



HANDBOOK
FOR THE
ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING
OF THE DELEGATE ASSEMBLY

PLEASE BRING THIS HANDBOOK WITH YOU to the 2:45 p.m. meeting on June 10, 2022 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, Savannah, GA.

Delegates may begin signing in outside the Ballroom after General Session 3, about 2:05.

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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
Hyatt Regency Hotel, Savannah, Georgia
Friday, June 10, 2022

Agenda

2:45 p.m.	Call to Order	<i>Bryan Preston</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 Rules and Procedures	<i>Phil Hartley</i> GSBA General Counsel Harben, Hartley & Hawkins, LLC
	Approval of Minutes, 2021 Annual Business Meeting	
	Adoption of Proposed Legislative Positions	<i>Shakila Henderson-Baker, Chair</i> GSBA Governmental Operations Committee
	Adoption of Nominating Committee Report	<i>Teresa Gee Hardy, Member</i> GSBA Nominating Committee
	Election of Officers	
	Installation of Officers	<i>Bryan Preston</i> GSBA President
	Other Business	
	Closing Remarks	
	Adjourn	

Rules/Procedures

1. The Delegate Assembly will consist of one voting delegate from each local board of education. Other board members are welcome to attend and participate in the discussion of issues, but only the official delegate may make or second motions and vote.
2. All delegates **MUST** wear a delegate ribbon in order to be recognized to make a motion.
3. The chair of the Governmental Operations Committee will explain the role of the Committee and procedures that have been followed. You will note in the Report of the Committee a change in the process to submit positions to this Assembly.
4. The chair will move the adoption section by section of the proposed 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.
5. Positions pulled out for a separate vote are voted up or down as is. The purpose is to determine whether the position will remain a GSBA position or be deleted.
6. Unless a position is pulled out for a separate vote, all positions in a section are accepted when the section is approved.
7. All motions must receive a majority vote of all certified delegates present and voting at the Assembly to pass.
8. 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.

GEORGIA SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION
Minutes of the Annual Business Meeting of the Delegate Assembly
Tuesday, June 23, 2021
Virtual via Zoom

President Pat Hugley Green called the GSBA Annual Business Meeting of the Delegate Assembly to order at 10:09 a.m.

Valarie Wilson, GSBA Executive Director, certified 108 voting delegates in attendance, constituting a quorum.

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

On motion of Karen Armstrong, Dawson County, seconded by Jake Wilcox, Oglethorpe County, the agenda was approved as presented (copy attached, page 8).

Phil Hartley, GSBA General Counsel, reviewed the Rules/Procedures provided in the Delegate Assembly Handbook. On motion of Raymond Dickie, Crawford County, seconded by Pat McKinnon, Tift County, the Rules/Procedures were adopted as presented (copy attached, page 9).

On motion of Mike Sasser, Bleckley County, seconded by Dwyllan Glover, Clay County, the Minutes of the 2020 Delegate Assembly was 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

Richmond County proposed adding a position regarding term limits for school board members. Andrew Copeland, Coweta County made a motion to consider, and Karen Armstrong, Dawson County, seconded the motion. No one from Richmond County was present to explain the position therefore it was removed.

Mrs. Hugley Green asked if anyone wished to be recognized to discuss any positions in Section I, Adam Clayton, Paulding County indicated he sent in a position, but GSBA did not receive his position. Therefore, no discussion was allowed.

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

Richmond County proposed amending or adding five positions. Raymond Dickey, Crawford County, asked when the proposals were submitted as they were not with the original information sent to the delegates.

Position 2.D.14. Richmond County proposed amending the current position. Sharon Locklear, Cook County made a motion to consider the motion, Charlie Hannah, Richmond County seconded. Charlie Hannah did not want to speak on amending the position. The motion failed.

Richmond County proposed adding a new position on allocating more funding for early childhood education. Motion to consider the position was made by Charlie Hannah, Richmond County, and seconded by Sharon Locklear, Cook County. After the discussion, the motion failed.

Richmond County proposed adding a new position on freeport exemptions. Charlie Hannah, Richmond County, made a motion to discuss. There was not a second, therefore the position failed.

