for a position on the School Board that are greater than those qualifications imposed on other elected officials.

1.B.4 Written Notification of Local Legislation
GSBA supports general legislation requiring written notification is made directly to any impacted local boards of education on local legislation altering the terms, make-up, compensation, qualifications, or organization of the elected local boards of education.
1.B.5 Local Governance Structure
GSBA opposes any change to the local governance structure of an elected local board of education that appoints the superintendent.

C. Choice

1.C.1 Public School Choice
GSBA believes that public school choice plans at the local school district level may under specified conditions promote equity, innovation, accountability, increased parental involvement and overall school improvement. Furthermore, GSBA believes that any choice option should include the same accountability requirements for the uniform education of all students. However, GSBA opposes state or federal legislation mandating choice, and feels that decisions regarding choice or alternative school programs involving public schools should be the responsibility of local boards of education.

1.C.2 Vouchers
GSBA is opposed to vouchers, tuition tax credits, k-12 education savings plans, or scholarships whose purpose is to allocate public funds to private schools or home study.

1.C.3 Accountability
GSBA urges the General Assembly to include accountability measures in any voucher program including financial and policy transparency, performance evaluation measures, and consequences for poor performance.

D. Personnel

1.D.1 State Leadership and Teacher Initiative
GSBA supports the creation of a state-wide initiative to identify and recruit talented candidates into teacher and education leadership preparation programs and provide comprehensive recruitment, induction and retention strategies for all local school districts.

1.D.2 Teacher Preparation
GSBA supports providing strategies for success designed to better prepare individuals for the teaching profession.

1.D.3 Pilot Compensation Programs
GSBA urges the state to pilot new teacher and leader compensation programs prior to adoption to evaluate the effectiveness and viability of selected compensation scenarios.

1.D.4 Board Member Benefits
GSBA supports the revision of the Georgia Code such that local boards of education can provide group medical insurance coverage for a member of the Board and the spouse and dependents of a member leaving office on or after December 31, 2006 and such board member pays the entire cost of such coverage.

1.D.5 Dual Enrollment Teachers
GSBA opposes legislation that prohibits teachers who are directly employed by a high school from teaching dual enrollment courses for postsecondary partners.
II. THE STATE/LOCAL FUNDING PARTNERSHIP

A. Taxation

2.A.1 Tax Reform
The Georgia School Boards Association supports tax reform based upon sound data and research that will bring about a tax system that yields adequate funding, is fair, is stable, and is transparent.

2.A.2 Alternative Revenue Sources
GSBA supports an amendment to the Georgia Constitution to authorize the General Assembly to enact legislation that would allow local school systems to receive revenues from tax sources other than local property taxes, including but not limited to, a 1% local option sales tax (LOST) for general operations. Funds from this source should not supplant appropriations by the General Assembly for general operations.

2.A.3 Equalization Formula
GSBA urges the General Assembly to consider the average real estate property values, the average per capita income, percentage of students on free and reduced meals and the number of taxpayers who live near or below poverty income in determining the "wealth" of school districts for equalization purposes.

2.A.4 Development Impact Fees
GSBA urges the General Assembly to propose a constitutional amendment allowing for school board authority to levy and collect impact fees for school purposes and to pass enabling legislation.

2.A.5 Road and Sales Tax Removal
GSBA urges the General Assembly to exempt local boards of education from paying taxes on motor fuel.

2.A.6 Tax Commissioners or Tax Collectors Fee
GSBA urges the General Assembly to amend current statutes to ensure the fee paid to the county for collecting school taxes is no more than 2.5% of the taxes actually collected.

2.A.7 Study Committee on Local Five Mill Share
GSBA urges an examination of the impact of the five-mill share on local school system funding.

2.A.8 State Tax Policy
The GSBA urges the General Assembly to develop a state tax policy which addresses the continued erosion of the State Revenue Base through passage annually of tax exemptions from the sales and use of tax, income tax and other revenue producing state taxes.

GSBA further urges the General Assembly to place a moratorium upon subsequent introduction and passage of tax legislation which reduces the state revenue base until a tax policy can be adopted which responsibly considers the state's revenue production potential and the state's ability to adequately meet its funding obligations to each department of government.

2.A.9 Impact of Tax Legislation
GSBA urges the General Assembly to recognize the impact of proposed tax legislation and/or Constitutional amendments on the state and local revenue base and to defeat any which may undermine state government services and public education.
2.A.10 Capital Outlay for Educational Purposes
GSBA opposes legislation which would redefine "capital outlay projects for educational purposes" to include SPLOST expenditures for non-educationally related projects such as street, bridge, utility and similar improvements.

2.A.11 Exclusion of Local Sales Tax from State Sales Tax Exemptions
GSBA supports the exclusion of local sales tax from state sales tax exemptions and urges the General Assembly to enact legislation that would modify current law and prevent future law from including local sales taxes in state sales tax exemptions.

