

# AGENDA

The Newsletter of the  
Georgia School Boards Association  
Volume 6, Number 3  
February-March 2001

*We Believe in Public Education*



## Gary Ashley Announces Retirement

**O**n January 25, 2001, at a GSBA Board of Directors Meeting, GSBA Executive Vice President Gary Ashley announced that he will retire from the post he has held since 1978. His retirement becomes effective on August 31, 2001.

Citing the desire for more time for family and personal interests, Ashley said, "It's time to make way for new leadership."

After a career spanning five decades and 45 years, Ashley, 66, will leave the organization he has led for the past 23 years. Only the third executive to lead GSBA over the last 50 years, Ashley has been considered a tough and pivotal leader in education reform efforts over the last quarter of a century.

A familiar face at the Capitol and throughout Georgia, Ashley plans to remain active in state and national educational issues. Ashley and his wife, Sue, will relocate to North Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, where he once served as head of that state's school boards association. The Ashley's daughter, Stephanie, will begin her freshman year at Florida State University (*alma mater* of Ashley) in September.

GSBA President Tricia Smith is serving as chair of the search committee that is charged with selecting the Association's next executive director. ▲



The GSBA FRN Committee meets with Georgia Senator Max Cleland in Washington to discuss impending legislation. See a complete listing of participants from GSBA on page 9.

## FRN Meeting in Washington Proves Productive and Engaging

**I**n early February, school board members and school board association executives met in Washington, D.C., to participate in the National School Boards Association Leadership Conference. But even before the group convened in Washington, GSBA representatives were spending time preparing for the meeting, which includes a "Day on the Hill" where school board members discuss issues with legislators.

"Our Georgia delegation did an excellent job prior to going to Washington of becoming very well-

versed on educational issues to make our limited time with legislators most productive," said GSBA Executive Vice President Gary Ashley.

NSBA also worked to prepare all conferees for the Day on the Hill with one-and-a-half days of sessions dealing with the national educational picture and leadership issues. About 900 school board members and other leaders attended the meeting.

The Georgia Delegation (see a listing of members on page 9 of this issue of *Agenda*) met with Georgia Senators Max Cleland and Zell Miller. Both legislators spent time with the Delegation discussing IDEA funding, extension of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, as well as vouchers and other school privatization schemes.

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## From the President...



Tricia Smith  
GSBA President

I have been reading the book *Lincoln on Leadership* by Donald T. Phillips. One particular chapter, "Building Strong Alliances," begins with a quote from Lincoln's speech "A House Divided," which he gave when accepting the nomination for U.S. Senator at the Republican State Convention in Springfield, Illinois:

"A house divided against itself cannot stand...Our cause must be entrusted to, and conducted by its own undoubted friends - whose hands are free, whose hearts are in the work - who do care for the result."

How appropriate this is for us in relation to our legislative efforts! We must be united concerning education legislation. Who does the public entrust this mission to if not school board members?

Service for several years on the GSBA Governmental Operations Committee has allowed me to watch education evolve in importance and consequence through the actions of our legislators. Governor Roy Barnes took it to a new level, though. His vision and courage to make drastic change in our public education system should give all of us the impetus we need to get involved with our senators and representatives. Beginning with the 2000 General Assembly, their votes affected us in ways to which we are still adjusting and may not totally comprehend or see the end result of for several years. The 2001 session promises more change. You may or may not agree with all that is going on under the "Gold Dome," but you must admit that it is gratifying to be a focus of the legislators rather than an afterthought. We must receive the

charge to free our hands for the work of impacting education changes at the Capitol and be truly and sincerely the undoubted friends of our public schools.

Lincoln was a master at building strong relationships on both the personal and professional level. He wanted to know how people would respond in a situation and wanted his subordinates to know him well, understanding how he might respond to a given situation. Abraham Lincoln really listened to people, gaining their respect and trust. Our sixteenth president understood human nature and the motives of people. He set a fine example for us to follow.

While the main focus of school board members across our state should be on student achievement, there has also never been a more crucial time for us to develop a relationship with our senators and representatives. Take time to learn about their personal interests and their



### Tricia Smith On Gary Ashley's Retirement...

"Gary Ashley will be greatly missed by not only the school board members of Georgia, but every education organization in our state. What I will miss most is his love for GSBA and his drive to serve the needs of all school boards in our state. His vision, ambition, and genuine concern for our school boards is admirable. Personally, I will always be grateful to him for helping me become a leader. He recognized qualities in me, like he has done with so many others, and guided me in taking the helm of GSBA. His are truly difficult shoes to fill, but we will work hard to find a replacement who will measure up to our standards for the future of GSBA."

motivations for becoming a member of the House or Senate. Some of us are fortunate enough to belong to civic groups or the church of which our legislators are a part. If you are not, you will have to work a little harder to find that common ground on which to establish an alliance.

