

HANDBOOK
FOR THE
ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING
OF THE DELEGATE ASSEMBLY

**PLEASE HAVE THIS HANDBOOK AVAILABLE FOR REFERENCE for the
10:00 a.m. meeting on June 23, 2021 via ZOOM.**

**Please join the meeting at 9:45 to make sure you have no technical
difficulties.**

Last update: 6/22/21

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The opinions expressed by program participants are not necessarily those of the
Georgia School Boards Association

GSBA Annual Business Meeting of the Delegate Assembly
Via ZOOM
Wednesday, June 23, 2021

Agenda

10:00 a.m.	Call to Order	<i>Pat Hugley Green</i> GSBA President
	Certification of Delegates	<i>Valarie Wilson</i> GSBA Executive Director
	Adoption of Agenda	
	Report of the Treasurer	<i>Charlton Calhoun</i> GSBA Director of Finance
	Adoption of Nominating Committee Report	<i>Cornelius Ball, Member</i> GSBA Nominating Committee
	Adoption of Rules and Procedures	<i>Phil Hartley</i> GSBA General Counsel Harben, Hartley & Hawkins, LLC
	Approval of Minutes, 2020 Annual Business Meeting	
	Adoption of Proposed Legislative Positions	<i>Bryan Preston, Jr., Chair</i> GSBA Governmental Operations Committee
	Election of Officers	
	Installation of Officers	<i>Pat Hugley Green</i> GSBA President
	Other Business	
	Closing Remarks	
	Adjourn	

GEORGIA SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION
Report of the Nominating Committee
MINUTES of April 21, 2021 Meeting

Chairman Frank Griffin called the Zoom meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. The following members were present and constituted a quorum:

Frank Griffin, Chair, Member of Lee County Board of Education
John Allen Bailey, District 1, Emanuel County Board of Education
Teresa Gee Hardy, District 2, Grady County Board of Education
Ginger Swint, District 3, Marion County Board of Education
Wales Barksdale, District 4, Rockdale County Board of Education
Julia Bernath, District 5, Fulton County Board of Education
William Doss, District 6, Griffin-Spalding County Board of Education
Faith Collins, District 7, Rome City Board of Education
Sheron Daniel, District 8, Wayne County Board of Education
Elaine Wilson, District 9, Dawson County Board of Education
Gwen Tucker, District 10, Warren County Board of Education
Guy Dean Benson, District 11, Jefferson City Board of Education
John Jackson, District 12, Baldwin County Board of Education
Gary Smith, District 13, Ben Hill County Board of Education
Cornelius Ball, District 14, Turner County Board of Education

John Allen Bailey, Wales Barksdale and Elaine Wilson had unexpected issues and did not participate in the meeting.

Staff Present

Nancy McLellan, GSBA Executive Assistant

Mr. Griffin explained the task of the committee and reviewed the bylaws and policies concerning the Nominating Committee's role. The committee discussed the list of questions to be posed to the candidates. Mr. Griffin reviewed the assigned questions to the committee members prior to the interviews today.

Interviews took place for the following positions:

President Elect

Shakila Henderson Baker, Newton County Board of Education

Vice President

Coleman Landers, Walton County Board of Education

Treasurer

Ron Hopkins, Jefferson City Board of Education
Devettrion Caldwell, Douglas County Board of Education

The committee voted anonymously for the office of GSBA President Elect and selected Shakila Henderson Baker for the term July 1, 2021, to June 30, 2022. If elected by the 2021 Delegate Assembly for this office, she will automatically assume the office of the President for the term July 1, 2022, to June 30, 2023.

The committee voted anonymously for the office of Vice President and selected Coleman Landers for the term July1, 2021 to June 30, 2022.

The committee voted anonymously for the office of Treasurer and selected Ron Hopkins for the term July1, 2021 to June 30, 2024.

These candidates will be presented by the Nominating Committee to the 2021 Delegate Assembly on June 23, 2021, during a Zoom Meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:18 p.m.