2.A.12 Local Legislation to Add Use of ESPLOST
GSBA supports a Constitutional amendment to allow local legislation to include maintenance and operations as an allowable use of the Education Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax in that school district.

2.A.13 Abatements
GSBA supports legislation that requires any abatements of school taxes be subject to the approval of the local school board.

2.A.14 Amendment of the Title Ad Valorem Tax (TAVT)
GSBA supports amending the title ad valorem tax (TAVT) statute to make it more transparent, consistent, and equitable compared to the revenue received under the prior ad valorem/sales tax system.

B. Capital Outlay

2.B.1 Capital Program Flexibility/Funding
GSBA urges maximum funding of capital outlay programs to accommodate student growth and diverse facility needs of local systems.

2.B.2 Facility Guidelines
GSBA urges the State Department of Education to revise facility guidelines/regulations to include additional classroom space to accommodate appropriate teacher/pupil ratio, instructional needs, technology needs and Pre-K classrooms. GSBA also urges the Georgia Department of Education to revise facility guidelines to more accurately reflect current building cost per square foot.

2.B.3 Community Housing Planning and Zoning Impact on Community Education Capabilities/Goals
GSBA supports legislation requiring that the impact of planning and zoning decisions on the school district be a factor in the decision.

C. Personnel Funding

2.C.1 Funding Level
GSBA supports the allotment and funding of local school and school district personnel at a ratio which ensures quality educational opportunities for all Georgia students.
2.C.2 Professional and Staff Development
GSBA urges the General Assembly to fund professional and staff development at a level which will enable certified personnel to participate in approved professional development activities every five years in order to acquire needed job-related skills.

2.C.3 Sick and Personal Leave
GSBA supports increased funding of sick and personal leave by the state to fully fund the cost of substitute teachers.

2.C.4 Unemployment Compensation
GSBA supports state funding of unemployment compensation for local school system employees.

2.C.5 Professional Development for State Mandated Instructional Initiatives
GSBA urges the state to fully fund the training and professional development needs associated with implementation of any state mandated instructional initiatives.

2.C.6 State Health Insurance Supplement
GSBA urges the General Assembly to lower the amount that school districts have to fund for the employer's cost of health insurance for non-certified personnel.

D. Program Funding

2.D.1 Weighted FTE Funding Basis
GSBA supports legislative proposals which appropriate funds needed for a quality basic education on a weighted FTE student cost-basis.

2.D.2 State Lottery
GSBA opposes use of lottery proceeds to supplant funds for education that historically have been provided by the General Assembly.

2.D.3 At Risk and Remedial Summer School Programs
GSBA urges the General Assembly to fund at risk and remedial summer school programs commensurate with the number of students scoring below grade level as defined by the Office of Student Achievement.

2.D.4 Funding of Non-Vocational Labs
GSBA supports restoration of the funding for the high school non-vocational lab program.

2.D.5 Appropriation of Funds For Educational Resources
GSBA urges that state funds be appropriated in the QBE formula to cover actual costs for consumable materials and supplies, replacement of instructional equipment, textbooks, and media materials, including electronic formats.

2.D.6 Training and Experience - Mid-Term Adjustment
GSBA urges the General Assembly to enact legislation that would allow for mid-term adjustment on the training and experience factor for calculation of system earnings for the most current year for which data is available.
2.D.7 Georgia Network for Educational and Therapeutic Support Services (G-NETS)
GSBA urges that funding for the Georgia Network for Educational and Therapeutic Support Services (G-NETS) network be changed from a state grant to a per FTE earning formula basis.

2.D.8 Maintenance and Operation Funding
GSBA supports increased funding for maintenance and operation as part of the total cost of education.

2.D.9 Legislative Impact Statements
GSBA urges that any legislator or legislative committee proposing a bill in the General Assembly be required to attach a fiscal note detailing how consideration has been given to the bill’s possible budgetary impact on local school districts and other governmental entities.

2.D.10 Unfunded State Requirements
GSBA believes that any program, project or requirement mandated by state government should be funded by the state in such a manner that operation or implementation of the mandate does not impose financial or other burdens on local school districts. Any such unfunded mandate proposed by legislation should not become law.

2.D.11 Instructional Expenditure Control
GSBA supports flexibility and controls at the system level which permit transfer of funds among QBE programs.

2.D.12 Transportation Reimbursement
GSBA urges the General Assembly to fund transportation costs for all students.

2.D.13 Withholding Proportional Local Share
GSBA opposes withholding QBE funds from school districts to support state approved Charter Schools.

2.D.14 Fund QBE
GSBA supports the full funding of the QBE funding formula. Furthermore, GSBA encourages QBE to be indexed yearly for increases in inflation.

