

## GSBA Board of Directors

### President

**Thomas (Tom) Odom, Jr.** has served on the Oconee County School Board since 2013 and is their current Board Chair. Odom serves on the Board Chair Advisory Committee, the Governmental Operations Committee (GOC), Vision Project Committee, GSBA Strategic Planning Team, the Executive Committee and the NSBA Advocacy Institute (FRN). Odom is a retired teacher, coach and school principal. Active in his community, he has served in Rotary, on the Board of Directors for the Oconee County Chamber of Commerce as well as its Interim President. Odom received his undergraduate, Master and Specialist Degrees from the University of Georgia. He and his wife, Crysty, have two adult sons.



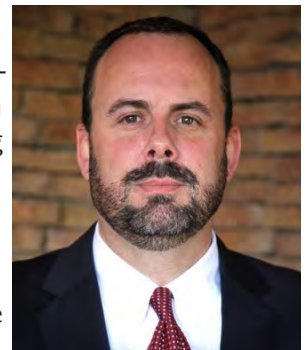
### President Elect

**Katrina P. Young** has served on the Rockdale County Board of Education since 2007 and is the system's designee for the GSBA Delegate Assembly. Young became GSBA District 4 Director in 2011 and was elected as GSBA's President Elect in 2017. She serves on several GSBA committees, including Governmental Operations, Strategic Planning, the Executive Committee, the NSBA Advocacy Institute (FRN), and is a GSBA Risk Management Fund Trustee. She also serves as a mentor for new school board members. A former Director of Continuing Education of Economic Development at Georgia Piedmont Technical College, Young is active in multiple nonprofit and civic organizations such as the Rotary Club of Conyers, the Rockdale County Public Schools District Strategic Planning Committee, and the Rockdale Magnet School for Science and Technology Advisory Board.



### Vice President

**Frank Griffin** is chair of the Lee County Board of Education. He began his service on the Board of Education on January 1, 2005. Mr. Griffin holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Political Science from Georgia Southwestern State University and a degree from the Graduate School of Banking at Louisiana State University. Mr. Griffin is a founding organizer and director of Flint Community Bancshares, Inc., the holding company for Flint Community Bank which is located in Albany, GA. Currently, he serves as a director and the President and Chief Lending Officer for the bank. A lifelong resident of Lee County and a graduate of the Lee County School System, Mr. Griffin is extremely proud to be serving the Lee County School System and that all three of his children are in the Lee County School System. In addition to his service on the board of education, Mr. Griffin currently serves as a Trustee of the Darton State College Foundation and as co-teacher of the 12th grade Sunday School Class at Sherwood Baptist Church.



### Treasurer

**Ron Hopkins** became Treasurer to fill an unexpired term on January 1, 2017. He was elected to a three-year term as Treasurer in June 2017. Hopkins is a two-time GSBA past president, having served in 1998-99 and again in 2013-14. He has served on the Jefferson City Board of Education since 1979 and has been its Chair since 1989. Hopkins has served on many GSBA committees, including the Vision Project, Awards, Nominating, Strategic Planning, the Governmental Operations Committees (GOC), and the NSBA Advocacy Institute. Hopkins chairs GSBA's Workers' Compensation Fund and serves as a GSBA Risk Management Fund Trustee. He is an attorney and managing partner with Davidson, Hopkins & Alexander, PC, in Jefferson where he has been affiliated with the same law firm since 1972.



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### Past President

**William (Will) S. Wade** has served on the Dawson County School Board since 2004. Wade serves on the GSBA Nominating Committee, the Executive Committee, the Governmental Operations Committee (GOC) and the NSBA Advocacy Institute (FRN). He has served as Legislative Liaison, a project planning team and steering committee member for the GSBA/GSSA's "Georgia Vision Project." Will is a Past President of the County Rotary Club, a Governor's education appointee to the Georgia Mountains Regional Commission and a past ex-officio member of the County Development Authority. He received his graduate Banking Degree at UGA's Terry College of Business and his Bachelors of Business Administration Degree from the University of North Georgia. He is also a 2011 Leadership Georgia graduate and a 2010 graduate of the Georgia Academy for Economic Development Region 2 Class.



