

# AGENDA

The Newsletter of the  
Georgia School Boards Association  
Volume 7, Number 2  
January 2002

*We Believe in Public Education*



## Priorities Focus on Funding Partnership with State

GSBA builds its annual legislative priorities on the basic principle that improving academic achievement must be the top priority of state education. This premise includes support for legislative positions calling for a quality education for all Georgia students, regardless of where they live. It underlies a belief that an appropriate and challenging curriculum should be taught by highly qualified instructors. It recognizes that improving achievement will most likely occur in safe, pleasant classrooms. And it recognizes that some students achieve better in alternative educational settings appropriately funded through the state-local partnership.

With this basis of understanding in mind, the following are presented as GSBA's legislative priorities for the 2002 session of Georgia's General Assembly. The positions are a part of the legislative positions adopted by the GSBA Delegate Assembly in June 2001. The numbers correspond to the GSBA's Legislative Positions document which can be found at [www.gsba.com](http://www.gsba.com).

### Governance of Education

#### 1.11 Student Discipline

GSBA opposes all legislative efforts to restrict or dictate current local school board and administrative authority to deal with student misconduct. The Constitutional provision that each

school system shall be under the management and control of a board of education should be adhered to.

**RATIONALE:** Over a period of years the General Assembly has attempted to micromanage student discipline. This priority more forcefully states GSBA's position that these matters should be left to local boards of education.

### The State/Local Funding Partnership

#### 2.5 Remedial

GSBA supports extending the state remedial education funding to middle schools under the provisions of QBE. Evaluation of program effectiveness should be included.

**RATIONALE:** Middle grades have a need as do other grades for these services. These needs will expand as the ending of so-called social promotion is implemented in grades 5 and 8, and the State should provide funding where now there is none.

#### 2.17 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.

**RATIONALE:** State funding for consumable materials and supplies, especially textbooks, has come nowhere

near keeping up with inflation. For example, local school districts had to pay an additional \$31.76 million for textbooks in FY 99 – costs that should have been paid by the State.

#### 2.35 Maintenance and Operation Funding

GSBA supports increased funding for maintenance and operation as part of the total cost of education in order that an environment conducive to learning may be provided. There now exists a drastic difference in the level of state funding for M&O and actual cost to local school systems; the state provides \$300 per student, and the cost is over \$400 per student. This difference in funding level and cost causes increases in local property taxes, the only source of revenue most local boards have for this purpose.

**RATIONALE:** Even with a \$5 increase in the FY 02 budget, the state allocation for this item is woefully short – at least \$200 per FTE on average. This is a tremendous cost to local school districts and local taxpayers that should be borne by the State.

#### 2.44 Transportation Reimbursement

GSBA requests the General Assembly to fund transportation costs for all students living one-half mile or more from the school.

**RATIONALE:** This is a grossly underfunded item as the state funds only about half the actual cost. Then there is the matter of safety; little children cannot be expected to walk one-and-a-half miles to school in the dangerous world of today. The State should pay for this safer transportation plan under which children would be required to walk no more than one-half mile to school. ▲

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## From the President...



Zenda Bowie  
GSBA President  
Fulton County Schools

One reason that I am able to begin this new year invigorated and ready for the challenges ahead is that I took full advantage of participating in the 2001 GSBA/GSSA Annual Conference recently held in Atlanta. For anyone who wasn't there: you

missed an exceptional professional development opportunity. For those who were there: I'm sure you will agree when I say that the GSBA/GSSA Annual Conference once again proved to be the largest and best gathering of school board members and superintendents. The speakers were outstanding and the GSBA and GSSA staffs proved again that they are the best when it comes to putting on a great conference.

I was truly honored to have the opportunity to share the presidential "welcoming" duties with Fulton County Superintendent Dr. Steve Dolinger. As a member of the Fulton County Board of Education, I appreciate his skill and his dedication to raising student achievement for all of Fulton's students. It was a wonderful

moment to stand on stage with him (he is the GSSA president) and welcome close to 1,000 school board members and superintendents. It was an honor not only because I count on him as an expert and trusted colleague, but he is also a friend.