Minutes taken by Nancy McLellan, GSBA Administrative Assistant
Minutes edited by Valarie Wilson, GSBA Executive Director

2021 GSBA Nominating Committee Members

NAME	COMMITTEE TITLE	SCHOOL SYSTEM
Frank Griffin	Chair	Member of Lee County Board of Education
John Allen Bailey	District 1	Emanuel County Board of Education
Teresa Gee Hardy	District 2	Grady County Board of Education
Ginger Swint	District 3	Marion County Board of Education
Wales Barksdale	District 4	Rockdale County Board of Education
Julia Bernath	District 5	Fulton County Board of Education
William Doss	District 6	Griffin-Spalding County Board of Education
Faith Collins	District 7	Rome City Board of Education
Sheron Daniel	District 8	Wayne County Board of Education
Elaine Wilson	District 9	Dawson County Board of Education
Gwen Tucker	District 10	Warren County Board of Education
Guy Dean Benson	District 11	Jefferson City Board of Education
John Jackson	District 12	Baldwin County Board of Education
Gary Smith	District 13	Ben Hill County Board of Education
Cornelius Ball	District 14	Turner County Board of Education

Georgia School Boards Association
Annual Business Meeting of the Delegate Assembly
Wednesday, June 23, 2021
10:00 a.m. Official Business Session

Rules/Procedures

1. The Delegate Assembly will consist of one voting member (delegate from each local board of education).
2. The chair of the Governmental Operations Committee will explain the role of the Committee and procedures that have been followed. The chair will move the adoption section by section of the proposed 2022 GSBA Legislative Positions (no second is required since the recommendation comes from the Governmental Operations Committee). Specific items may be pulled for a separate vote upon the request of a delegate from the floor. Delegates may propose amendments or changes in the recommendations of the Governmental Operations Committee by adhering to the rules and procedures outlined below.
 - A. If a proposed change to the legislative positions was submitted in writing to GSBA by the deadline, the president will recognize the delegate from the submitting school board. **If no delegate is present from that district, the position will not be presented.**
 - B. The chair will call for a second to the motion and discussion of the motion.
 - C. If the motion receives a majority vote of all delegates present and voting, the motion passes. In calling for a vote, the chair shall call for those voting for the motion, and those voting against the motion.

Important Reminders

- All motions must receive a majority vote of all certified delegates present and voting at the assembly in order to pass.
- Once recognized by the chair to speak, delegates are requested to give their name, and identify their local school system prior to addressing the assembly. Only certified delegates can make or second motions.

GEORGIA SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION
Minutes of the Annual Business Meeting of the Delegate Assembly

The 2020 Annual Business Meeting was held in two parts due to the change in the General Assembly's schedule. Since they were going back into session the last two weeks of June, GSBA extended the time for proposals to the legislative positions and delayed the meeting of the Governmental Operations Committee. According to the GSBA bylaws, however, officers must be voted upon by June 30th, so two meetings were held. Both meetings were held by Zoom.

GEORGIA SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION
Minutes of the Business Meeting of the Delegate Assembly
Friday, June 5, 2020
Virtual via Zoom

President Frank Griffin called the GSBA Annual Meeting of the Delegate Assembly to order at 10:00 a.m.

Valarie Wilson, GSBA Executive Director, explained the purpose of the meeting was to elect GSBA Officers for the 2020-2021 term.

On motion of Robbie Pitts, Colquitt County, seconded by Jim Johns, Liberty County, the agenda was approved as presented (copy attached).

On motion of Monica Sparks, Harris County, seconded by Judy Teasley, Columbia County, the Minutes of the 2019 Delegate Assembly were approved.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT:

Ron Hopkins, Jefferson City, Chair of the 2020 Nominating Committee, made the motion to approve the following report of the Nominating Committee. Since there were no nominations from the floor of the Delegate Assembly, the following slate of officers was elected by the delegates by a majority vote:

- President — Pat Hugley Green, Muscogee County – Term July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021
- President Elect — Bryan Preston, Coffee County – Term July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021
- Vice President — Shakila Henderson Baker, Newton County –Term July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021

Frank Griffin installed the officers as per GSBA policy.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:18 a.m.

Minutes taken by Nancy McLellan, GSBA Executive Assistant
Minutes edited by Valarie Wilson, GSBA Executive Director

GEORGIA SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION
Minutes of the Annual Business Meeting of the Delegate Assembly
Tuesday, October 27, 2020
Virtual viz Zoom

President Pat Hugley Green called the second part of the GSBA Annual Business Meeting of the Delegate Assembly to order at 9:30 a.m on October 27, 2020.