GSBA is very active at the Capitol, primarily through Gary Ashley and Don Rooks. This is necessary with the sheer number of bills being presented concerning education issues. But the reality is that your state legislators will listen more closely to and respond more positively to you, the school board member from back home, the school board member who cares enough about educating the boys and girls of your county to contact that legislator.

The expertise of GSBA's staff is valuable on many fronts, but the commitment of a local school board member is invaluable regarding education legislation. The grass roots efforts of every one of us can have an astonishing effect on legislation, but will require active participation on our part, too. Your role is vital and will require that you stay abreast of legislation using GSBA's *Capitol Watch Online* on a regular basis (at [www.gsba.com](http://www.gsba.com)). Although some bills move at a snail's pace, other pieces of legislation seem to move at the speed of light. Your interest in education issues during the General Assembly must be constant and timely. You must be knowledgeable, concise, polite, and honest when calling your senator about a particular piece of legislation. Try to relate the impact of the bill to your local school system. GSBA provides the information you need through the *Capitol Watch Online* and its staff is available for clarification of issues.

Let's follow in the footsteps of Lincoln by building those strong alliances with our legislators. Then we must use that alliance and put our hearts in the work of improving education for the children, parents, teachers, and administrators of our school systems. We must work to stay united as we are the undoubted friends of public education and do care for the result. ▲

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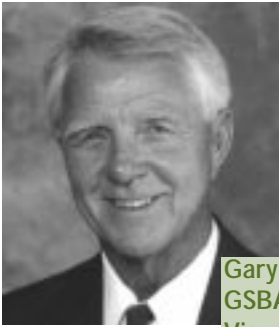
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## From the Executive Vice President...



Gary Ashley  
GSBA Executive  
Vice President

I have been working for 45 years to do what I can to improve public education. I started my career as a teacher and will retire in August 2001 from a position I've been honored to hold for 23 years. These past 23 years as GSBA's executive vice president have been some of the finest of my life -- and GSBA has been my life. As change is an integral part of life, it is time for change for me and for GSBA.

While I plan on remaining active in educational issues, I am also planning on focusing my life in other directions— family and personal interests. My wife, Sue, and I will thoroughly enjoy our new home in North Myrtle Beach.

For GSBA, the cycle of life will continue just as it will for me. The 2001 General Assembly is still underway. Education legislation is finally coming to the forefront after being obscured by other issues like the flag, teen driving, etc. GSBA's website is providing daily updates of action under the Gold Dome ([www.gsba.com](http://www.gsba.com)) and we will publish a special legislative issue of *Agenda* once the session is over to bring clarity and focus to all education legislation.

Then, as we always do after the session is over, we will begin to focus on GSBA's legislative positions relative to any changes that have occurred in the law or any changes our members wish to make to the document. This process is refined prior to our Delegate Assembly in June where it is

voted on by delegates chosen by each of our member boards.

Our Summer Conference and Delegate Assembly in Savannah is fast-approaching. On June 20-21 our pre-conference training opportunities occur (New Board Member Orientation, Communications Workshop and Policy Workshop). On June 22-23 our Summer Conference and Delegate Assembly takes place. This year's program will once again take us to new levels of understanding on the issues relevant to educational leaders.

By the time the conference is over in Savannah, the fruits of the labor of the search committee charged with selecting GSBA's next executive director should be known. It will be a time of great reflection for me as I look back to my first days at GSBA and all that has transpired over the years.

But until then, we still have much work to do together. I would also like to thank all of you who have expressed your support to me during this time of transition. ▲



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# Meeting Management and Minutes Cause Angst

On February 13 and March 9 GSBA conducted Board Chair Workshops in two locations in the state. An important topic discussed at the training session is how to conduct effective meetings. According to Harben and Hartley, GSBA's legal counsel, many board members have questions about conducting meetings and how to report on the meetings. The following two questions are from "A Guide to School Law in Georgia," which was written by Harben and Hartley. They are two questions commonly asked by board members. (The numbers correspond to the book's system of numbered chapters and the numbered questions contained within them. Superscript numbers relate to footnotes found in the book.)

