

February 12, 2008

To the Fulton County Board of Education:

My name is Sally Hildebrant and I am the Milton Cluster Co-Chair. In addition, I am the Chair of the Superintendent's Advisory Council, which convenes every other month to represent the views of our LSAC parent chairs and principals to the Superintendent. We truly do represent our communities, and provide a forum for community education and discussion through our Cluster meetings.

On behalf of the Superintendent's Advisory Council we would like to thank the Board for the audit of the K-5 Language Arts Curriculum as well as the Math Curriculum. We would also like to thank you for the opportunity to meet with Strategic Teaching on Thursday, January 24, 2008 to share comments and concerns from our communities.

At that session, which lasted nearly two hours, many issues and concerns were brought forth by every Cluster Chair. We discovered that wherever we came from in Fulton County, our issues and the concerns were similar. Two surprising items emerged from that meeting: Every Cluster Chair strongly agreed that the new Georgia Performance Standards were a sound improvement to the curriculum, and all Cluster Chairs believed in the completion of the math curriculum audit before a dual track is written or introduced to the curriculum.

Moreover, we believe that to offer a dual track curriculum will be counter-productive to students and teachers. We need to embrace integrated math, and develop the curriculum to its fullest extent and provide teachers with professional training and resources to offer appropriate course instruction. We must prepare the students of Fulton County for **their** future, not **our** past.

We would respectfully ask the Board to evaluate the merits of the independent audit and make recommendations accordingly **before** considering a dual track. A dual track is not going to improve implementation issues and teacher training at the elementary school level. Rising 9<sup>th</sup> graders have already spent three years in integrated math, and now you are thinking of offering a dual track to confuse these students and their parents even more. It is critical to provide our children with 21<sup>st</sup> century skills. There is growing research and evidence that our children need to be trained and exposed to critical thinking and collaborative problem solving, just two of the key characteristics of integrated math. Science teachers are already noting improvements in these skills by our rising 9<sup>th</sup> graders. Let's not hinder this type of success.

We believe that there is a broad coalition of stakeholders in Fulton County schools who believe that integrated math and GPS deserve an appropriate time frame to be effective. We also believe that the independent audit should be completed and reviewed prior to any decisions about the creation of a dual track. We urge you to consult the educators in Fulton county schools before making a decision: Curriculum department professionals, principals, and teachers working for the greater good of ours students and their education.

Thank you very much,

Superintendent's Advisory Council

Sally Hildebrant, Milton Cluster Co-Chair, SAC Chair  
Lavon Morris-Grant, Creekside Cluster Chair, SAC Vice-Chair  
Carolyn Carson, Alpharetta Cluster Co-Chair  
Charlie Landers, Banneker Cluster Chair  
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Kathy Theisen, Chattahoochee Cluster Co-Chair  
Sharon Albright, Chattahoochee Cluster Co-Chair  
Sue Derene, Milton Cluster Co-Chair  
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Susan Auerbach, Northview Cluster Chair  
Bruce Piefke, Riverwood Cluster Chair  
Ron Vahey, Roswell Cluster Chair  
Shari Simpson, Tri-Cities Cluster Chair  
Dr. Adrienne Berry, Westlake Cluster Chair