



**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 9, 2023 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, Savannah, GA.**

**Delegates may begin signing in outside the Ballroom after General Session 3.**

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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 9, 2023

# Agenda

2:45 p.m.	Call to Order	<i>Shakila Henderson-Baker</i> GSBA President
	Certification of Delegates	<i>Valarie Wilson</i> GSBA Executive Director
	Adoption of Agenda	
	Report of the Treasurer	<i>Ron Hopkins</i> GSBA Treasurer
	Adoption of Rules and Procedures	<i>Phil Hartley</i> GSBA General Counsel Pereira, Kirby, Kinsinger & Nguyen, LLP
	Approval of Minutes, 2022 Annual Business Meeting	
	Adoption of Bylaws Changes	<i>Shakila Henderson-Baker</i> GSBA President
	Adoption of Proposed Legislative Positions	<i>Coleman Landers, Chair</i> GSBA Governmental Operations Committee
	Adoption of Nominating Committee Report	<i>Bryan Preston, Chair</i> GSBA Nominating Committee
	Election and Installation of Officers	<i>Shakila Henderson-Baker</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 discussion or 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**  
**Friday, June 10, 2022**

President Bryan Preston called the GSBA Annual Business Meeting of the Delegate Assembly to order at 2:45 p.m.

Valarie Wilson, GSBA Executive Director, certified 113 voting delegates in attendance, constituting a quorum.

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

On motion of Mark Pettitt, Hall County, seconded by Sammy Brown, Turner 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 Mark Pettitt, Hall County, seconded by Barry Deas, Ware County, the Rules/Procedures were adopted as presented (copy attached).

On motion of Melissa Strother, Dougherty County, seconded by Kenny Walters, Dublin City County, the Minutes of the 2021 Delegate Assembly were approved.

Shakila Henderson Baker, GSBA President-Elect and Board Member of the Newton County Board of Education, and Chair of the 2022 GSBA Governmental Operations Committee reviewed the procedures for adopting the 2022-2023 GSBA Legislative Positions Recommendations of the Governmental Operations Committee.

**Section I – GOVERNANCE OF EDUCATION**

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

**Section II – THE STATE/LOCAL FUNDING PARTNERSHIP**

On motion of the Governmental Operations Committee Chair, Shakila Henderson Baker, the delegates approved Section II by a majority vote.

**Section III – IMPROVING STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT**

Position 3.B.8 –Akita Palmer, Rockdale County, asked to discuss this position for clarity, Raymond Dickie, Crawford County, called the question for a vote. The delegates approved the call. The delegates voted to keep the current position by majority vote.

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

## **Section IV – FEDERAL ISSUES**

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

### **NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT:**

Treasurer, Ron Hopkins, chaired the 2022 Nominating Committee but was unable to attend Delegate Assembly. Mrs. Teresa Gee Hardy, 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 – Shakila Henderson Baker, Newton County – Term July 1, 2022, to June 30, 2023
- President-Elect – Coleman Landers, Walton County, Term July 1, 2022, to June 30, 2023
- Vice President – John Jackson, Baldwin County, Term July 1, 2022, to June 30, 2023

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

- Rebecca Soto, District 11 Director, 3-year term – July 1, 2022, to June 30, 2025
- Teresa Blackshear, District 12 Director, 3-year term – July 1, 2022, to June 30, 2025
- Theresa Mobley Davis, District 13 Director, 3-year term – July 1, 2022, to June 30, 2025
- Cornelius Ball, District 14 Director, 3-year term – July 1, 2022, to June 30, 2025

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:32 p.m.

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

## Bylaws Changes

**The GSBA Board of Directors recommend the Delegate Assembly make two changes to the current bylaws:**

### **Current Bylaw 7.3:**

District Directors shall be elected at district meetings by a majority of the individual board members serving on member boards present and voting.

Any member of a Georgia board of education of a public school district serving as officer or director of NSBA shall be an ex officio member of the Board of Directors.