Valarie Wilson, GSBA Executive Director, certified 81 voting delegates in attendance, constituting a quorum.

President Hugley Green provided an overview of the voting process being used at today's session.

On motion of Julia Bernath, Fulton County, seconded by Teresa Lyons, Paulding County, the agenda was approved as presented (copy attached).

Phil Hartley, GSBA General Counsel, reviewed the Rules/Procedures provided in the Delegate Assembly Handbook. On motion of Priscilla Doster, Monroe County, seconded by Donna Ford, Lee County, the Rules/Procedures were adopted as presented (copy attached).

On motion of Monica Sparks, Harris County, seconded by Judy Teasley, Columbia County, the Minutes of the 2019 Delegate Assembly were approved.

Bryan Preston, GSBA President Elect and Board Member of the Coffee County Board of Education, and Chair of the 2020 GSBA Governmental Operations Committee, reviewed the procedures for adopting the 2020-2021 GSBA Legislative Positions Recommendations of the Governmental Operations Committee.

Section I – GOVERNANCE OF EDUCATION

Ginger Bailey, Jones County, asked for 1.A.4 to be pulled for discussion and separate vote. The delegates approved the position.

Position 1.B.1 – Julia Bernath, Fulton County, asked for the position to be pulled for a separate discussion and vote. The delegates voted to delete the proposed change to the GSBA position by majority vote. The current position stands.

Position 1.B.2 – Teresa Lyons, Paulding County, proposed to delete the position. Teresa Gee Hardy, Grady County, 2nd the motion. After much discussion, Jessie Gore, Clayton County, proposed a vote to call the question, which passed. The motion to delete the position failed by majority vote.

On motion of the Governmental Operations Committee, Chair, Bryan Preston, the delegates approved the positions in Section I by a majority vote.

Section II – THE STATE/LOCAL FUNDING PARTNERSHIP

A proposal by Richmond County to add a position related to freeport exemptions and the five mill share calculation failed for lack of a motion.

A proposal by Richmond County to add a position to support state funding for child care costs failed for lack of a motion.

Position 2.D.18 – Sheron Daniel, Wayne County, made a motion to approve the position. Deborah McKinnon, Tift County, 2nd the motion. The delegates voted to approve the position by majority vote.

On motion of the Governmental Operations Committee Chair, Bryan Preston, the delegates approved Section II by a majority vote.

Section III – IMPROVING STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

Position 3.A.1 – Teresa Lyons, Paulding County, made a motion to vote on the position. Deborah McKinnon, Tift County, 2nd the motion. The position failed by majority vote and will remain.

Position 3.B.15 – Eaddy Sams, Glynn County, asked for extra language to the position. Phil Hartley explained it was not possible as a motion to vote had already taken place. Jessie Goree, Clayton County, called the question for a vote. The delegates approved the call. The delegates approved the position by majority vote.

On motion of the Governmental Operations Committee Chair, Bryan Preston, the delegates approved the positions in Section III by a majority vote.

Section IV – FEDERAL ISSUES

On motion of the Governmental Operations Committee Chair, Bryan Preston, the delegates approved the positions in Section IV by a majority vote.

REPORT of District Director Elections:

The following GSBA District Directors, elected at their District Meetings during the month of July, were announced to the Delegate Assembly:

- Amy Murphy, District 1 Director, 3 year term – July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2023
- Teresa Gee Hardy, District 2 Director, 3 year term – July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2023
- Kia Chambers, District 3 Director, 3 year term – July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2023
- Pamela Brown, District 4 Director, 3 year term – July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2023
- Michelle Olympiadis, District 5 Director, 3 year term – July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2023
- Amy Dees, District 6 Director, 3 year term – July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2023

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:01 p.m.

Minutes taken by Nancy McLellan, GSBA Executive Assistant

Minutes edited by Valarie Wilson, GSBA Executive Director

Recommendations to the Delegate Assembly From the Governmental operations Committee (GOC)

NO PROPOSALS PASSED the GOC at its meeting on April 26, 2021

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. In February, the positions are sent to our members for review and proposed changes. The Governmental Operations Committee (GOC), a large group appointed by the GSBA Executive Director, holds an annual meeting in April to review the positions and proposals from local boards and makes its recommendations to the Delegate Assembly in June. 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. The positions are adopted by these delegates. NOTE: Due to the pandemic and changes in the legislative schedule, the 2020 GOC and Delegate Assembly meetings were held virtually in October.