### District 1

**Lamar Allen** has served on the Effingham County Board of Education since 2004 and is the current Chairman. He serves on the GSBA Nominating Committee, and the GSBA Governmental Operations Committee (GOC) and the Board Chair Advisory Committee. He is the Legislative Liaison and is the board designee for the GSBA Delegate Assembly. A successful farmer and business owner, he is the Past President of the Rotary Club, the United Way Board and the Chamber of Commerce. He also volunteers as a middle school baseball coach and for 20 years has cooked for approximately 400 people for the Special Olympics.



### District 2

**Teresa Harris** has served as a school board member of Grady County since 2000. During that time, she has served as both Board Chair and Vice Chair. Teresa chairs the GSBA Awards Committee and serves on the GSBA Nominating, and Board Chair Advisory Committees. She also serves on the Governmental Operations Committee (GOC). A native of Grady County, Ms. Harris has a Bachelors in Elementary Education with ESOL Endorsement, a Bachelors in Exceptional Studies Education and is a retired Systems Project Consultant for the Florida Department of Revenue.



### District 3

**Kia Chambers** a Muscogee County Board Member since 2014, is a former educator and the newest GSBA District Director, having been appointed to fulfill an unexpired term of office vacated earlier this year.

Kia has served in many Leadership positions. She is the current Vice President of a women's civic organization, The Links Inc. She serves on the board for Junior League of Columbus, Historic Columbus, and Chair of the Properties Committee for Gamma Tau Omega for the local Alpha Kappa Alpha Chapter. She is an active member of the North Columbus Rotary Club and serves as the chair of *The Fred W. Kirby Educational Awards Program*. She has had the opportunity to serve students from all backgrounds and talents. Kia served as the chair of Partners in Education for the Junior League of Columbus.



## GSBA Board of Directors

### District 4

**Shakila Henderson-Baker** was appointed by the GSBA Board of Directors to fulfill the remaining term of District 4 vacated by Katrina Young after she was elected as Vice-President of the association in 2016. She serves on the GSBA Governmental Operations Committee and the Executive Committee. A native of Covington, Mrs. Henderson-Baker began her first term on the Newton County Board of Education January 2011. She graduated Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Political Science from Fort Valley State University and holds a Master of Science Degree in Psychology and Counseling from Troy University. She is currently finishing up courses at Piedmont College in Athens to obtain her certification in Early Childhood Education. Mrs. Henderson-Baker works as a Mental Health Clinician and Behavioral Specialist. She is an active volunteer in the community as an after-school tutor and one of the Coordinators for The Young Legends teen-mentoring group. She is a Charter and current member of the Chi Tau Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., which serves both Newton and Rockdale Counties.



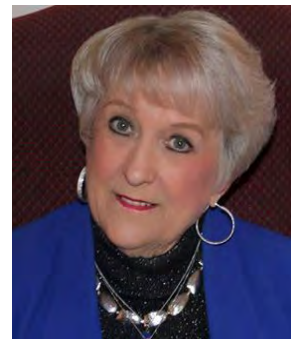
### District 5

**Dr. Mary Kay Murphy** has served as GSBA District 5 Director since 2005. She is the system designee to the GSBA Delegate Assembly, is a Legislative Liaison, a member of the GSBA Governmental Operations Committee and serves on the NSBA Advocacy Institute (FRN). She has served as a member of the GSBA Executive Committee and is also a trainer with the GSBA Veteran Board Training Program. Dr. Murphy is the Development Officer at Morehouse School of Medicine. She received her Ph.D. in Higher Education Administration from Georgia State University and her master's degree in Education and English from Emory University. She has held administrative positions at Georgia Tech, the University of Georgia, Oglethorpe University, and Morris Brown College. Dr. Murphy was elected to the Gwinnett County Board of Education in 1996 and has served as chairman four times.



