



# Georgia School Boards Association

## Advocacy Workshop

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# Rewriting the Rules for Public Education Governance

What are the problems?  
Is the cure worse?



# The Commission for School Board Excellence

- ✦ Board Governance Accountability
- ✦ Education Task Force
- ✦ Board Candidacy and Elections



# Board Governance Accountability

- ✦ “Currently, the legal expectations of school boards are minimal in Georgia.”
- ✦ “It is strongly recommended that clear expectations and responsibilities be legislated to hold [boe’s] accountable.”
- ✦ Establish an oversight process for student performance?



# Outside reporting of violation of ethics

- ✦ “early...assistance and intervention to address...accreditation problems, financial and abuse of power issues”
- ✦ Independent panel of past board members and superintendents appointed by Governor or SBOE to review and investigate “persistent system or board performance issues”
- ✦ Receivership as a last resort controlled by the SBOE and Governor
- ✦ Establish statewide code of ethics and conflict of interest rules



## But....

- ✦ If the Constitution requires that all boards be elected, what role should nonelected bodies have in vetoing the voters' choice
- ✦ When? Why? What? Who? How long?
- ✦ The legislative solution of ethics panels or commissions

# Education Task Force

- ✦ To address
  - ✦ Board roles and responsibilities
  - ✦ State-wide school performance standards
  - ✦ Comprehensive board member education and proficiency
- ✦ To include GSBA, GSSA, GPPE, SACS, GDOE, GOSA
- ✦ “Citizen service” means no pay or at least no more than SBOE

# Did you know?

- ✱ Boards can only act in a meeting as a group and not as individuals?
- ✱ The BOE sets policy, approves budget, sets vision and hires superintendent?
- ✱ Unless elected, chairs should be appointed by the BOE?
- ✱ Boards should develop a strategic plan?
- ✱ “The board exists for the students, not the electorate”?



# Training and “proficiency”

- ✦ Task Force to establish proficiency curriculum
- ✦ Consider classroom, web-based, mentoring, coaching, whole-board
- ✦ Consider GSBA strategic planning training as part of curriculum
- ✦ Orientation workshop for board candidates

# Board Candidacy and Elections

- ✦ Boards from 5-7 members
- ✦ 4 year, staggered terms in nonpartisan elections
- ✦ Qualifications
  - ✦ Background check
  - ✦ Drug Screening
  - ✦ HS diploma or GED
  - ✦ Statewide conflict and code of ethics affidavit
  - ✦ Compliance with training
  - ✦ Not employed by any public or private school

# SB 458 and Vouchers

- ✦ Educational cost should be shared between state, local district and parents
- ✦ Money should follow the child to the school
- ✦ Alternative certification to let anyone teach
- ✦ Remove students that keep others from learning – go to Court if necessary




# SB 458 and Vouchers

- ✦ Measure outcomes determined by State
- ✦ Public School Choice based on parental and student contract
- ✦ Private School Choice
- ✦ SB 458 for chronically failing schools and those that lose accreditation
- ✦ Or better yet, universal school choice



# Role of SACS

- ✦ Private entity that District or School voluntarily joins
- ✦ Taking on governance functions and supervisory or monitoring role
- ✦ Threat from parents, citizens, employees, other board members
- ✦ But is one board member a governance issue?




Government is destroying our schools.... The competitive market is the only solution.

Milton Friedman quoted by  
Eric Johnson



Or maybe we are talking about...

- ✦ Banks
- ✦ Mortgage Companies
- ✦ Insurance Companies
- ✦ Wall Street
- ✦ Automobile Companies
- ✦ Who knows what's next??



There is a place in America to take a stand: it is public education. It is the underpinning of our cultural and political system. It is the great common ground. Public education after all is the engine that moves us as a society toward a common destiny... It is in public education that the American dream begins to take shape.

Tom Brokaw



# *Your Turn*

★ *Questions or Comments?????*