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.

1.A.3 Local Legislation

GSBA proposes that one member of a local state legislative delegation should not have the authority to prevent a local school board from carrying out its approved actions. The local state legislative delegation votes regarding the local school system should be governed by a simple majority vote.

1.A.4 Virtual Meetings

GSBA proposes that the Open Meetings Act permit school boards to conduct meetings virtually at the agency discretion, in the same manner that agencies with state-wide jurisdiction are permitted to conduct meetings virtually by telephone conference.

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.

1.C.4 Dual Enrollment Cap on Credit Hours

GSBA opposes legislation that includes counting dual enrollment credit hours toward the Technical College Certificate (TCC) hours in any “cap” for dual enrollment credit hours.

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.

1.D.6 Teacher Mentoring Program

GSBA supports the funding of a comprehensive mentoring program for new teachers.

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.

2.A.15 Annexation

GSBA strongly urges the General Assembly to examine legislation on annexation that provides for input from school systems that are affected. School systems often budget two to three years in advance and changes in district lines can dramatically affect school budgets. GSBA further urges that the General Assembly should consider extending the period of enactment of the changes in district lines to give systems more time to adjust their budgets.

2.A.16 SPLOST Timeline

GSBA supports amending the Constitution to extend the timeline for collection of Educational Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (ESPLOST) from five years to six years.

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.

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.

2.D.15 Funding Rural Broadband

GSBA supports consideration for the development of an annual funding formula by the state to improve rural schools' connectivity and broadband to close the equity gap.

2.D.16 Technology Funding

GSBA supports state funding for infrastructure for technology.

2.D.17 Funding School Nurses

GSBA supports expanding funding for nursing services to be able to provide a nurse at each school.

2.D.18 COVID Funding

GSBA supports funding for additional support personnel to comply with the new standards in the covid-19 environment.

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.

2.E.4 Changes to Teachers' Retirement System

GSBA opposes legislation that establishes an optional defined contribution retirement plan as an alternative to TRS.

III. IMPROVING STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

A. Attendance

3.A.1 Compulsory Attendance

GSBA supports compulsory enrollment in educational programs for persons ages six years to 18 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.

3.B.14 Need Based Financial Aid

GSBA urges the state legislature to make significant contributions to the need-based financial aid program created in 2018 by the General Assembly through House Bill 787. GSBA urges the state legislature to increase funding for the HOPE Grant Program to cover full tuition for students in the Technical College System of Georgia.

3.B.15 In-state Tuition

GSBA urges the state to allow undocumented immigrant children who successfully complete K-12 education in the State of Georgia to pay in-state tuition to any public university, college or technical school.

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.

2021 GSBA Governmental Operations Committee Members

Patricia Adams, Pelham City Schools
Brian Anderson, Fayette County Schools
Karen Armstrong, Dawson County Schools
Bruce Asberry, Vidalia City Schools
Jimmy Atkins, Richmond County Schools
Ginger Bailey, Jones County Schools
John Allen Bailey, Emanuel County Schools
Chante Baker-Martin, Liberty Co. Schools
Cornelius Ball, Turner County Schools
D'Metric Barksdale, Lincoln County Schools
Elaina Beeman, Rome City Schools
Irene Berens, Marietta City Schools
Teresa Blackshear, Twiggs County Schools
Michelle Brigman, McIntosh County Schools
Shirley Brooks, Ben Hill County Schools
James Brown Laurens County Schools
Timothy Burgess, Oconee County Schools
Debra Burnam, Macon County Schools
Devettrion Caldwell, Douglas County Schools
Stan Chastain, Towns County Schools

Denita Childs, Wilcox County Schools
Dave Crockett, Houston County Schools
Kyla Cromer, Cherokee County Schools
Rocky Crosby, Echols County Schools
Robert Cunningham, Brooks County Schools
Sheron Daniel, Wayne County Schools
Greg Davis, Clarke County Schools
Amy Dees, Coweta County Schools
Marcus DeLoach, Long County Schools
Raymond Dickey, Crawford County Schools
William Doss, Griffin-Spalding Co Schools
Marcus Edgy, Glynn County Schools
Annette Edwards, Henry County Schools
Linda Erbele, White County Schools
Donna Ford, Lee County Schools
Mark Giddens, Camden County Schools
Jessie Goree, Clayton County Schools
Tucker Green, Pickens County Schools
Frank Griffin, Lee County Schools
Becky Grubbs, Troup County Schools

GOC Members Continued...