### **Here is the proposed change:**

District Directors shall be elected at district meetings by a majority of the individual board members serving on member boards present and voting.

~~Any member of a Georgia board of education of a public school district serving as officer or director of NSBA shall be an ex officio member of the Board of Directors.~~

**Rationale:** Since we are no longer a member of NSBA the last sentence of the bylaw no longer applies.

### **The revised bylaw would read:**

District Directors shall be elected at district meetings by a majority of the individual board members serving on member boards present and voting.

### **Current Bylaw 7.5:**

Meetings of the Board of Directors may be called by the president or any four Directors. Notice of the time and place of each meeting shall be given to each officer and District Director by the Executive Director and otherwise as required by law.

### **Here is the proposed change:**

Meetings of the Board of Directors may be called by the president or ~~any four Directors~~ **a majority of the Board**. Notice of the time and place of each meeting shall be given to each officer and District Director by the Executive Director and otherwise as required by law.

**Rationale:** This change aligns the bylaw with the customary practice of a decision of the Board being made by a majority of the members.

### **The revised bylaw would read:**

Meetings of the Board of Directors may be called by the president or a majority of the Board. Notice of the time and place of each meeting shall be given to each officer and District Director by the Executive Director and otherwise as required by law.

# Report of Governmental Operations Committee to Delegate Assembly

The Governmental Operations Committee (GOC) met on April 24, 2023, 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, all proposed changes were required to go first to the GOC. If the GOC did not approve the proposed change moving forward, the submitting board could propose it to the Delegate Assembly after notifying GSBA of the intent to do so.

**The GOC approved both submissions to the Committee. They are highlighted and listed as 2.A.18 and 2.A.19.**

## ***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 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.

### **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.

## **2.A.18 Language of Property Tax Increase Notice NEW**

### **Columbia County Board of Education proposes adding this position:**

GSBA supports amending the language of the statutory requirement for a public notice of a tax increase for more clarity and transparency for taxpayers.

#### **Rationale:**

The Columbia County School Board recommends the legislature amend O.C.G.A.48-5-32 regarding the language that must be published in the local newspaper and on the website of the levying authority. The language often leaves taxpayers confused between the responsibility of the levying authority, which is to set a millage rate, and the responsibility of the Tax Assessor's office in each levying authority's county. Furthermore, the language does not address that a property owner's increase in their tax bill is contingent upon their individual reassessed value. The notice should reflect both the impact of the assessed digest (increase or decrease of total digest), the tentatively adopted millage rate, and the change in the rate from the previous year.

## **2.A.19 Levy for School Safety NEW**

### **Columbia County Board of Education proposes adding this position:**

GSBA supports amending the Constitution to allow local boards of education to levy up to 3 mills for personnel, equipment, and infrastructure improvements dedicated to the purpose of school safety. This levy would be in addition to the levy for maintenance and operations and the limit upon it.

#### **Rationale:**

Given the changing landscape and news of school tragedies across the nation over the past few years, school districts are continuing to build upon their safety measures to ensure the protection of students, staff, and community members. Georgia school districts must turn to the current property tax revenue structure to fund these safety initiatives. With limited school funding through the current structure, boards and superintendents have to make difficult choices between funding the day-to-day maintenance and operation of the school district with a focus on student achievement and learning and very important safety initiatives and upgrades across the district.

County governments are able to levy a separate millage rate to meet the police and fire protection needs of their respective communities. It would be beneficial to similarly allow boards of education the option of levying a separate millage rate to meet growing safety needs.