We are reminded in Fulton County, and throughout the state of Georgia, that the school board and the superintendent must work as a team. We are to take to heart our mutual goal of improving our schools to benefit the students. The only way to effectively implement new and innovative programs is for the school board and superintendent and his/her team to work together. And so it was fitting that Dr. Dolinger and I shared the stage.

I would also like to take a moment to commend the GSBA staff for an excellent Legislative Workshop. This year's workshop was held in Dublin on December 20. There was a record crowd and the program was insightful and informative. I definitely feel better

informed and ready to face the 2002 Georgia General Assembly.

If you have never taken advantage of the many services and programs GSBA offers to develop our leadership skills, call GSBA or visit the website and take a look. As a school board member, I rely on GSBA and its many services to assist me in serving our students and our community. From online law guides and policy manuals to great workshops and conferences, GSBA has earned its reputation as a premier school boards association. ▲

"The only way to effectively implement new and innovative programs is for the school board and superintendent and his/her team to work together." ZB

## Even 60 Years Later Diplomas Mean a Lot

During the 2001 Georgia General Assembly, House Bill 176 was passed. Many people may have paid little attention to the bill designed to allow some World War II veterans to receive their high school diplomas nearly 60 years after the fact. But, the Jefferson County Board of Education paid close attention to the legislation and made sure to fully implement the law once it was passed.

Since December 2001, the Jefferson County board has issued 30 high school diplomas to World War II veterans. House Bill 176 allowed local boards to issue high school diplomas to veterans who left school to serve in the military, were honorably discharged and who served in World War II between September 16, 1940, and December 31, 1946.

The Jefferson County school district held a special graduation ceremony in November 2001 to honor veterans from their area. At that time, 23 diplomas were presented. Only 14 of the veterans were able to attend the ceremony. Family members accepted the remaining diplomas. Six of the diplomas were awarded posthumously. Since November, seven additional diplomas have been awarded.

Jefferson County Superintendent Carl Bethune was quoted by *The Signal*, a local newspaper, as saying, "This celebration can in no way convey the depth of the appreciation we feel for the great sacrifices made on our behalf by all veterans. But we do hope that in some small measure we can use this celebration to let you know how much we admire and respect our veterans." ▲

GSBA developed an online resource that answers frequently asked questions about HB 176, supplies the forms needed and a model diploma that can be used to recognize veterans in your school district. Go to: <http://www.gsba.com/info/news/veterans.htm>

**Georgia School Board Member Appreciation Week is scheduled for March 4-8, 2002! Additional information on the event is provided on GSBA's website. Information is being sent to board chairs and superintendents on ideas to commemorate this event.**

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## From GSBA's Executive Director...



Sis Henry  
GSBA Executive  
Director

The opening of the General Assembly offers GSBA numerous opportunities to showcase its communications innovations. With the sounding of the gavel on January 14, GSBA's *Capitol Watch Online* was up and running. This service is a benefit of membership, but we know that our legislative site is watched by many others in education as well.

We hope you use the site often. It provides daily reports of activity at the Capitol and links to organizations, people and legislation. There is

also a handy section of reference materials to help you become well-versed on various issues. Most importantly is the speed with which we can communicate vital legislative information via our website. There is not a more effective way of getting out current, up-to-the-minute legislative information.

Before the material for the site is uploaded to the Internet, however, there are GSBA staffers working hard at the Capitol on behalf of Georgia's school boards. GSBA maintains relationships with the state board, the Governor's office and many legislators year round. We monitor meetings, provide information and keep a high level of involvement in statewide education initiatives.

Many school board members also

are involved in our advocacy efforts. They assist us through their work as GSBA legislative liaisons, members on the Governmental Operations Committee and by being on hand when we send out a "Call to Action." It is crucial to have the input of school board members in developing legislative positions and in building relationships with our state's decision-makers.