Reginald Hall, Early County Schools
Teresa Gee Hardy, Grady County Schools
Jennifer Hartline, Dade County Schools
Shakila Henderson-Baker, Newton County Schools
Craig Herrington, Hall County Schools
Trudie Hill, Colquitt County Schools
Willie Hinton, Meriwether County Schools
Ronald Hopkins, Jefferson City Schools
Tonia Howard-Hall, Savannah-Chatham Co
Patricia Hugley-Green, Muscogee Co Schools
Jonathan Hutcheson, Treutlen Co Schools
John Jackson, Baldwin County Schools
Rico Jackson, Social Circle City Schools
Daniel Jewell, Chickamauga City Schools
Brenda Johns, Brantley County Schools
Jonathan Jones, Tift County Schools
Shirley Jones, Chattahoochee Co Schools
Steve Kilgore, Greene County Schools
Michael Kirkland, Seminole County Schools
Sammie Knight, Washington County Schools
Coleman Landers, Walton County Schools
Laura Landrum, Clinch County Schools
James Lanier, Dublin City Schools
Glennera Martin, Bulloch County Schools
Ben McDaniel, Peach County Schools
Melanie McLendon, Carrollton City Schools
Bernard Morgan, Polk County Schools

Kristin Morrissey, Forsyth County Schools
Amy Murphy, Bryan County Schools
Mary Kay Murphy, Gwinnett County Schools
Whitney Myers, Screven County Schools
Mandy North, Rockdale County Schools
Johnnie Norton, Jefferson County Schools
Michelle Olympiadis, Atlanta Public Schools
Jackie Payton, Burke County Schools
Stuart Pippin, Monroe County Schools
Bryan Preston, Coffee County Schools
Stewart Reeves, Appling County Schools
Samantha Rucker, Elbert County Schools
Michael Sasser, Bleckley County Schools
Paul Sergeant, Commerce City Schools
Eddie Smith, Lowndes County Schools
Eugene Smith, Putnam County Schools
Rebecca Soto, Oglethorpe County Schools
Mike Sparks, Bulloch County Schools
Leroy Strange, Wilkinson County Schools
Virginia Swint, Marion County Schools
Lynn Sylvester, Lumpkin County Schools
Judy Teasley, Columbia County Schools
Gwendolyn Tucker, Warren County Schools
Bryant Turner, Carroll County Schools
Vickie Turner, DeKalb County School District
Rhoda Washington, Calhoun City Schools
Kathi White, Cartersville City Schools
Elaine Wilson, Dawson County Schools
Robert Youngblood, Dougherty Co Schools

Georgia School Boards Association
2021-2022
Nominees for Officers

President

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.

President Elect

Shakila Henderson-Baker was District 4 Director before being elected as the current Vice President for the 2020-2021 term. She serves on the GSBA Executive and the Governmental Operations Committees. 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.

Vice President

Coleman Landers has served on the Walton County Board of Education since 2005. He is the current Vice Chair on the board and a former Chair. He has served on the Awards Committee and on the GSBA Governmental Operations Committee (GOC). He has also served as a panelist at the GSBA Legislative Workshop. After retiring in 2000 from a long career in the Navy, Captain Landers moved back to his hometown of Monroe, Ga. Very active in his community, he is the founding director of the local Boys and Girls Club, a former Director and Officer of a regional Synovus bank, and a member of the Walton County Economic Development Authority. He's served on the Rotary Club of Monroe and on the Walton County Chamber of Commerce. He is the current Board Chair of the Piedmont Walton Hospital.

Treasurer

Ron Hopkins first became Treasurer to fill an unexpired term on January 1, 2017. He is a two-time GSBA past president, having served in 1998-99 and in 2013-14. Hopkins has served on the Jefferson City Board of Education since 1979. He 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.