## **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.

### **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.

## **2023 GSBA Governmental Operations Committee Members**

**All school board members are eligible to serve on the Governmental Operations Committee (GOC) and are encouraged to notify GSBA of their willingness to do so. Invitations went out to 78 school board members to serve on this Committee. The following 28 attended:**

John Allen Bailey, Emanuel County Schools  
Ginger Bailey, Jones County Schools  
Cornelius Ball, Turner County Schools  
Naomi Buckner, Muscogee Co Schools  
Sheron Daniel, Wayne County Schools  
Will Doss, Griffin-Spalding Co Schools  
Heather Duncan, Rockdale County Schools  
Annette Edwards, Henry County Schools  
Linda Erbele, White County Schools  
Donna Ford, Lee County Schools  
Jessie Goree, Clayton County Schools  
Teresa Gee Hardy, Grady County Schools  
Trudie Hill, Colquitt County Schools  
John Jackson, Baldwin County Schools  
Daniel Jewell, Chickamauga City Schools  
Shirley Jones, Chattahoochee Co Schools  
Coleman Landers, Walton County Schools  
Amy Murphy, Bryan County Schools  
Whitney Myers, Screven County Schools  
Johnnie Norton, Jefferson County Schools  
Michelle Olympiadis, Atlanta Public Schools  
Jackie Payton, Burke County Schools  
Rebecca Soto, Oglethorpe County Schools  
Judy Teasley, Columbia County Schools  
Gwendolyn Tucker, Warren County Schools  
Vickie Turner, DeKalb County School District

**GEORGIA SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION**  
**2023 NOMINATING COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**April 27, 2023**

MINUTES

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

Bryan Preston, Chair, Member of Coffee County Board of Education  
Watson Sheppard, District 1, Screven County Board of Education  
Teresa Gee Hardy, District 2, Grady County Board of Education  
Lora Adams, District 3, Chattahoochee County Board of Education  
Heather Duncan, District 4, Rockdale County Board of Education  
Trey Bailey, District 5, Newton 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  
Karen Armstrong, 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  
Gloria Wicker, District 12, Baldwin County Board of Education  
Amy Williams, District 13, Bleckley County Board of Education  
Cornelius Ball, District 14, Turner County Board of Education

Watson Sheppard, Trey Bailey, and Amy Williams had unexpected issues and did not participate in the meeting.

***Staff Present***

Nancy McLellan, GSBA Executive Assistant

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

Interviews took place for the following positions:

President-Elect

John Jackson, Baldwin County Board of Education

Vice President

Amy Murphy, Bryan County Board of Education

The committee voted anonymously for the office of GSBA President-Elect and selected John Jackson for the term from July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024. If elected by the 2023 Delegate Assembly for this office, he will automatically assume the office of the President for the term from July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025.

The committee voted anonymously for the office of Vice President and selected Amy Murphy for the term from July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024.

These candidates will be presented by the Nominating Committee to the 2023 Delegate Assembly on June 9, 2023.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:10 a.m.

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

**Georgia School Boards Association**  
**2023-2024**  
**Nominees for Officers**

**President**

***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.

**President Elect**

***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.

**Vice President**

***Amy Murphy*** has served on the Bryan County Board of Education since 2012. She was elected as Chairman of the Bryan County Board of Education in 2019. She has served as the District 1 Director since 2020. Amy holds a Bachelor of Arts in English degree from North Carolina State University and a Master of Social Work degree from Syracuse University. She is a clinical social worker with over 20 years experience in Child and Adolescent mental health. Amy is a passionate advocate for public education and strongly believes in the positive impact it can have on child's life.

***Ron Hopkins, Treasurer, will complete his three-year term June 30, 2024.***

**Board of Directors**  
**Term of Service: FY July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2026**  
**Elected at District Meetings in 2023**

**District 1**

**Marianne Smith** has served on the Bryan County Board of Education since 2013. She served on a school council in the district for three years before running for the local board. She is a registered nurse with an Associate and Bachelor's degrees in Nursing.

**District 2**

**Dr. Michael Kirkland** has served on the Seminole County Board of Education since 2015. He grew up in Decatur County and earned a B.A. in History from the University of Georgia, an M.A. in History from Valdosta State University, and a Ph.D. in Humanities from Florida State University. He has served in various roles at Bainbridge State College and Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College, including Professor of History and Humanities, Interim Vice President for Student Affairs, Dean of Arts and Sciences, Interim Vice President for Academic Affairs, and Vice President for Enrollment Management. He is also a member of the Bainbridge Rotary Club. His wife, Katina, just completed her 25<sup>th</sup> year at Seminole County Elementary School. They and their three children, Gracen, Landon, and Anna Kate, proudly wear Green and White!