### District 6

**Sue Brown** was first appointed to serve as GSBA District 6 Director to complete a one-year unexpired term in 2013. She serves on the GSBA Governmental Operations Committee, the Executive and the Board Chair Advisory Committees, and is a member of the NSBA Advocacy Institute (FRN). Brown is also a GSBA mentor for new board members. She has served on the Coweta County school board since 2005 and served as Chair in 2011. Following two years of teaching in Floyd County schools, she taught music education for 26 years in Coweta County schools. Brown also served in the system's central office during her career, and taught music for 16 years at Elm Street Elementary School before retiring in 2004.





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### District 7

**Louis Fordham** has served on the Whitfield County Board of Education as its chairman since 2010. He is on the GSBA Governmental Operations Committee (GOC). Fordham is active with several community organizations, including the Education Is Essential Foundation, the Whitfield Education Foundation, the Whitfield County Career Academy and many more. He is a graduate of Leadership Dalton/ Whitfield and Leadership Georgia. In 2015, Louis was appointed to the Governor's Education Advisory Board for the State of Georgia. A University of Georgia alum, Fordham is the Corporate Vice-President of Resources & Facilities for J&J Industries in Dalton.



### District 8

**Bryan Preston** has served on the Coffee County Board of Education since 2010. He has served as Chair and is the current Vice-Chair. Bryan serves on the GSBA Board Chair Advisory Committee, the Governmental Operations Committee (GOC), and as Delegate for Coffee County during GSBA's Delegate Assembly. A proponent of local control, he is married to Mary Preston, an Elementary classroom teacher in her 31st year as a professional educator. Mr. Preston currently serves as Chair of the Personnel Committee at the First Baptist Church in Douglas.



### District 9

**Elaine Wilson** has served on the Dawson County School Board since 2004. She has served as Chairman and Vice-Chairman during her tenure. Wilson serves on the GSBA Board Chair Advisory Committee, the Nominating Committee and the Governmental Operations Committee. Wilson was voted for a second term as GSBA District Director in 2018. She retired from Dawson County Schools after 32 years, having taught business education and serving as both the Personnel and Finance Director for a number of years. After retiring from Dawson County, Wilson joined the Human Resources Department of Forsyth County Schools as the Professional Qualifications Specialist.



### District 10

**Gwen Tucker** has served as a member of the Warren County Board of Education since 1984 and is currently the chairperson. She serves on the GSBA Board Chair Advisory Committee, the Governmental Operations Committee (GOC), the Nominating Committee and the Executive Committee. She has also served on the GSBA Awards Committee. Tucker is a former member of the Governor's Task Force on Investing in Educational Excellence (IE2) and sat on the Best Practices Committee. She serves on the board of the Georgia Partnership for Excellence in Education (GPEE) and on the board of the Warren County Family Connection & Cities In Schools. Tucker is a very active member in her church. She retired January 1, 2006, from the International Paper Company.



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### District 11

**Vernon Payne** was first elected GSBA District 11 Director in 1989. He chairs the GSBA Risk Management Fund Board of Trustees and serves as a member of the GSBA Workers' Compensation Fund Board of Trustees. Payne also serves as a member of the NSBA Advocacy Institute (FRN), GSBA Governmental Operations Committee, the Executive Committee and the Nominating Committee. He has served the Clarke County Board of Education since 1980 and has held the positions of chair, vice chair, chairman of the Property Committee and a member of the Policy Committee and SPLOST Oversight Committee.