Board of Directors
Term of Service: FY July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2024
Elected at District Meetings

District 7 – OPEN, [District meeting scheduled for June 22nd](#)

District 8 - Nick Ellis – District 8 Director, serves as Chairman of the Wayne County Board of Education. He has served on the Wayne County Board since 2015. Mr. Ellis began serving the Wayne County School System immediately after graduating high school in 2006 as a student mentor, booster supporter and substitute teacher. Today he is still an active student mentor and generates support for students throughout the community. His favorite quote is *“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.”* – Nelson Mandela

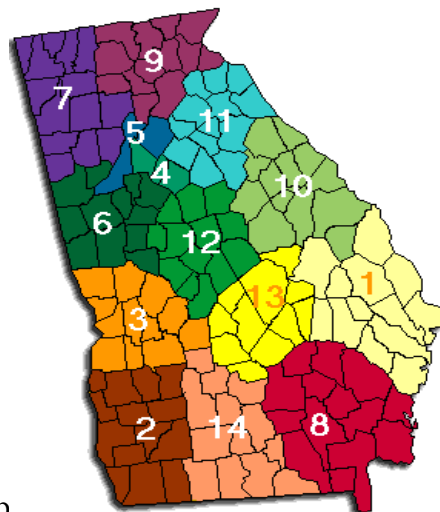
[District meeting scheduled for June 22nd](#)

District 9 – OPEN, [District meeting scheduled for June 21st](#)

District 10 - Jimmy Atkins, Jr. – District 10 Director, has served on the Richmond County Board of Education since 2005. During this time, he has served as President, Vice President and Chair of the Building/Finance Committee. He has served as the system’s Delegate for the GSBA Delegate Assembly and the NSBA Advocacy Institute (formerly the Federal Relations Network). Active in the community, Atkins serves on the board of the Boys & Girls Club and the East Central Georgia Board of Health. He is a former board member of Augusta South YMCA, the Master City Little League, Liaison to City Planning & Zoning, Liaison to the Advisory Board, RCSS PTA Member, Richmond County Citizens for Good Government, a Mason and a Shriner.

[District meeting scheduled for June 29th](#)

GSBA Districts



GSBA District Map

**Georgia School Boards Association
2020-2021 Current Officers**

President: *Pat Hugley Green*, Muscogee County
President Elect: *Bryan Preston, Jr.*, Coffee County
Vice President: *Shakila Henderson-Baker*, Newton County
Treasurer: *Ronnie Hopkins*, Jefferson City
Past President(s): *Frank Griffin*, Lee County
Ex Officio Secretary: *Valarie Wilson*

2020-2021 District Directors

District 1: *Amy Murphy*, Bryan County
District 2: *Teresa Harris*, Grady County
District 3: *Kia Chambers*, Muscogee County
District 4: *Pam Brown*, Rockdale County
District 5: *Michelle Olympiadis*, Atlanta Public Schools
District 6: *Amy Dees*, Coweta County
District 7: *Elaina Beeman*, Rome City Schools
District 8: *Nicholas Ellis*, Wayne County
District 9: *Elaine Wilson*, Dawson County
District 10: *Jimmy Atkins*, Richmond County
District 11: *Rebecca Soto*, Oglethorpe County
District 12: *Teresa Blackshear*, Twiggs County
District 13: *James Lanier*, Dublin City Schools
District 14: *Cornelius Ball*, Turner County
Emeritus Director: *Vernon Payne*, Clarke County

GSBA Staff

Conference Consultant: *Tony Arasi*
Risk Management Administrative Assistant:
Mary Bailey
Director of Strategic Planning: *Steve Barker*
Member Advocate: *Ricky Brantley*
Director of Finance: *Charlton Calhoun*
EBS Executive Assistant: *Kate Cammack*
EBS Customer Support Representative:
Heather Chappel
Director of Risk Management: *Cliff Cole*
Safety & Risk Control Coordinator:
David Colvard