**District 3**

**Naomi Buckner** has served on the Muscogee County Board of Education since 2003. Prior to running for the local board she worked in public education for 42 years as a teacher, lead teacher, mentor teacher, and Special Education Department Head. She has a BA in Philosophy from Wooster College and an MA in Specific Learning Disabilities from Columbus State University. She also serves on the boards of the S. P. Charleston Scholarship Fund, Historic Girl Scouts of Georgia, and Mt. Pilgrim Church.

**District 4**

**Pam Brown**, the current District 4 Director, was reelected. She has served on the Rockdale County Board of Education since 2017. Mrs. Brown currently serves on the Board of the AR "Gus" Barksdale Boys and Girls Club and is a member of the Conyers-Rockdale Economic Development Council. Mrs. Brown holds a Bachelor's degree in Business Management and an MBA with a concentration in Supply Chain Management. She is a 2010 graduate of Leadership Rockdale, a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., and a Georgia Power Electrical Safety PowerTown presenter. Pam is currently employed as a Transmission Analyst for Southern Company with over 30 years of service.

### **District 5**

**Kimberly Dove** has served on the Fulton County Board of Education since 2017. Prior to running for the local board, she served in several leadership positions as a volunteer including co-chair of the Westlake School Governance Council. Ms. Dove also has strong professional leadership experience, including 15 years as an information technology (IT) expert with knowledge in leading, coaching and developing teams within the IT industry. She specializes in mergers and acquisitions with systems integrations and network infrastructure. She also has a concentration in analyzing corporate applications across multiple business units.

### **District 6**

**Amy Dees**, the current District 6 Director, was reelected. She has served on the Coweta County Board of Education since 2011. Dees is a life-long advocate for public school students. Passionate about equality for all in education and seeking continuous improvement. She is a published novelist with a desire to share positive stories both historical fiction and non-fiction with eager readers. She is happily married to the love of her life for over 25 years. She and her husband are both products of public schools and proudly raised their four children in the Coweta County Public School System.

### **District 8**

**Bryan Preston** was the winner in a special election to complete the term of District 8 Director ending June 30, 2024. He has served on the Coffee County Board of Education since 2011. He previously served as the District 8 Director, GSBA Vice-President, President-Elect, and President. Bryan is a proponent of local control and maintains strong relationships with his State Legislators and local City and County governing agencies. Bryan worked for 25 years in Foodservice Sales and Marketing. He is a graduate of the University of Georgia.

## GSBA Districts



### Georgia School Boards Association 2022-2023 Officers

President: *Shakila Henderson-Baker, Newton County*  
President Elect: *Coleman Landers, Walton County*  
Vice President: *John Jackson, Baldwin County*  
Treasurer: *Ron Hopkins, Jefferson City*  
Past President(s): *Bryan Preston, Coffee County*  
Ex Officio Secretary: *Valarie Wilson*

### 2022-2023 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: *Jill Fisher*, Rome City Schools
- District 8: *Nicholas Ellis*, Wayne County
- District 9: *Mark Pettit*, Dawson County
- District 10: *Jimmy Atkins*, Richmond County
- District 11: *Rebecca Soto*, Oglethorpe County
- District 12: *Teresa Blackshear*, Twiggs County
- District 13: *Theresa Davis Blount*, Ben Hill County
- District 14: *Cornelius Ball*, Turner County
- Emeritus: *Vernon Payne*
- Director

## Notes

**GSBA • 5120 Sugarloaf Parkway, Lawrenceville, GA 30043**

**(770) 962-2985 • (800) 226-1856 • (770) 962-5392 - fax  
www.gsba.com**