## 5.34 Must a board of education follow Robert's Rules of Order in conducting a meeting?

A board is not obligated to follow Robert's Rules of Order or any other particular rules of procedure. It is desirable, of course, for the board to conduct orderly meetings and Robert's Rules provide procedures which a board may agree to follow. However, a board may choose at any time to follow a different procedure for conducting board business, even

if, by policy, the board has stated it intends to use Robert's Rules of Order to conduct its meetings. Generally speaking, whenever a majority of the board members during a board meeting agree to a particular action, regardless of the procedure followed to reach that agreement, the matter before the board has passed and becomes board action.

## 5.37 What information is required to be in the minutes of a meeting of the board?

The minutes at a minimum must contain the names of the members of the board who were present at the meeting, a description of each motion or other proposal made, and a record of all votes. In the case of a roll-call vote, the name of each person voting for or against a proposal must be recorded, but in all other cases, it is presumed that the action taken was approved by each member in attendance unless the minutes reflect the name of the persons voting against the proposal or abstaining from voting.<sup>42</sup> The names of members voting to close a meeting under the Open Meetings Act must be included. The board decides by policy or practice what additional information to include in its minutes. For example, the board may include discussion or debate made by individual board

members, although the law does not require this. The names of the members who made a motion and who seconded that motion are not required to be included in the minutes, but often are.

These are but two of many, many examples of the useful information found in the "Guide." It is Georgia's most comprehensive resource on school law. GSBA published the "Guide" that includes 17 chapters filled with the answers to the questions school board members and school system administrators ask frequently about school law. From roles and responsibilities and budget and finance to personnel and the Open Meetings Act, the "Guide" offers insight and expert opinion on the rules, regulations and laws governing our public school systems.

Copies of "A Guide to School Law in Georgia" are available for purchase through GSBA. For information on ordering your copy, call GSBA at (770) 962-2985 or (800) 226-1856, or you can order copies online at [www.gsba.com](http://www.gsba.com). ▲

*"Facts are stubborn things."*

– Alain Rene Lesage

The following boards of education have verified their compliance with the "Standards for Local Boards of Education."

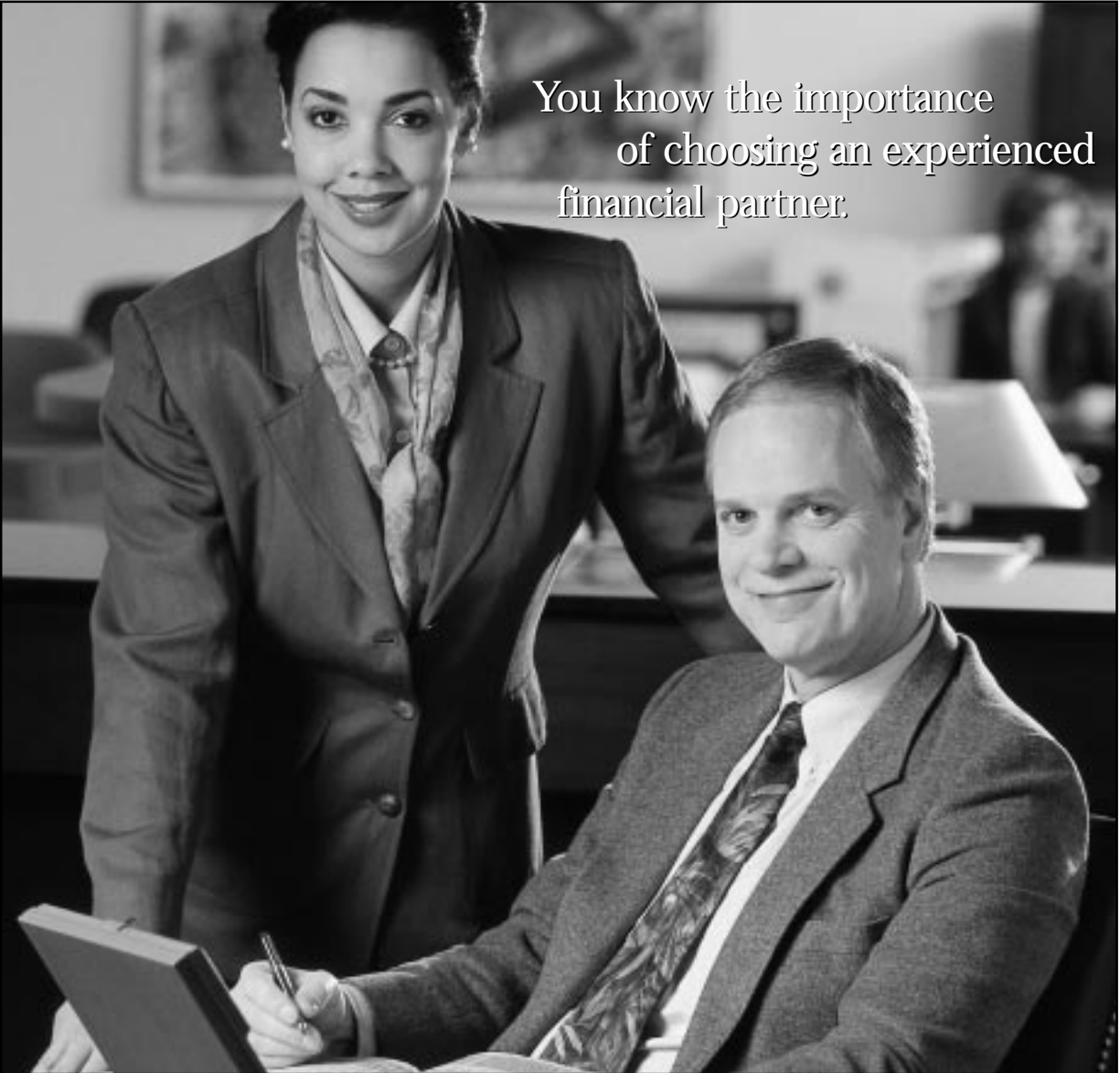
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## Association News