Systems Architect Manager: *Tim Covert*
Member Engagement Specialist: *Leigh Crow*
Communications Coordinator: *Donna Davis*
Senior Underwriting Manager: *Tom Flynn*
Member Engagement Assistant: *Jeanne Fraizer*
Business Opportunities Manager: *Pam Harrison*
Staff Accountant: *Alicia Hernandez*
Senior Board Development Specialist:
Donna Hinton
Risk Management Consultant: *Cliff Hood*
Strategic Planning Services Manager:
Lynita Jackson

Staff Assistant: *Charlene James-Mobley*
Communications Specialist: *Bridgett J. Johnson*
Member Advocate: *Mickey Key*
Legislative Services Associate: *Grace Kim*
Director of Superintendent Searches:
Samuel King
Staff Accountant: *Kari Lewallen*
Underwriting Manager: *Greg Light*
EBS Customer Support Representative:
Nancy McGinnis
EBS Training & Support Manager:
Sandra McGuire
Executive Assistant: *Nancy McLellan*
EBS Customer Support Representative:
Ashley Mosby
Director of Policy and Legislative Services:
Angela Palm
Director of Communications: *Justin Pauly*

Claims Examiner: *Christine Penrod*
Director of Member Engagement: *Julie Rhame*
Business Development Manager: *Charlie Rigby*
EBS Marketing Manager: *Andy Ryff*
Member Engagement Regional Specialist:
Bill Sampson
Assistant Director of Risk Management:
John Shore, CPCU
Member Advocate: *Lori Sours*
Board Member Mentor: *Trudy Sowar*
Video Production Specialist: *Chris Triplett*
Front Office Assistant: *Tonya Tuite*
Policy Coordinator: *Sandy Vanags*
Staff Assistant: *Martha White*
Assistant Executive Director: *Mark Willis*
Staff Assistant: *Rodean Wilson*
Executive Director: *Valarie Wilson*
EBS Sales Assistant: *Tanit Zelaya*

General Counsel, Harben, Hartley & Hawkins, LLC

Submitted by the Richmond County School Board

Amendment - Fully fund QBE and discontinue austerity cuts to local school districts.

Rationale: The funds are desperately needed to provide necessary and additional classroom support – primarily from K-3. The goal remains to have every child on grade level by the 3rd grade.

New - Allocate more funding for early childhood education.

Rationale: The additional funding enables local school districts to increase the number of pre-school classes offered within the local schools.

New - Support Freeport exemption on a statewide basis.

Rationale: This will allow a fair calculation of state funding to local school districts where businesses are exempted from paying state and local property taxes on qualifying inventory held in their factories and warehouses.

New - Support funding to expand internet connectivity to all public education students.

Rationale: Access to the internet is essential to the overall success of students, growing local economies, and making available more student resources during uncertain times or unexpected local emergencies.

New - Support additional resources and funding for Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) and wrap-around services.

Rationale: SEL and wrap-around services promote educational equity and greatness through school-family-community partnerships that establish learning environments and experiences built upon trusting and collaborative relationships that will create thriving, safe, and healthy schools.

New - Support Prohibiting term limits from being imposed on elected Members of Local Board of Education

Rationale: Being a school board member is a constant learning experience of local, state, and federal education policies. For first-time board members, the majority of their time is devoted to becoming fluent with those policies. Expertise in education governance and building a strong board are vital to the success of any school system. Finally, the election cycles accomplished the same goals of term limits when citizens decide a change in leadership is necessary.

Submitted by Pelham City School Board

4.7 Reallocation of Title I Funds – Proposed Addition (Pelham City)

The Pelham City Board of Education proposes adding the following position:

GSBA supports the Georgia Department of Education enacting policies and procedures to modify current federal funding allocation methodologies so federal funds follow children of poverty from the school system of residence to the school system of attendance as allowed under federal law.

Rationale: The Georgia Department of Education adheres to the antiquated formula that suggests that funds can only be generated for students living in the district boundaries. Title I uses four formulas to determine how much money each LEA receives. These formulas are based, in part, on the number of low-income children who live in an LEA even if they attend school elsewhere. States have the option to reallocate Title I funds from one LEA to another in a few limited circumstances listed in ESEA Sec. 1126 (20 USC 6338). One of those circumstances is when one LEA provides a free public education to children who live in another LEA. More importantly, USEd has advised that any reallocation must be based on the number of low-income children transferring from one LEA to another