Richmond County proposed adding a new position on internet connectivity. Charlie Hannah, Richmond County made a motion to discuss and James Butler, Lamar County, seconded the motion. Several delegates thought it was a duplicate of 2.D.15. The position was passed by a majority of the delegates.

Richmond County proposed adding a new position on funding for Social-Emotional Learning and wraparound services. Charlie Hannah, Richmond County made a motion to discuss and Karen Armstrong, Dawson County, seconded the motion. After a discussion led by Charlie Hannah, the position passed by a narrow margin.

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.B.4 & 3.B.5 –Denise Grabowski, Savannah-Chatham County, asked to discuss these positions for clarity, Raymond Dickie, Crawford 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

Pelham City submitted a position on the reallocation of Title I funding. Patti Adams, Pelham City, made a motion to consider, Debra Burnam, Macon County, seconded the motion. Patti Adams proceeded to speak on behalf of Pelham City. A vote was called by Jackie Payton, Burke County. The delegates did not approve of the additional position.

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

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT:

Past President, Frank Griffin, chaired the 2021 Nominating Committee but was unable to attend Delegate Assembly. Mr. Cornelius Ball, a Member of the Nominating Committee presented the report. The slate of officers was voted on later in the Delegate Assembly process and was elected by a unanimous vote.

- President – Bryan Preston, Coffee County – Term July 1, 2021, to June 30, 2022
- President-Elect – Shakila Henderson Baker, Newton County, Term July 1, 2021, to June 30, 2022
- Vice President – Coleman Landers, Walton County, Term July 1, 2021, to June 30, 2022
- Treasurer – Ron Hopkins, Jefferson City, Term July 1, 2021, to June 30, 2024

The following GSBA District Directors, elected at their District Meetings during the month of June:

- Jill Fisher, District 7 Director, 3-year term – July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2024
- Nick Ellis, District 8 Director, 3-year term – July 1, 2021, to June 30, 2024
- Mark Pettitt, District 9 Director, 3-year term – July 1, 2021, June 30, 2024
- Jimmy Atkins, District 10 Director, 3-year term – July 1, 2021, to June 30, 2024

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:31 p.m.

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

2021 Minutes Continued

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>Ronnie Hopkins</i> GSBA Treasurer
	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
	Adoption of Nominating Committee Report	<i>Frank Griffin, Chair</i> GSBA Nominating Committee
	Election of Officers	
	Installation of Officers	<i>Pat Hugley Green</i> GSBA President
	Other Business	
	Closing Remarks	
	Adjourn	

2021 Minutes Continued

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

9. The Delegate Assembly will consist of one voting member (delegate from each local board of education).
10. 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.

Report of Governmental Operations Committee to Delegate Assembly

The Governmental Operations Committee (GOC) met on April 25, 2022 to review the GSBA legislative positions including proposed changes submitted by local boards of education. In response to complaints about allowing proposed legislative position changes to be submitted directly to the Delegate Assembly, particularly just prior to its meeting and without an opportunity for local boards to review, beginning this year, all proposed changes were required to go first to the GOC. School boards could indicate at the time of submission whether they wanted their proposed changes to go to Delegate Assembly if the GOC did not recommend them.

The GOC decision is listed below each position with any proposed change. If the GOC did not approve the proposed change but a delegate wants the Assembly to vote on it, the position will have to be pulled out for a separate vote. There were no proposed amendments to existing positions; the GOC approved one new position (2.A.16). The GOC did not approve eight proposed deletions of positions. With a few exceptions, votes on a specific position at Delegate Assembly are “yes” to keep the position or “no” to delete it.

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

Paulding County Board of Education proposed that this position be deleted.

Rationale: The State School superintendent should remain as an elected position. The motion to delete this position failed at GOC, so this remains the GSBA position.

1.B.2 Non-Partisan Elections for School Board Members

GSBA supports legislation calling for the non-partisan election of local school board members.

Paulding County Board of Education proposed that this position be deleted.

Rationale: The decision should be left up to each local government to decide for partisan or non-partisan election.

The motion to delete this position failed at GOC, so this remains the GSBA position.

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.

Paulding County proposed deleting this position.

Rationale: Accountability needs to be in place for the monitoring of funds being allocated.