- GSBA Vice President Brad Bryant was appointed by Georgia Board of Education Chairman Otis Brumby to serve on the Grants Review Commission.
- Esther Mays has joined the GSBA staff as database administrator. She replaces Tearese Grayson who left to pursue a job with a corporation in Atlanta.
- Blue Bird Body Company and National Bus Sales will host the Georgia Delegation Breakfast at the National School Boards Association Conference on March 24 at 7:30 a.m. at the San Diego Marriott. Also, this year's delegates representing GSBA are:
  - Tricia Smith, GSBA President
  - Zenda Bowie, GSBA President Elect
  - Brad Bryant, GSBA Vice President
  - Gary Ashley, GSBA Executive Vice President, Ex-Officio ▲

## State News

### ● Two Georgia Systems Win in *American School Board Journal's* Magna Awards Program

Cosponsored by Sodexo Marriott Services, these awards recognize local school boards for outstanding programs that advance student learning. The Georgia winners are:

#### WINNER

Fulton County School System  
Model for Excellence: One School System's Portrait of Quality

#### HONORABLE MENTION

McDuffie County School System  
Thomson Optional Program for Success

The Magna Award winners will be featured in a special supplement to the April issue of *American School Board Journal*, which is due off press in mid-March. The winners will also be recognized at ASBJ's Luncheon for

School Leaders at the NSBA Conference in San Diego. The luncheon will be held at the Marriott Hotel on Monday, March 26, from 12:30 to 2:30.

The judges, headed by former NSBA President Harold Fisher, were impressed by the quality of the entries this year -- and by the commitment to excellence on the part of the winning school boards. We congratulate these school boards for their outstanding achievement.

### ● New State Board Members Named

In January, Governor Barnes appointed three new members to the Georgia Board of Education. They are: former Senators John Foster of Cornelia and Al Scott of Savannah, and media consultant Marquette McKnight of Columbus.

### ● Know The Committee Chairs

Leaders of the Georgia House of Representative Education Committee are: Chair - Jeanette Jamieson

*continued on page 8...*



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(Toccoa), Vice Chair - Maretta Taylor (Columbus), and Secretary - Charlie Smith (St. Marys). Leaders of the Georgia Senate Education Committee are: Chair - Richard Marable (Rome), Vice Chair - Harold Ragan (Cairo), and Secretary - David Scott (Atlanta).