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Included in this issue of *Agenda* is a listing of GSBA's legislative priorities. It is important to note that our advocacy efforts don't stop with this list. GSBA works on many issues that arise, which affect our schools and school boards. Our priorities simply provide focus to our work at the Capitol because GSBA's

total list of legislative positions is quite extensive. (You will find Capitol Watch Online and GSBA's legislative positions on our website: [www.gsba.com](http://www.gsba.com)) ▲



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# Award Winners Honored at Conference: Apple Named Georgia Friend of Education

On November 30-December 1, 2001, at the Georgia School Boards Association/Georgia School Superintendents Association Annual Conference in Atlanta, GSBA honored a number of individuals for their achievements.

**Apple** was recognized as the Georgia Friend of Education award recipient for its dedication to education in Georgia. Apple and its team have been instrumental in many education initiatives in Georgia that have been recognized as having a positive impact on raising student achievement.

GSBA honored six media organizations for going above and beyond the call of duty to communicate educational issues to the community. **Tom Broeck** and **Denise Matthews** of the *Franklin County Citizen* were nominated by the Franklin County Board of Education. Both the Carroll County Board of Education and the Carrollton City Schools Board of Education nominated **Susan McLester** of the *Times-Georgian*. **Teresa Stezinski** of *The Georgia Times Union* was nominated by the Glynn County Board of Education. The Houston County Board of Education nominated **Charlotte Perkins** of the *Houston Home Journal*. The Muscogee County Board of Education nominated **Richard Hyatt** and **Mark Rice**

from the *Columbus Ledger-Enquirer*. The final Beacon Award went to **Norman Cooper** of the *North Georgia News*, who was nominated by the Union County Board of Education.

The following school board members received a GSBA Award of Achievement for accomplishing numerous training objectives through the Association:

- Don Coppage** - Ware County
- Mark Clark** - Thomas County
- B. J. Farley** - Dawson County
- Steve Goodnoe** - Harris County
- John K. Littles** - McIntosh County
- Helen Minchew** - Richmond County
- Jeff M. Padgett** - Richmond County
- Franklin L. Pinckney, Sr.** - Ware County
- Edward Pinson** - Lincoln County
- Jerry Randolph** - McDuffie County
- Ruby Robinson** - Glynn County
- Nancy Roche** - Forsyth County
- John C. Swingle** - Wayne County

GSBA also commended the following employers for providing employee time during the workweek to serve a local board of education.

- **Virginia Baisden**, President, McIntosh Sustainable Environment and Economic Development
- **Skip Dawkins**, Area Manager, Alltell Communications
- **Francis G. Faxon**, Building Official, Greene County Board of

- Commissioners
- **Joe Ferguson**, President, Stephens Federal Bank
- **George Flowers**, President, Synovus Trust Co.
- **Sumi Fonseka**, Avionics Supervisor, Gulfstream Aerospace
- **Drew Hamilton**, Regional Ex. Vice President, State Farm Insurance
- **Philip C. Jay, III**, Director, The Jessamine Place
- **J. Tom Morgan**, District Attorney, DeKalb County
- **Tom T. Mowery**, Manager, Lockheed Martin-Aeronautical Systems Co.
- **Robert L. Park**, Vice President, Color Spectrum, Inc.
- **Carl Rollins**, Vice President of Administration, Shaw Industries, Inc.
- **L. Wesley Smith**, President and CEO, Northwest Georgia Bank
- **Thomas S. Tarvin**, President, Crystal Springs Print Works, Inc.
- **Donald W. Wagner**, Attorney, Donald W. Wagner & Associates, P.C. ▲

## Association News

- The following school board members were named to serve on the Georgia Partnership for Excellence in Education Board of Directors: **Clarence Billups**, Ware County; **Zenda Bowie**, Fulton County; **Brad Bryant**, DeKalb County; **Douglas Church**, Habersham County; **Sadie Dennard**, Atlanta Public Schools; **Frances Edwards**, DeKalb County;

Continued on page 7...