### District 12

**Fred Wilson** has been a member of the Houston County Board of Education since January of 1995. He served as Chairman in 2003, and as Vice Chair in 2002 and again from 2013-2015 and is currently serving as Chairman since July 2015. Mr. Wilson serves on the GSBA Nominating Committee, the Governmental Operations Committee and has served as a delegate for the Houston BOE at the GSBA Delegate Assembly. Retired from the Air Force and Civil Service at Robins Air Force Base, Mr. Wilson enjoys visiting schools and reading to the students. He is very involved in his church and community and works with civic and church organizations throughout Houston County to establish long-term partnerships with district schools through the "Adopt-A-School" program.



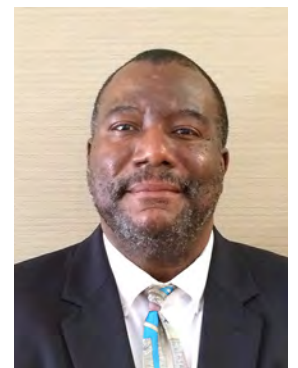
### District 13

**Theresa Davis** has served on the Ben Hill County Board of Education since 2004. She has chaired the boards policy, compensation, education, charter/IE2/Traditional committees. Theresa serves on the Governmental Operations Committee and as the Delegate for Ben Hill County BOE at the GSBA Delegate Assembly. Theresa is employed as a customer service manager at Mediacom Communications, a company she has worked for over 30 years. She is the mother of two children who both graduated from the Ben Hill County School System.



### District 14

**Warren Lee** is a retired Georgia State Trooper with 34 years of service. Lee spent most of his career in law enforcement having worked approximately four years for the Lowndes County Sheriff's Department prior to becoming a state trooper. He has served on the Valdosta City School Board for over 25 years. He has held various positions ranging from board chair to chairing numerous committees. The Valdosta City Board has appointed Lee as their delegate for GSBA's Delegate Assembly, and he also serves on the Nominating, Executive and Governmental Operations Committees. Lee is a graduate of the National Radio and Television Broadcasting School and was a broadcast announcer for several years prior to the beginning his Law Enforcement career. Lee graduated from the 55th Georgia State Patrol Trooper Academy, and the U.S. Marshall's Middle Georgia Fugitive Squad Training Academy. He received an Associate Degree from Georgia Military Academy in Criminal Justice and is currently the President of LaTaurus Productions, Inc.



# GSBA Board of Directors

## **Valarie Wilson** **GSBA Executive Director**

Mrs. Valarie Wilson joined the Georgia School Boards Association in 2015 as the fifth Executive Director of the organization.

Mrs. Wilson was elected to the school board of the City Schools of Decatur in 2002 and became the moving force behind the establishment of the College Heights Early Childhood Learning Center, acting on research that shows that early childhood education is critical to success in the K-12 years.

As Decatur City Schools Board Chair from 2005-2011, Mrs. Wilson along with the other members of the board, helped to turn around the finances of the district. Through reorganization, the district was able to move forward during the recession with no teacher furloughs or shortening of the school year.

Mrs. Wilson joined the Georgia School Boards Association in 2009 and was its president in 2012-2013. She helped create the Georgia Vision Project, an educational framework for boards that included input from board members, superintendents, teachers, teaching colleges, elected officials, parents and students. Over 80 percent of the state's school boards have agreed to support the Vision Project's recommendations.

As GSBA president, Mrs. Wilson was involved in leading the association and improving the grassroots network in influencing statewide policy. She has also served on Governor Deal's Education Advisory Board and was a member of the Decatur Education Foundation.

Mrs. Wilson was the Executive Director of the Atlanta BeltLine Partnership, Inc. and Director of the Human Services Department in Fulton County, responsible for an annual budget of \$26 million and directing programs that serve the elderly, children and youth. She has also been Director of Fulton County's Office of Aging.

In 2014, Mrs. Wilson ran for the Office of State School Superintendent.

A native of Swainsboro, Georgia, Valarie is a graduate of Clark College and completed coursework graduate studies in public administration at Troy State University. She now lives in Decatur with her husband Carter. Mrs. Wilson has one son, Nicholas.