The proposal failed for lack of a motion but was pulled out for a separate vote. The GOC voted to keep the position.

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.

Paulding County proposes deleting this position.

Rationale: Language is unclear in definition of "fair and stable."

It failed for lack of a motion, so this remains the GSBA position.

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.

Paulding County proposes deleting this position.

Rationale: Position is outdated. Low wealth districts will suffer, and allocation will be reduced. It failed for lack of a motion, so this remains the GSBA position.

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 Municipal Annexation Effect on District Boundaries

GSBA urges the General Assembly to adopt meaningful reforms to the annexation dispute resolution law so that any future municipal annexation will have no effect on the county or municipal school district boundaries, property tax base, or enrollment of students.

Hall County Board of Education proposes adding this position.

Rationale: Municipalities with independent school districts are currently able to annex parcels and unilaterally change a child's school of enrollment overnight. These actions are taken by a City Council only, and Local Boards of Education currently have no legal authority to be involved in the annexation process that directly affects student enrollment and the tax digest. The GOC approved adding this position. If this position is pulled out for a separate vote, a "yes" vote will mean to add it; "no" will be not to add it to the GSBA positions.

2.A.17 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 Expand Internet Connectivity

GSBA supports funding to expand internet connectivity to all public school students.

2.D.17 Technology Funding

GSBA supports state funding for infrastructure for technology.

2.D.18 Funding School Nurses

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

2.D.19 Social-Emotional Learning and Wrap-Around Services

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

2.D.20 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.

Paulding County proposes deleting this position.

Rationale: Disruptions to the school environment with compulsory enrollment to the age of 18 years old.

The motion to delete this position failed at GOC so remains the GSBA position.

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.

Paulding County proposes deleting this position.

Rationale: The high school diplomas should not include options.

The motion to delete this position failed for lack of a second, so it remains the GSBA position.

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.

Paulding County proposes deleting this position.

Rationale: Undocumented immigrant children should not receive in-state tuition. The motion to delete this position failed at GOC so remains the GSBA position.

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.

2022
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
Devetrion Caldwell, Douglas County Schools
Stan Chastain, Towns County Schools
Reginald Hall, Early County Schools
Teresa Gee Hardy, Grady County Schools
Jennifer Hartline, Dade 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 Schools
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

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
Will 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
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
Stewart Reeves, Appling County Schools
Samantha Rucker, Elbert County Schools
Michael Sasser, Bleckley County Schools
Paul Sergent, 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

All school board members are eligible to serve on the Governmental Operations Committee. If you would like to serve next year, please email Angela Palm, apalm@gsba.com

GEORGIA SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION
2022 NOMINATING COMMITTEE MEETING
April 28, 2022

MINUTES

Chairman Ron Hopkins called the Zoom meeting to order at 10:01 a.m. The following members were present and constituted a quorum:

Ron Hopkins, Chair, Member of Jefferson City Board of Education
Lindy Sheppard, District 1, Screven County Board of Education
Teresa Gee Hardy, District 2, Grady County Board of Education
Cory Jones, District 3, Dooly County Board of Education
Trey Bailey, District 4, Newton County Board of Education
Julia Bernath, District 5, Fulton County Board of Education
Sue McDonald, 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
Tucker Green, District 9, Pickens County Board of Education
Gwen Tucker, District 10, Warren County Board of Education
Guy Dean Benson, District 11, Jefferson City Board of Education
Fred Wilson, District 12, Houston County Board of Education
Amy Williams, District 13, Bleckley County Board of Education
Cornelius Ball, District 14, Turner County Board of Education

Lindy Watson, Cory Jones, and Amy Williams were unable to participate in the meeting.

Staff Present

Nancy McLellan, GSBA Executive Assistant

Mr. Hopkins 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. Hopkins reviewed the assigned questions to the committee members prior to the interviews today.

Interviews took place for the following positions:

President-Elect

Coleman Landers, Walton County Board of Education

Vice President

John Jackson, Baldwin County Board of Education

The committee voted anonymously via a poll, for the office of GSBA President-Elect and selected Coleman Landers for the term from July 1, 2022, to June 30, 2023. If elected by the 2022 Delegate Assembly for this office, he will automatically assume the office of the President for the term from July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024.