Visit the GSBA website ([www.gsba.com](http://www.gsba.com)) for a complete listing of committee members and assistance on finding out who are your representatives. ▲

## National News

### John Glenn and James Earl Jones Address NSBA Conference Attendees

Senator John Glenn and renowned actor James Earl Jones will speak to

more than 7,000 school board members at the National School Boards Association's annual Conference in San Diego, California, March 24-27. The school board conference is the largest meeting of public officials in the nation and offers a wide range of programming for school leaders to enhance their operations and help children achieve more. Educator, author and activist Jonathon Kozol is also scheduled to speak to attendees.

The conference offers clinics and workshop sessions that conference goers find the most important part of the conference. The more than 100 clinics are designed to help school board members learn from other district successes in school board leadership. "Hot Topic" sessions will examine some of the more complex issues facing school boards. ▲

### Get Ready for the July 18-20

NSBA Southern Region Conference in Biloxi



Conference Registration Deadline: July 6

Hotel Reservation Deadline: June 18  
(except where noted otherwise)

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Rate: \$99

Imperial Palace, 1-800-436-3000  
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Continued from the cover...

In addition to meeting with Georgia's senators, the Georgia Delegation met with Congressman Johnny Isakson, who is the former chair of the Georgia Board of Education and currently serves on the U.S. House Education Committee. Isakson outlined President Bush's education initiatives.

And what is the general mood in Washington these days? "I sensed a very different environment in Washington," said Ashley. "There is a definite sense that people want to work together. And the fact that an education bill was the first legislation put forth by President Bush has put educational issues in the forefront."

According to Ashley, the President's proposal is very similar to Georgia's A Plus Education Reform Act, except for the inclusion of a school choice/voucher proposal.

"Reform with the centerpiece of accountability is taking place all over the country," Ashley said. "Education is a real priority in Washington now like it has been on a state level for some time." ▲

**GSBA's FRN members are appointed by the GSBA president. They serve as a liaison for the Association on federal educational legislative issues and attend the annual NSBA Leadership Conference in Washington D.C.**

**The 2001 members are:**

**Camden County Schools**

Tricia Smith

**Jones County Schools**

James T Stone

**Putnam County Schools**

Johnnie Y. Penn

**Clarke County Schools**

Vernon Payne

**Jefferson City Schools**

Ronald K. Hopkins

**Marion County Schools**

Virginia H. Swint

**Sumter County Schools**

Lorena Sabbs

**Coweta County Schools**

D. Smith Pass

**Harris County Schools**

Robert P. Jones

**DeKalb County Schools**

Elizabeth Andrews

**Gwinnett County Schools**

Louise Radloff

**Atlanta City Schools**

Brenda J. Muhammad

**Fulton County Schools**

Zenda J Bowie

**Cobb County Schools**

Gordon O'Neill

**Bartow County Schools**

Maryellen Hittel

**Marietta City Schools**

Laura Olson

**Troup County Schools**

Robert Tatum

**Bibb County Schools**

J. C. Postell, Sr.

**Ware County Schools**

Bryant H Bower, Jr.

**Forsyth County Schools**

Sherry Sagemiller

**Habersham County Schools**

Doug Church

**McIntosh County Schools**

Marjorie Washington

Also attending were DeKalb County Board of Education members: Brad Bryant, Sarah Wood, Bebe Joyner, Terry Morris and Lynn Grant. ▲

## Staff Listing

**Gary Ashley**, Executive Vice President - gashley@gsba.com  
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**Pam Harrison**, Staff Assistant - pharrison@gsba.com  
**Karen Hodges**, Staff Assistant - khodges@gsba.com  
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**Debbie Tweedell**, Bookkeeper - tweedell@gsba.com  
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Register for this summer's best professional development opportunity for school board members and educational leaders. Special conference announcements are being mailed soon. You can use the registration form on page 11 of this newsletter, or you can register today online at [www.gsba.com](http://www.gsba.com).

**Pre-Conference Training Opportunities**

- New Board Member Orientation (June 20-21)
- Communications Workshop (June 21)
- Policy Workshop (June 21)

**Hotel Information**

You should begin making your reservations as soon as possible. When calling one of the hotels, be sure to mention that you are attending the GSBA Summer Conference and Delegate Assembly. **Call the Hyatt Regency today and make your reservations.**

**Savannah Hyatt Regency- 912-238-1234**

**Overflow hotels:**

Days Inn	Hampton Inn	Hilton Savannah DeSoto	Mulberry Inn	Savannah Marriott
912-236-4440	912-231-9700	912-232-9000	912-238-1200	912-233-7722
877-542-7666	800-576-4945	800-426-8483		