E. Retirement

2.E.1 Health Insurance and Retirement for Non-Certified Employees
GSBA supports state funding for employer’s cost of health insurance and retirement funding for non-certified personnel with the QBE FTE formula.

2.E.2 Public School Employees Retirement
GSBA urges the General Assembly to increase Public School Employee Retirement benefits so that they are comparable to the benefits paid by TRS.

2.E.3 Teacher Retirement System
GSBA opposes legislation directing the TRS Board of Directors to adopt high-risk investments in their portfolio that may endanger the actuarial soundness of the retirement fund.
III. IMPROVING STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

A. Attendance

3.A.1 Compulsory Attendance
GSBA supports compulsory enrollment in educational programs for persons ages six years to 17 years who have not graduated from high school.

B. Curriculum/Achievement

3.B.1 Academic Achievement
GSBA supports legislative initiatives to make improving student academic achievement the top priority of state education policy.

3.B.2. State-Local Collaboration
GSBA supports efforts to improve student achievement through a collaborative effort between the Department of Education and local school districts in the development of a challenging and dynamic curriculum that allows for flexible instructional models to meet the needs of all students.

3.B.3 Authority Over Curriculum
GSBA supports the concept that curriculum determination is the domain of state and local boards of education. GSBA thus encourages the General Assembly to resist legislative attempts to mandate curriculum.

3.B.4. Early Learning Initiative
GSBA supports the creation of a statewide initiative to formalize an early learning collaborative in each county of the state.

3.B.5 PreK through Grade 3 Initiative
GSBA supports the adoption of a prekindergarten through grade 3 integrated educational model for all children ages four through eight.

3.B.6 Dropout Prevention
GSBA supports the development of local dropout prevention programs with state and federal assistance based on a uniform definition of dropout. GSBA further supports providing a mechanism for students to be considered graduates who earn both a GED and a workforce development skills certificate (such students are currently considered dropouts.)

3.B.7 Special Education Students and Graduation Rate
GSBA encourages the Governor, Legislature and State Department of Education to adjust graduation criteria so that special education students who receive a certificate of completion will not count against Georgia’s graduation rate.

3.B.8 High School Diplomas
GSBA encourages the Georgia Department of Education to consider offering three high school diploma options: college prep, CTAE and special education.
3.B.9 Assessments Aligned to Standards
GSBA encourages the Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) to develop assessments aligned to standards, as opposed to a grade-level or state defined course, and provide systems the flexibility to administer those assessments if students are ready prior to the spring of each school year.

3.B.10 Limit Number of Assessments
GSBA urges the state to review current student assessment requirements and to limit the number of assessments to those that are essential to monitor student learning and inform instruction.

3.B.11 Align Assessments with Move On When Ready
GSBA supports the concept of giving school districts the choice of assessing students at the grade level, content area, or course for which they are taught. Middle school students taking high school courses could be assessed solely on the high school courses to eliminate double testing. Elementary and middle school students working above grade level in a content area could take the content test for the grade level they are taught to eliminate double testing.

3.B.12 Multiple Administrations of Assessments
GSBA encourages the Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) to allow school systems the flexibility to administer the Georgia Milestones End of Grade tests multiple times during the school year in addition to the traditional spring and retest opportunities. The practice currently exists with Georgia Milestones End of Course tests. This flexibility allows students to take the tests as they complete the course content.

3.B.13 Career, Technical and Agricultural Education
GSBA opposes programmatic transfer of the Career, Technical and Agricultural Education programs from the State Board of Education to the State Board of the Technical College System of Georgia.

C. Non-traditional Schools

3.C.1 Charter Schools
The Georgia School Boards Association supports the concept of publicly funded charter schools that provide innovative, quality programming provided they are formed with the approval of local boards of education and are under the governance of those local school boards.

3.C.2 Non Public School Students - Access to Activities
GSBA opposes legislation or any State Board of Education rule which mandates access to a public school program, activity, facility, or funding by students not enrolled in that school.

3.C.3 Alternative School Programs
GSBA supports the continuing emphasis on and support for program improvement for students needing alternative schools, including expanding the programs to provide behavioral modification for elementary school students exhibiting disruptive behavior tendencies.
IV. FEDERAL ISSUES

4.1 Educational Program Funding
GSBA supports efforts of the Georgia Board of Education and the State Department of Education in maintaining a strong working relationship with the U.S. Department of Education.

4.2 Flexibility in the Use of Federal Funds
GSBA recommends that state statutes and the Georgia Department of Education’s rules and regulations governing the use of federal funds, not be stricter than federal guidelines.

4.3 Special Education Funding
Fully fund Special Education at the 40% level as mandated by federal law, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

4.4 Eliminate Unnecessary Mandates and Regulations
GSBA urges Congress to reduce unnecessary mandates and regulations on schools.