The committee voted anonymously via a poll, for the office of Vice President and selected John Jackson for the term from July 1, 2022, to June 30, 2023.

These candidates will be presented by the Nominating Committee to the 2022 Delegate Assembly on June 10, 2022.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:43 a.m.

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

Georgia School Boards Association
2022-2023
Nominees for Officers

President

Shakila Henderson-Baker, a native of Covington, 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.

President Elect

Coleman Landers has served on the Walton County Board of Education since 2005, holding roles as both Vice-Chair and Chair. In addition to his local-level leadership, he has served at the state level on the GSBA Awards Committee, GSBA Governmental Operations Committee and as a panelist at the GSBA Legislative Workshop. As a testament to his personal commitment to education, Mr. Landers is a product of the Walton County School District, a graduate of Fort Valley State University and holds masters degrees from other prestigious universities. After retiring in 2000 from an honorable career in the Navy, Captain Landers moved back to his hometown of Monroe and became very active in the community. He is the founding director of the Walton County Boys and Girls Club, a former director and officer of a regional Synovus bank, a member of the Walton County Economic Development Authority, a member of the Rotary Club of Monroe and Walton County Chamber of Commerce.

Vice President

John Jackson was first elected to the Baldwin County Board of Education in 2008 and since that time he served as chair from 2010 - 2014 and now again in 2022. During that time, he has served on the Finance Committee, Personnel Committee, and Transportation and Facilities Committee. Additionally, he has represented the school board on the Baldwin County Charter System Foundation of Excellence; the Baldwin County Early Learning Center Policy Council; a GSBA legislative liaison and he served as a member of Governor Nathan Deal's 2015 Education Reform Commission. John earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration from Georgia College and State University in 2008 and a Master of Business Administration Degree from Georgia College and State University in 2011. He is currently employed as Director of Parking and Transportation at Georgia College and State University. John married his sweetheart Rachel in 2011 and they have been blessed with three adorable children: Eli, Lila, and Della.

Board of Directors
Term of Service: FY July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2025
Elected at District Meetings

District 11

Rebecca Soto – District 11 Director, has served on the Oglethorpe County Board of Education since 2015. She has served as Chair for three years. During her time as a BOE member, she has had the opportunity to work with PAGE on their “True Accountability” measure and travel to other parts of the state and to Texas working with other BOE members. Soto is a banker and has worked at Oconee State Bank in Watkinsville for approximately 16 years and has a strong background in finance. Born and raised in Oglethorpe County and proud graduate of its school system, she is active in her community. Soto serves as advisor on the Oconee County Extension Service FACS board, an active member of the Oglethorpe County Athletic Booster Club and recent graduate of Leadership Oglethorpe.

District 12

Teresa Blackshear – District 12 Director, has served on the Twiggs County Board of Education since 2009. She has served as Vice Chair of the board for almost eight years, and has served as her system’s delegate for the GSBA Delegate Assembly. Blackshear is an advocate for students and firmly believes that all children deserve access to a quality education. She remains committed to improving student test scores and exploring creative ways to help students learn and retain information. Blackshear is an active member of Danville Baptist Church. Her list of accomplishments includes Danville Community Fair Outreach (member), Relay for Live (2007 and 2009) and Twiggs County Leadership (2008).

District 13

Theresa Mobley Davis has served on the Ben Hill County Board of Education since 2004. She is a mother to two young adults who graduated from the Ben Hill School District. Ms. Davis has been a Customer Service Manager with Mediacom Communications for 35 years. She has served as the Delegate for Ben Hill County at the GSBA Delegate Assembly. Ms. Davis previously served on the GSBA Board of Directors for District 13 from 2016-2019.

District 14

Cornelius Ball - District 14 Director, has served on the Turner County Board of Education since 2012. He is the current Vice Chair of the Board. He also serves on the GSBA Rural Education Task Force. He has a passionate drive to see school systems in South Georgia thrive. Ball has worked in both the private and public sectors in technology and process improvements.

GSBA Districts



Georgia School Boards Association 2021-2022 Officers

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

2021-2022 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*