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Warner Robins, Georgia



# Registration Form

## 2001 GSBA Summer Conference and Delegate Assembly

June 22-23, 2001

*You can also register  
online at [www.gsba.com](http://www.gsba.com)*

### Pre-Conference Training Opportunities

**New Board Member Orientation**  
Referred to Below as: **NBMO**  
Track I and Track II  
June 20-21, 2001

**Policy Workshop**  
Referred to Below as: **Policy**  
Track I and Track II  
June 21, 2001

**Communications Workshop**  
Referred to Below as: **Comm**  
Track I and Track II  
June 21, 2001

*Savannah Hyatt Regency Hotel • Savannah, Georgia*

Schedule	8 a.m.	10 a.m.	12 p.m.	2 p.m.	4 p.m.	6 p.m.
Wednesday (June 20)				NBMO - Track I <small>*Note* New board members must take both Tracks I and II. Veteran board members may take either track.</small>		
Thursday (June 21)	NBMO - Track I		NBMO - Track II			
	Policy - Track I		Policy - Track II			
	Comm - Track I		Comm - Track II			
Friday (June 22)	GSBA Summer Conference and Delegate Assembly					
Saturday (June 23)	GSBA Summer Conference					

**School System/Organization:** \_\_\_\_\_

	NBMO		Policy Workshop		Comm. Workshop		GSBA Summer Conf. & Delegate Assembly	Total
	Track I \$80	Track II \$80	Track I \$80	Track II \$80	Track I \$80	Track II \$80		
Name: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Title: _____								_____
Name: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Total
Title: _____								_____
Name: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Total
Title: _____								_____
Name: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Total
Title: _____								_____
Name: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Total
Title: _____								_____
Name: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Total
Title: _____								_____

**Grand Total: \$** \_\_\_\_\_

Registrations received after June 8, 2001, and all walk-ins are an additional \$15. Cancellations must be in writing and postmarked no later than June 8, 2001. A \$15 handling fee will be charged for all cancellations. A 50 percent administration fee may be charged for cancellations after the deadline of June 8 has passed. Remember, you can register online at [www.gsba.com](http://www.gsba.com).

**GSBA • 5120 Sugarloaf Parkway • Lawrenceville, GA 30043 • Phone: 770-962-2985 • FAX: 770-962-5392**

## Publication Policy

*Agenda* is published six times a year by the Georgia School Boards Association as a service to its member school boards. GSBA is a nonprofit organization for the state's 180 local school boards, which have joined together voluntarily to improve public education through cooperative effort. The articles published in each issue represent the ideas or beliefs of the writers and are not necessarily the views of GSBA, except where specifically stated.

You are invited to submit articles of 1,500 to 2,000 words dealing with topics of current interest to school board members. The editor reserves the right to determine whether the article is appropriate for the readership. Send manuscripts to Laura Reilly, *Agenda* Editor, Georgia School Boards Association, 5120 Sugarloaf Parkway, Lawrenceville, GA 30043.

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Gil Parrish, Managing Editor  
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GSBA's Web Site: [www.gsba.com](http://www.gsba.com)

## Superintendent Searches

GSBA is assisting in the superintendent search for the following school system. If you are interested in this position, call GSBA for information on application procedures.

### Search Underway

School System	Application Deadline
Floyd County	March 23, 2001

## Mark the Dates

### GEORGIA SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION CALENDAR

#### March 2001:

- 9 Board Chair Workshop, Red Top Mountain, Cartersville, Georgia
- 14 Large Systems Meeting, Fulton County Schools, Atlanta
- 15 GSBA Nominating Committee, GSBA Offices, Lawrenceville
- 24-27 NSBA Annual Conference, San Diego, California

#### April 2001:

- 26 GSBA Governmental Operations Committee, Macon
- 29-30 Leadership GSBA, Crowne Plaza, Macon

#### May 2001:

- 9 GSBA Executive Committee, GSBA Offices, Lawrenceville
- 10-11 GSBA Board of Directors' Retreat, GSBA Offices, Lawrenceville

#### June 2001:

- 20-21 GSBA New Board Member Orientation, Hyatt Regency, Savannah
- 21 GSBA Communications Workshop, Hyatt Regency, Savannah
- 21 GSBA Policy Workshop, Hyatt Regency, Savannah
- 22-23 GSBA Summer Conference and Delegate Assembly, Hyatt Regency, Savannah

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