4.5 Support Public Education, Not Tax-Funded Vouchers
GSBA urges Congress to reject vouchers and support legislation that improves public schools.

4.6 Fair Share from Federal Government In Place of Ad Valorem Taxes
GSBA supports legislation that will require the federal government to pay its fair share in the place of ad valorem taxes for land owned by the government.
The Georgia School Boards Association (GSBA) is dedicated to serving the legislative needs of Georgia’s school boards. One of our purposes is to give school boards a voice when lawmakers make decisions on issues that have a critical impact on our school systems or on the governance of public education. We strive to “represent the collective resolve” of Georgia’s locally elected boards of education. We take pride in our process of inclusion and grassroots advocacy.

GSBA includes its members in the development of its legislative positions. School boards select a delegate to represent their board at our annual meeting, the Delegate Assembly, held in June. Before the meeting, school boards are invited to propose edits, amendments and deletions to GSBA’s legislative positions, or they may suggest new positions. At the Delegate Assembly, all of the proposed changes are considered and voted on by the delegates. Delegates also elect GSBA’s officers.

Because building confidence in Georgia’s public schools is critical for the success of the state’s 1.7 million public school students, it’s important that school board members and other educational and business leaders partner with us on issues that have a significant impact on our school systems. These partnerships may take the form of testifying on legislation at the Capitol or at legislative hearings, contacting legislators, developing joint statements or conducting meetings with stakeholder groups.

GSBA holds numerous meetings to help school board members become informed advocates for public education. Every year Legislative Site Visits in Atlanta give school board members and superintendents the opportunity to meet with their legislators and get an update on what’s going on under Georgia’s gold dome. As this year’s Georgia General Assembly approaches, you can find daily reports, e-mail alerts and legislative tracking via GSBA’s Capitol Watch Online and the GSBA HUB. As we continue to build a strong grassroots network across the state, we thank you for supporting GSBA and advocating for Georgia’s public school children.
2019-2020 GSBA Legislative Priorities

The following statements represent the 2019-2020 legislative priorities of the Georgia School Boards Association (GSBA). The positions are ones that GSBA believes are critical to the success of students and to ensuring excellence in the governance of local school systems. The GSBA Board of Directors chose these as priorities from the association's total list of legislative positions, which are available on GSBA's website.

Assessments
GSBA supports a continued review of our assessment system to limit the number and to build flexibility into the system for districts to move students as they are ready.

Constitutional Authority of School Boards
GSBA urges the General Assembly to align legislative initiatives with state constitutional provisions regarding the control, management, and funding of public schools.

Education Funding Formula
GSBA urges the General Assembly to require any changes to the education funding formula to generate a funding level based on the actual costs to provide a quality program to all Georgia's public school students. GSBA supports the addition of an inflation index as well as a review of the equalization formula and the calculation of the five mill share.

Expansion of Publicly Funded Private School Options
GSBA opposes the creation of any new program or any expansion of existing programs that directly or indirectly use public funds to pay private school tuition for students. GSBA urges the General Assembly to include accountability measures in such programs including financial and policy transparency, performance evaluation measures, and consequences for poor performance.
New Business
TO: Charles Wilson
FROM: Paul Webb
RE: Cedarwood (GNETS) Building Renovations
DATE: Updated April 9, 2019

The Department of Education has provided approximately 81% of the funding for the renovation of our GNETS (Cedarwood) Program being housed at the old Julia P. Bryant Elementary School building. When we submitted the project for approval, the architect’s projected cost of renovation was $1,026,884. The architect of this project is Craig Buckley of Buckley and Associates and since last summer he has been meeting with stakeholders to determine the needs and improvements necessary for that wing. A mandatory pre-bid meeting was held at the school on March 12, 2019.

Sealed bids will be opened April 9, 2019. If those bids are acceptable to you as superintendent, I would like for you to recommend approval at the April 11, 2019, Board of Education meeting. If we are able to recommend the bid and the Board approves it, the completion date would be on or before July 15, 2019. All bids will be presented to the Board on April 11, 2019, and I would recommend accepting the low bid for this project.

ADDENDUM: The bids for this project are attached. I recommend that we award the bid to WBM Construction of Metter, Georgia in the amount of $1,296,600. There was a request for an alternate for siding in the amount of $26,400. We will wait to decide on the alternate until the project is almost complete and possibly utilize the contingency ($50,000). The amount of the state funding is $807,000, which leaves local cost at $516,000 plus $18,800 (asbestos abatement) for a total local cost of $534,800.

In addition, asbestos was found and the cost of abatement of the asbestos was $18,800, which will need to be added to the low bid amount, as the asbestos was done separately.
Executive Session