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

Atlanta City	DeKalb County	Lee County	Thomaston-Upson County
Baldwin County	Dougherty County	Lincoln County	Troup County
Ben Hill County	Elbert County	Lowndes County	Towns County
Bleckley County	Floyd County	Lumpkin County	Vidalia City
Bremen City	Franklin County	Madison County	Ware County
Bulloch County	Fulton County	Marion County	Wayne County
Camden County	Gainesville City	McDuffie County	Washington County
Carrollton City	Glascocock County	Meriwether County	Whitfield County
Cartersville City	Gordon County	Morgan County	Wilcox County
Catoosa County	Greene County	Newton County	Worth County
Cherokee County	Griffin-Spalding County	Randolph County	
Cobb County	Habersham County	Richmond County	
Coffee County	Harris County	Screven County	
Colquitt County	Heard County	Stephens County	
Commerce City	Jackson County	Tattall County	
Dalton City	Jefferson City	Taylor County	
Dawson County	Jones County	Thomas County	



## Staff Listing

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## Quotes from our Conference Speakers...



**Left:** Lori O'Brien opened the conference with a rousing patriotic tribute. **Right:** Heath Garrett, chief of staff to U.S. Rep. Johnny Isakson, provided an update on the Leave No Child Behind Education Reform Act.



**Above:** Dr. Freeman Hrabowski brought a powerful message about the strength it takes to make real improvements as leaders and individuals.



**Above:** "All it takes is one person with a hidden agenda to destroy a board," said Dr. Charles Petty in a speech that was both humorous and pointed.

Assoc. News continued from page 5...

**Susan Knight**, Harris County; **Y.N. Myers, Jr.**, Richmond County; **Smith Pass**, Coweta County; **Louise Radloff**, Gwinnett County; **Tricia Smith**, Camden County; **Ted Stone**, Jones County; and **Michael Windom**, Dougherty County. GSBA Executive Director **Sis Henry** was named to the Executive and Management committees, as well as the board.

- GSBA Treasurer **Smith Pass**, Coweta County, was named to serve on the Governor's Implementation Task Force.

- The following school systems have been invited to exhibit at NSBA's Share the Success Clinics and Educational Excellence program to be offered at the 2002 NSBA Conference in New Orleans: Atlanta Public Schools, Clayton County Public Schools, Douglas County School System, Forsyth County Schools, Fulton County Schools and Wayne County Schools. ▲

## GSBA Associate Members Support GSBA and Public Education!

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## 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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Be sure to keep track of all of the happenings of the 2002 Georgia General Assembly by using GSBA's *Capitol Watch Online*. The online resource tracks daily activities of the session, education legislation and links to related sites. Find *Capitol Watch Online* at [www.gsba.com](http://www.gsba.com).

## Mark the Dates

### GEORGIA SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION CALENDAR

#### January 2002:

- 10 Georgia Board of Education Meeting, Twin Towers, Atlanta
- 12-14 NSBA Southern Regional Executives Meeting, New Orleans, Louisiana
- 14 Georgia General Assembly Convenes, Atlanta
- 25 GSBA Federal Relations Network Planning Meeting, GSBA Offices, Lawrenceville

#### February 2002:

- 1-3 NSBA Leadership Conference, Washington, D.C.
- 3-5 NSBA Federal Relations Network Meeting, Washington, D.C.
- 3-5 GAEL Winter Conference, Atlanta
- 14 Georgia Board of Education Meeting, Twin Towers, Atlanta
- 21 GSBA Worker's Comp. Fund/Risk Management Fund Trustees Meeting, GSBA Offices, Lawrenceville

#### March 2002:

- 14 Georgia Board of Education Meeting, Twin Towers, Atlanta
- 21 GSBA Large Systems Meeting, Fulton County Boardroom
- 28 GSBA Nominating Committee Meeting, GSBA Offices, Lawrenceville

## Superintendent Searches

GSBA is currently conducting a superintendent search for the Walker County Board of Education (LaFayette, Georgia). The application deadline was December 5, 2001. For details on this vital service offered by GSBA, contact Don Rooks, GSBA's Legislative Specialist. You can reach him at: [drooks@gsba.com](mailto:drooks@gsba.com).

## Online Policy Manuals

GSBA's Online Policy Manual Service continues to prove popular with school boards. There are 16 online manual projects in the works and three hard copy manual revision projects in the works. For details on GSBA's policy manual services go to [www.gsba.com](http://www.gsba.com).

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